

**Community
Service
Society** | Fighting Poverty
Strengthening
New York

The Unheard

Third

Bringing the Voices of
Low-Income New Yorkers
to the Policy Debate

2006

June 2007

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS)

is the city's leading voice on behalf of low-income New Yorkers. Drawing on a distinctive combination of research, advocacy, legal work, and direct services, we provide innovative solutions that have a substantial impact on poor communities. For more than 160 years, the Community Service Society has worked to ensure that every New Yorker has access to opportunity and a better quality of life.

The Unheard Third

would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders. Funding for the 2006 survey was provided by the United Way of New York City, The New York Community Trust, The Independence Community Foundation, and The New York Times Company Foundation. In addition, we are grateful to The Rockefeller Foundation for their support of The Unheard Third in prior years.

Cover photo: Keith Lanpher/Getty Images

Design by Multipod

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About the Authors

The Unheard Third survey is a project of the CSS Department of Research, led by Nancy Rankin. CSS develops and analyzes the survey, which is administered by the polling firm Lake Research Partners. This publication represents a summary of the 2006 survey findings and was prepared with the assistance of Claire Homitzky, Research Analyst, and Alia Winters, Marketing and Publications Manager. CSS policy analysts who have contributed to The Unheard Third include Victor Bach, Don Friedman, Mark Levitan, Sabine Salandy, Denise Soffel, and Tom Waters.

Nancy Rankin

is Director of Research for the Community Service Society of New York. She originated The Unheard Third annual survey, now in its fifth year of bringing the voices of low-income New Yorkers to the public debate. In addition to leading this research, Ms. Rankin has written on issues affecting the economic advancement of low-wage workers and work-family balance. Most recently, she co-authored “Shortchanging Security: How Poor Training, Low Pay and Lack of Job Protection for Security Guards Undermine Public Safety in New York City,” and is co-editor of the book, **Taking Parenting Public: The Case for a New Social Movement**. Prior to joining CSS, she held senior positions in the nonprofit and public sectors, including New York State and City governments. She is a graduate of Cornell University and received her MPA from Princeton University.

Lake Research Partners

is a national public opinion and political strategy research firm with principals in Washington, D.C., Virginia, New York, and California. The firm’s principals are leading political strategists, serving as tacticians and senior advisors to a wide range of advocacy groups, education organizations, nonprofits, and foundations, as well as incumbents and challengers at all levels of the electoral process.

For complete 2006 survey findings,
visit www.cssny.org/research/unheardthird/index.html

The Unheard Third: Bringing the Voices of Low-Income New Yorkers to the Policy Debate

“The groundbreaking work of the Community Service Society makes progress in the city much more likely; low-income workers in New York are fortunate to have such a dedicated organization working on their behalf.”

—Debra L. Ness

President, National Partnership for Women & Families,
citing CSS survey findings on paid sick days.

Introduction

The Unheard Third

Living on a low income in NYC:

Average rent for a vacant apartment: \$1300+ per month

Average employee contribution for a family health care plan: \$2,090 per year

Cost of child care for a pre-schooler at a state-regulated center: \$180 per week

(Sources: 2005 HVS; Kaiser Family Foundation; NYS Office of Children and Family Services)

Five Years of Bringing the Voices of Low-Income New Yorkers to the Policy Debate

ONE IN THREE New York City voting-age citizens resides in a low-income household, living under twice the federal poverty guidelines, or about \$32,000 for a family of three. That is a potentially powerful voting bloc—yet their voices go largely unheard in the public arena.

In 2002, the Community Service Society set out to listen.

Led by Nancy Rankin, Director of Research, CSS originated an annual survey tracking the concerns and hardships of the city's poorer residents and their views on what would help them and their families get ahead. The survey includes a comparison group of moderate- and higher-income New Yorkers to identify points of agreement—and divergence—across income. We know of no other large-scale, scientific poll that regularly asks the urban poor and near-poor their views on issues ranging from jobs, schools, workplace benefits and health insurance to public policy proposals affecting their lives. [For more about the sample size and method, see *How the Survey Is Conducted*, page 8.] Our findings have become a reliable and sought after source of information for policy-makers, elected officials, journalists, advocates, and funders.

2006 marks our fifth annual survey. We now have trend data that enables us to look at the impact of policy and economic changes on the lives of low-income New Yorkers in “real time.” Here is one example: CSS documented and publicized the hardships experienced by minimum-wage workers struggling to get by. In 2004 we found that among those working poor holding down full-time jobs: just over a third had fallen behind in the rent; a third had their lights or phone turned off because they couldn't pay the bills; a quarter were unable to fill a needed prescription; and a fifth were forced to go to soup kitchens and pantries because they couldn't afford to buy food. Four in ten families reported three or more of these serious hardships. *The New York Daily News* used our findings in two editorials calling for the legislature to pass an increase in the state's minimum wage—which it subsequently did, overriding Governor Pataki's veto. In the years since, increases in the state minimum wage have been phased in, going from \$5.15 and hour to the current level of \$7.15.

As we continued to track hardships, we observed what happens when the working poor get a raise. While the percent of the near-poor experiencing three or more hardships has continued to trend upward, hardships for the poor have actually decreased. This underlines one of the consistent findings we have seen over five years: for those living at the margins, even a relatively small gain in earnings or benefits can mean a significantly lower level of hardship.

Who Are The Unheard Third?

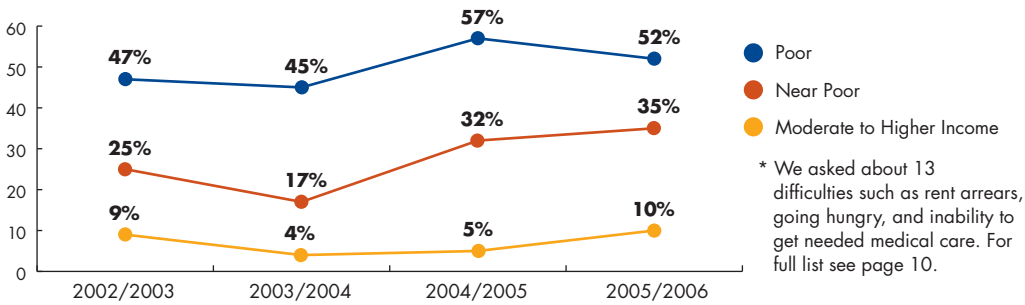
One third of the city's voting-age citizens live in low-income households. They are part of a larger group of low-income New Yorkers that includes children and non-citizens. In all, according to the most recent U.S. Census data, in 2005 there were a total of 3.4 million low-income New Yorkers—a number greater than the population of Chicago—totaling 42 percent of the city's population:

- 1.7 million city residents living in poverty, approximately one-in-five New Yorkers; and
- Another 1.7 million “near-poor” city residents, with household incomes between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

New York City's sizeable low-income population is disproportionately concentrated in upper Manhattan, the south Bronx, and central Brooklyn. Nearly one third are Black and another third are Hispanic. Thirty-five percent are foreign-born—the same proportion as among moderate and higher-income New Yorkers. Thirty-two percent have less than a high school education, and another 32 percent have completed at least some college. While the Unheard Third are not a uniform group, they share a common struggle to survive and thrive in a city that, for all its prosperity, has the sharpest income divide of any city in the nation.

New Yorkers experiencing 3 or more hardships

Q73-Q86. In the last year, have you or any member of your household experienced this difficulty?*

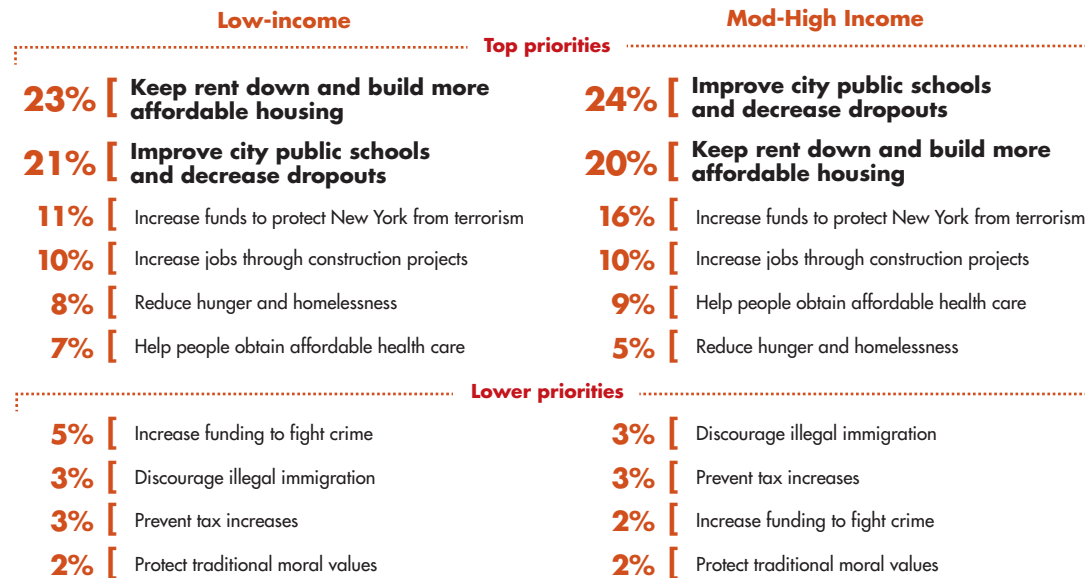


Each summer during the run-up to the November elections, we have checked in with New Yorkers to see whether the political campaigns were raising the issues that mattered most—especially to potential low-income voters. In the 2006 congressional and gubernatorial election year, we asked New Yorkers to identify the issue they thought should be the highest priority for the city's elected officials. New Yorkers of all incomes identified schools and housing as their top priorities. Specifically, 23 percent of respondents indicated that improving city public schools and decreasing dropouts was their top priority; 21 percent said keeping rent down and building more affordable housing.

The political agenda is strikingly similar across incomes, with both low-income and moderate- to higher-income respondents ranking schools and housing as top priorities. It is also worth noting the constellation of issues that ranked lower in the public's list of priorities for their elected officials: increasing funding to fight crime, discouraging illegal immigration, preventing tax increases, and protecting traditional moral values, none of which were identified by more than 5 percent of those surveyed.

Agenda is strikingly similar across incomes: Affordable housing and schools top list

Q11. Which ONE of these issues should be the HIGHEST priority for New York's elected officials?*



*Top six and bottom four choices shown for each income group

Influential Daily News editorials cite survey, call for legislators to override Governor's veto of a minimum wage increase

DAILY NEWS

It's Time, Joe

November 8, 2004

"Going hungry, forgoing medical care, living without lights or a phone because you can't pay the bills, relying on charity for food, facing eviction because you can't pay the rent...It's a given that the destitute face these hardships, but were you aware that working New Yorkers suffer these troubles? A new survey conducted by the Community Service Society shows that 45% of New Yorkers making minimum wage reported suffering at least three of the above 'hardship indicators.'"

Go, Senate!

December 6, 2004

"The State Senate appears set this week to vote into law an increase in the state's minimum wage, providing a bit more money to 700,000 New Yorkers who are desperately in need of a raise."

"Should they buy food or pay the rent? Should they fill a prescription or get shoes for the kids? How long can they live without electricity or heat? A survey by the Community Service Society and the United Way showed that 45% of minimum-wage New Yorkers had to make at least three of those decisions in the past year."

Voices of The Unheard Third:

“People say, ‘you should have three months’ worth of rent in the bank,’ but how does anyone do that after paying rent and expenses?”

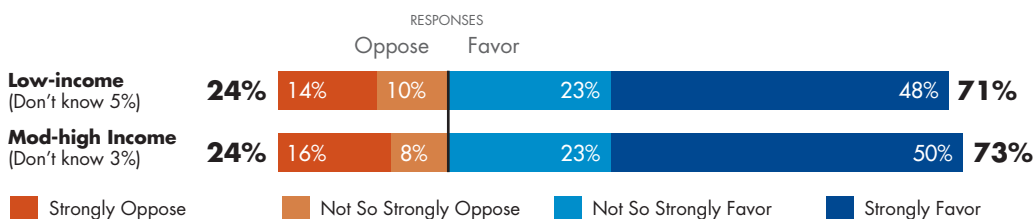
It is no surprise that affordable housing is such a major issue, given the extraordinarily high rent burdens faced by low-income New Yorkers. Victor Bach, CSS senior housing analyst, has reported that 59 percent of poor renters in New York City paid at least half their income for rent in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available. He calculates that poor households are left with only \$32 a week per family member to meet all their other expenses for food, clothing, transportation and other necessities. Our survey documents the result: 56 percent of poor renters and 47 percent of the near-poor experienced at least one housing-related hardship, such as falling behind in the rent, having their utilities cut off, or doubling up with other families in the past year. These are precursors to homelessness among families, which has been steadily rising in New York City.

Affordable housing has been the most frequently mentioned political priority by low-income people in every survey in the past five years. Yet, until recently, housing has gotten far less attention than other domestic issues, such as health care, and is rarely mentioned in the presidential or gubernatorial debates. This is an instance where The Unheard Third makes clear the disconnect between politicians and what’s on the minds of the urban poor. New York City homeowners, who are more likely to be higher income people, have received a \$400 property tax rebate annually over the past few years. Low-income residents, who tend to be renters, have received no relief, despite the fact that they, too, pay property taxes through regular rent increases. Using our data on rent burdens and housing hardships, CSS put forward a proposal to extend the property tax credit to low-income renters, an idea that has been advanced by the speaker of the City Council.

On other issues, as well, findings from The Unheard Third reveal that New Yorkers show broad support for the policies that address their chief concerns. For instance, while New Yorkers are generally adverse to higher state taxes (71% of low-income and 61% of moderate- to higher-income New Yorkers favor keeping “state income taxes low to make New York attractive to businesses and to help middle class families make ends meet”), they are willing to pay more in taxes to increase state spending on city schools. More than seven out of ten of both low-income and moderate- to higher-income respondents favor New York State increasing aid to New York City public schools, even if that means raising taxes.

New Yorkers are willing to pay more taxes to increase state spending on city schools

Q57. Do you FAVOR or OPPOSE New York State increasing aid to New York City public schools, even if that means raising taxes?

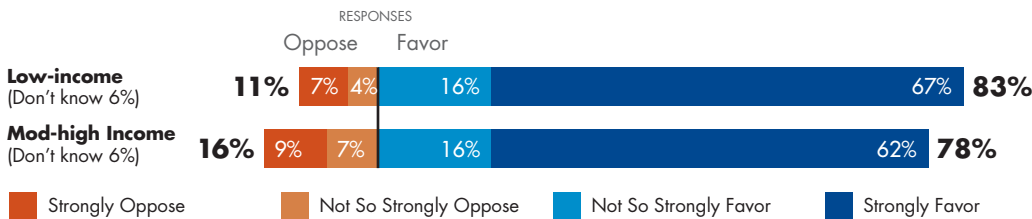


Getting Heard

Similarly, New Yorkers are willing to pay more in taxes in order to expand health coverage. More than eight in ten low-income respondents and 78 percent of moderate- to higher-income respondents favor providing health care coverage for all uninsured New Yorkers, even if it increases their taxes.

And they are also willing to pay more taxes to expand health coverage

Q21. Do you FAVOR or OPPOSE providing health care coverage for all uninsured New Yorkers, even if it increases your taxes?



These findings illustrate how The Unheard Third systematically taps the opinions, concerns, and experiences of low-income New Yorkers. This knowledge informs our efforts to advocate for public policies to provide greater economic opportunity to low-income New Yorkers. In addition, the survey allows us to gauge the views of the public about competing policy proposals.

Please continue reading for an in-depth look at our findings from the 2006 edition of The Unheard Third, where we explore some of the most critical issues facing low-income New Yorkers today: making low-wage work a path out of poverty; extending paid sick days to all workers; improving public education; and immigration.

Editorial by CSS President David R. Jones and Citizens Committee for Children President Gail Nayowith calls for tax relief for renters

DAILY NEWS

When Doling Out the Perks, Let's Remember the Renters

January 19, 2006

"Although renters and homeowners both bear the brunt of increased property taxes and rising energy costs, homeowners consistently receive the lion's share of government tax credits.... It's time for New York to provide relief for renters."

"The annual CSS Unheard Third Survey found that housing hardships spiked in the past year..., with nearly half (46%) of low-income renters stating they had fallen behind on rent payments at least once."

NYC Council Speaker Chris Quinn introduces legislation to give property tax credit to struggling renters



State of the City Address, Council Speaker Christine Quinn

February 15, 2007

"New York City is a city of renters. When property taxes go up, their rents go up too...because their landlords pass higher costs on to them. They've not benefited from the rebates or the tax breaks owning a home can bring."

"Today, I am proposing a renters tax break. Our plan will provide a \$300 credit for working families. And 1.1 million tenants will benefit."

How the Survey Was Conducted

More than a static report, the annual surveys provide a rich data set that we are able to use to develop policy solutions and respond to research needs from other analysts, policy-makers, the media, and funders.

The Unheard Third 2006 is based on telephone interviews with 1888 New York City residents, and was administered for CSS by Lake Research Partners, a nationally recognized polling firm. The survey is divided into two samples of adults aged 18 or older: 1230 low-income city residents (with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines), and 500 moderate- and higher-income city residents (with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines). Additionally, there was an oversample of 158 low-income immigrants. Interviews of approximately 25 minutes were conducted by professional interviewers in English, Spanish, or Chinese, between July 16 and August 3, 2006, and from August 23 through August 27, 2006.

Telephone numbers for the low-income sample were drawn using random digit dialing (RDD) among exchanges in census tracts with an average annual income of no more than \$38,000. Telephone numbers for the higher income sample were drawn using RDD in exchanges in the remaining census tracts. The data were weighted slightly by gender, age, borough, immigration status, housing type and race in order to ensure that it accurately reflects the actual demographic composition of New York City based on US Census figures. In the combined totals, respondents in the low-income sample were weighted down to reflect their actual proportion among all residents.

In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error. The margin of error for the low-income component is ± 2.8 percentage points. The margin of error for the higher income component is ± 4.4 percentage points. The margin of error is greater for subgroups.

Surveys conducted in each of the prior years, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, were also administered by Lake Research Partners during July and August and using the same methodology to assure comparability. Sample sizes and the interview length varied somewhat from year to year, so the error margins were slightly different. Each year we repeat a core series of questions on hardships, worries, political priorities, employment status and benefits, health insurance coverage, views about the public schools and voting. This enables us to track trends over time. In addition, each year we pose new questions to probe emerging concerns, to explore more deeply issues surfaced by previous surveys, and to enable low-income New Yorkers to weigh in on the current policy debate.

The Unheard Third: Selected Findings from the 2006 Survey of Low-Income New Yorkers

Findings from The Unheard Third 2006 were released over the course of several months, in order to draw broader attention to issues of primary concern to survey respondents. This strategy allowed us to time our survey releases to external events, such as elections or key moments in the legislative season, making the information highly relevant to the public debate. The following pages explore findings from four key issue areas in 2006: the working poor; paid sick days; education; and immigration.

2006 Findings

Working Poor

Voices of The Unheard Third:

“Just getting by. With the way they are raising fares, rent, food—where is our raise?”

“By the time the check comes in, it is already gone.”

Poverty Wages Leave Many Families Struggling

About 20 percent of New Yorkers live in poverty, a rate that has seen little improvement over the past several years, despite economic growth and the movement of significant numbers of people from public assistance to employment. Many have viewed welfare reform of the late 1990s as a remarkable success in turning people away from dependency and toward work. Indeed, in New York City, welfare rolls have shrunk by 65 percent in the more than ten years since welfare reform took effect. However, this success has not translated into a dramatic reduction in poverty. In 2005, despite these changes and a recent period of economic recovery and job growth, there were more than 1.7 million New Yorkers living below the poverty line. One in five New Yorkers remains poor, suggesting that for an increasing share of the city’s families, work alone is no guaranteed ticket out of poverty.

The Unheard Third captures the hardships experienced by the working poor. Among poor adults under age 65, 59 percent live in a household with at least one worker and 41 percent live in a household with at least one full-time worker. These working poor households face an alarming array of difficulties meeting their needs for health, housing, and economic security.

Most low-income New Yorkers we surveyed are in working families

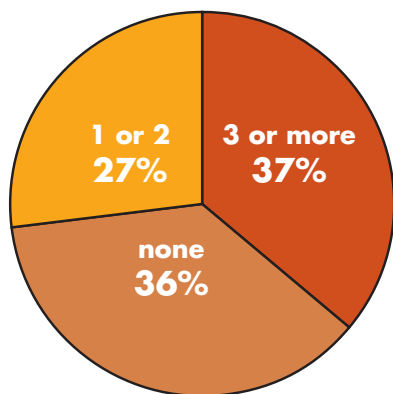
Among those <age 65 % HH with worker % HH with full-time worker

Poor (below poverty)	59%	41%
Near poor (100%-200% poverty)	69%	59%
Moderate-higher income	85%	77%

Despite working, often full-time, poor New Yorkers do not earn enough to afford the most basic necessities. Among poor households with a full-time worker, 37 percent experienced three or more serious hardships in the past year. For instance, 24 percent fell behind on their rent or mortgage payments, 23 percent were unable to fill needed prescriptions, 22 percent had their phone or electricity cut off, and 21 percent depended on meals from family or friends because they could not afford to buy food.

Poverty wages—even full-time—are not enough for basic necessities

Q73-Q86. In the last year, have you or any member of your family experienced this difficulty?



Multiple Hardships for Working Poor

HARDSHIPS AMONG POOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH A FULL-TIME WORKER

Housing	24%	Fell behind on rent/mortgage
	22%	Utilities/phone turned off
	16%	Moved in with others
	7%	Stayed in a shelter
Health	23%	Unable to fill prescriptions
	16%	Not gotten or postponed medical care/surgery
Hunger	21%	Received meals from family or friends due to lack of money
	16%	Went hungry
	9%	Used meal programs or food pantry
Income Insecurity	29%	Cut back on buying school supplies and clothes
	23%	Had hours, wages, or tips reduced
	21%	Lost job
	5%	Relied on charity, religious or community organization

Getting Heard

For the working poor, the problem of inadequate wages is frequently compounded by a lack of workplace benefits. Fifty-nine percent of poor, full-time workers did not receive health insurance from their employers, compared to 37 percent of the near-poor and 22 percent of moderate- to higher-income earners. Fifty-six percent did not receive paid sick days, 52 percent did not receive paid vacation and two thirds were without a pension or 401K retirement plan.

Low-wage workers get few work-related benefits of any kind

Q33. Which of the following benefits, if any, do you receive from your employer?

PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME WORKERS **WITHOUT** BENEFITS

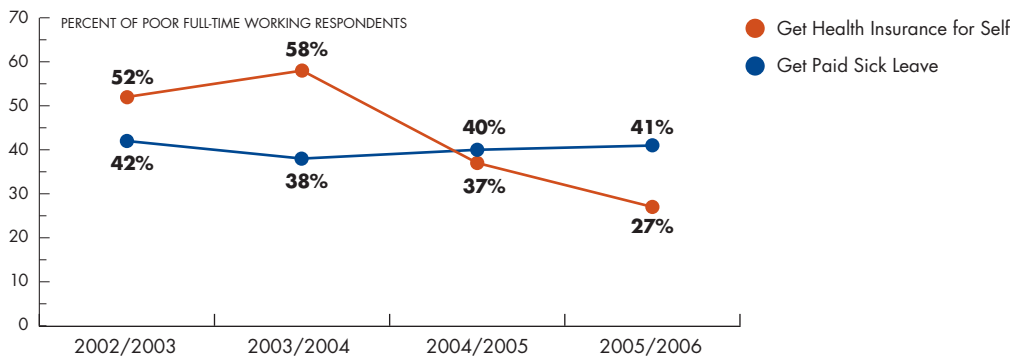
Benefits	Poor (100% and below)	Near Poor (101–200%)	Moderate-Higher (Above 200%)
Health Insurance for Self	59%	37%	22%
Health Insurance for Family*	67	41	29
Prescription Drugs	72	46	30
Paid sick days	56	36	26
Paid Vacation	52	35	22
Pension/401K Retirement Plan	67	49	36

*of those with children <19

Indeed, the working poor have actually experienced declines in some employer-provided benefits in recent years. Looking at the five-year trend data, we see that fewer full-time poor workers are receiving health coverage from their employers now than in prior surveys.

Poor full-time workers report decline in employee health benefits and no gains in paid sick days

Q33. Which of the following benefits, if any, do you receive from your employer?



Mother's Day Op-ed by CSS Research Director Nancy Rankin and Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum uses survey to highlight struggles of low-wage moms

The New York Times

The Other Mothers

May 14, 2006

"Ultimately, we need to think more broadly about how to make work compatible with family responsibilities. A nation that promotes work as the path out of poverty should make an effort to pave the road and make the journey smoother."

CSS President David R. Jones joins Mayor's Commission on Economic Opportunity; report targets working poor in plan to reduce poverty in NYC



Increasing Opportunity and Reducing Poverty in New York City

September 2006

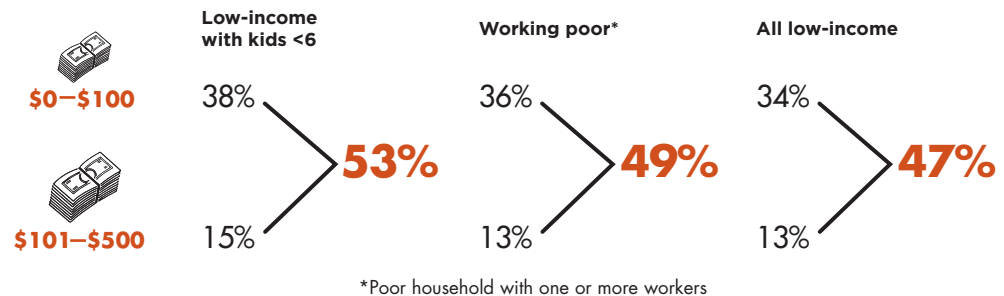
"There has been in recent years a large growth in the number of people who work but remain in poverty. There are over 340,000 working New Yorkers who are living in poverty. An ever-widening skills gap and stubborn wage stagnation require strategic approaches to raise the living standards of low-wage workers. Playing by the rules and being rewarded for hard work must be the ticket to financial security for our city's families."

Working Poor Continued...

By definition, workers commonly described as living paycheck to paycheck would be expected to have little in the way of savings. Nonetheless, the complete absence of any financial cushion reported by so many working families is shocking. When we asked respondents how much they had in savings to fall back on during tough times, over a third of the working poor reported having \$100 or less and nearly half had \$500 or less in reserve. This is the reality of the working poor: they are one child's emergency room visit, one rent hike or one prolonged illness away from crisis. In light of our findings, we can better understand the plight of the urban poor trapped in New Orleans homes when Hurricane Katrina struck. They literally had no "rainy day savings" to buy a bus ticket out.

About half of low-income New Yorkers have almost no savings to fall back on

Q87. If tough times were to hit you and your family, how much money in savings do you have to fall back on?

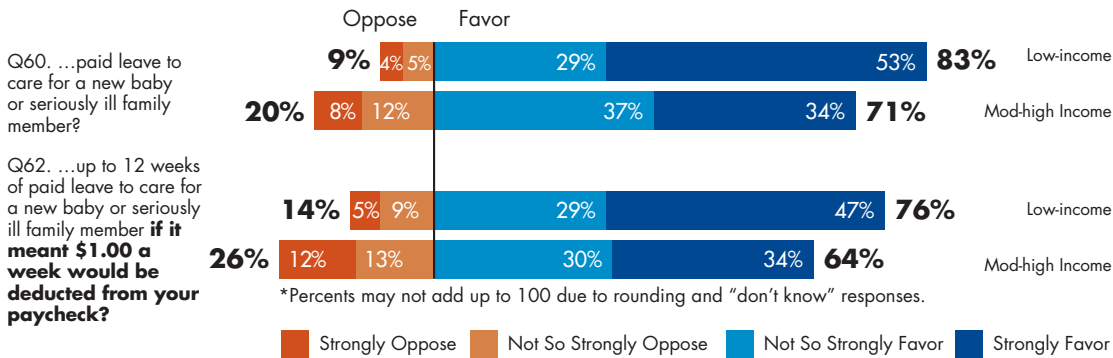


When low-wage workers need time to care for a new baby or seriously ill family member, they cannot draw on their accrued sick days or saved up vacation and personal leave because they have little—if any—paid leave. Without savings to fall back on, going for a week or more without a paycheck is not an option for low-income workers; it is a disaster. Moreover, the majority of low-income workers we surveyed work for small businesses, which means they are not covered by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The FMLA provides 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to care for a new child or serious illness, but only for workers in firms with 50 or more employees. As a consequence, low-wage workers in these situations may lose more than their paycheck; they may lose their jobs and their health insurance. The challenges are greatest for low-wage working mothers, who are often both the primary breadwinners and caregivers for their families.

In 2005, we tested the degree of public support for extending New York State's existing Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) system to provide paid leave to care for a new baby or seriously ill family member. The proposal drew widespread support, favored by more than eight in ten lower income respondents and more than seven out of ten moderate- and higher-income New Yorkers. Currently, financing for TDI is shared between employers and employees in New York State. Respondents indicated their willingness to pay for expanding TDI to cover family care needs. Seventy-three percent of New Yorkers of all incomes said they favored this law, even if it meant 27 cents a week would be deducted from their paychecks. This is the amount actuaries have estimated it would cost to extend TDI to these new purposes at the present modest benefit levels. Raising the benefit levels would cost more—both because of the higher payments and the likelihood that a greater number of workers would decide it was worth applying for them. Support remained widespread for paid leave, even if the cost were one dollar a week, an amount sufficient to both expand coverage and raise benefits.

Public favors extending state Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) to provide paid family leave

Q60 and Q62. Employees in New York State are currently covered by state disability insurance...Would you favor or oppose extending the system to provide...*



The cost of providing paid family leave is minimal, pennies per paycheck. The price of not having it is huge. It is measured in the impact on early childhood development, health expenditures for elderly parents who require paid care or nursing home stays because no one is available to help them at home, and lost earnings and taxes from workers who are forced to sever their connection to the labor force instead of taking a temporary break.

Extending paid family leave is but one of several strategies that would help working families, especially those in low-wage jobs. Our findings on the experiences of the working poor reveal that low-wage work leaves many families mired in poverty, and is generally not sufficient to provide economic security in times of hardship. The challenge for New York City is twofold: raise the floor of earnings and benefits so that even the lowest-earning workers have some measure of stability; and expand training and other supports to help put working families on the path to economic advancement.

Getting Heard

Time to Care campaign cites survey, calls for expanding New York's Temporary Disability Insurance to cover paid time off for family care



The New York State Paid Family Leave Coalition

Advocacy brochure, 2007

"Paid Family Leave is Good for Employees. According to a recent survey by the Community Service Society of New York, 83% of low-income New Yorkers and 71% of New Yorkers with moderate to high incomes support a Paid Family Leave Benefit."

Governor Spitzer backs Time to Care Act, a state bill to extend temporary disability insurance to cover paid family leave

DAILY NEWS

He's a Family Man: Gov's Paid Leave Plan Makes Sense for Working People - And it Won't Break the Bank

May 22, 2007

"The Working Families Time to Care Act is an idea whose time has come. Under the labor-backed proposal—as improved by Gov. Spitzer—people staying home to cope with family emergencies could collect disability benefits equal to half their pay, or up to \$170 a week, for as many as 12 weeks."

Paid Sick Days

Voices of the Unheard Third

“We get sick, we go to work. We don’t go to work, we don’t get paid. So we tend to take our cold medicine and hope that we don’t fall asleep.”

Low-Wage Workers Can’t Afford to Be Sick

For the past five years, The Unheard Third has been tracking the lack of basic employee benefits, from paid sick days to pensions and health insurance, among the city’s low-wage workers. Our findings have helped fuel the growing movement in New York and around the country to make paid sick days a minimum labor standard. With several years of data documenting the problem and its impact on the working poor, CSS has been well-positioned to work with other advocacy groups in moving an agenda to raise the floor for workers at the bottom.

In support of these efforts and timed to coincide with key activities around the country, CSS released findings on paid sick days from its 2006 survey of low-income New Yorkers. The survey revealed that most (65%) of the city’s working poor do not get even a single paid sick day. Furthermore, close to half of the near-poor (45%) and nearly a third (32%) of moderate- to higher-income workers also lack paid sick days. This is true even among full-time workers. For instance, only 44 percent of poor, full-time workers surveyed received paid sick days from their employer.

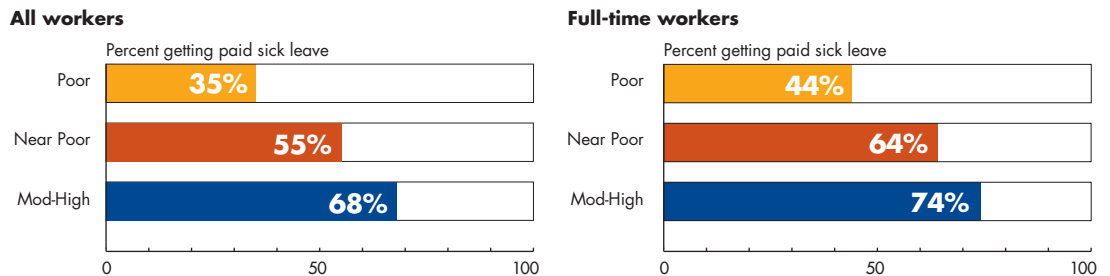
Around the nation: Legislation on Paid Sick Days

The Healthy Families Act Introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), the act would require employers with at least 15 workers to provide seven paid sick days a year, pro-rated for part-time workers.

Proposition F In November 2006, San Francisco voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition F, giving workers one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked to be used for their own care or that of a family member.

Even among those in full-time jobs, most of the working poor don’t have paid sick days

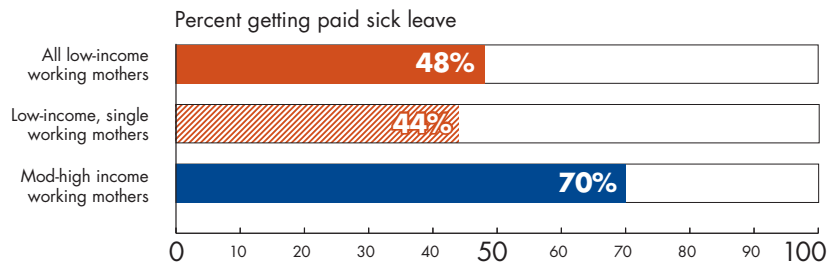
Q33. Which of the following benefits, if any, do you receive from your employer... paid sick leave?



Particularly troubling is the degree to which low-income working mothers—the primary caregivers in most families—are not receiving paid sick days. Among all low-income working mothers, only 48 percent received paid sick days; among single low-income working mothers, the percentage was even lower.

Most low-income working moms—the primary family caregivers—don’t get any paid sick days

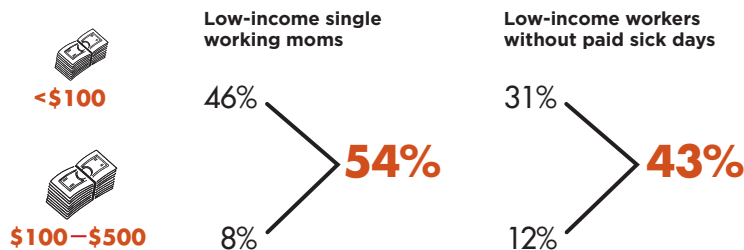
Q33. Which of the following benefits, if any, do you receive from your employer... paid sick leave?



Without paid sick days, workers are forced to make difficult choices between going to work sick or staying home and forfeiting a day's pay, and perhaps worse, jeopardizing their jobs. Losing even one day's pay is not an option for many low-income workers with meager savings. The Unheard Third survey found that 46 percent of low-income single working mothers had less than \$100 in savings to fall back on in an emergency.

Losing a day's pay has stark consequences for workers with almost no savings

Q87. If tough times were to hit you and your family, how much money in savings do you have to fall back on?



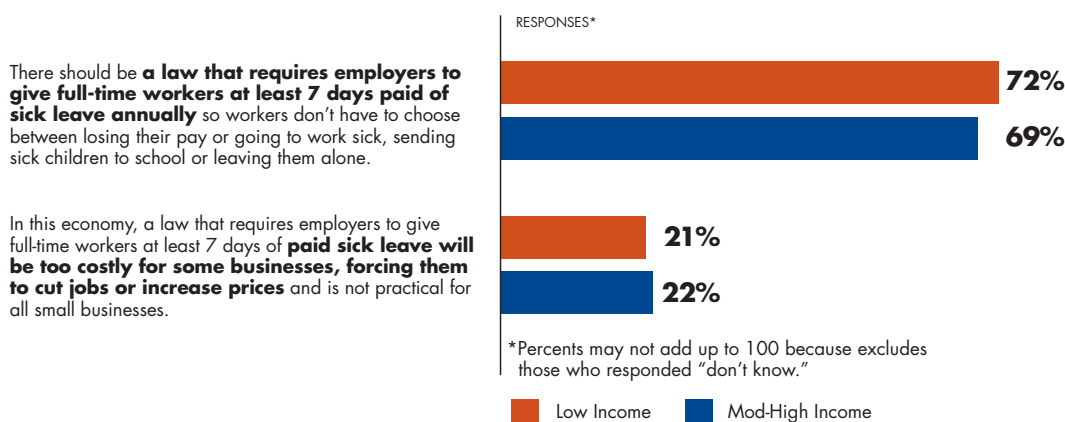
For 14 percent of the low-wage workers surveyed, a lack of paid sick days was compounded by a lack of health insurance of any type. In the past year, 40 percent of those without paid sick days or health coverage experienced three or more hardships, such as falling behind on rent, not being able to fill a needed prescription, having the lights or phone turned off, or not being able to afford food.

When sick workers can't afford to keep themselves or their children out of school or the workplace, and can't afford treatment for their illnesses, co-workers and the public are put at risk. According to recent studies of non-unionized security guards and restaurant workers, the people who protect our office buildings and serve and prepare our food are among the workers likely to go without paid sick days or health benefits from their employers.¹

New Yorkers believe that paid sick days should be available to all employees so that workers are not forced to choose between their livelihoods and their health. Seven out of ten New Yorkers across income lines support a law requiring employers to provide full-time workers with paid time off for sickness—even when presented with the counter arguments.

New Yorkers support a law requiring employers to provide paid sick days

Q22. Which comes closer to your view?



¹ See "Shortchanging Security: How Poor Training, Low Pay and Lack of Job Protection for Security Guards Undermine Public Safety in New York City," by Nancy Rankin and Mark Levitan, CSS Report, 2006 and reports by the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York and the NYC Restaurant Industry Coalition: "Behind the Kitchen Door: Pervasive Inequality in New York City's Thriving Restaurant Industry," Jan. 25, 2005, and "Dining Out, Dining Healthy: The Link Between Public Health and Working Conditions in New York City's Restaurant Industry," April 2006.

Survey findings trigger editorial calling to make paid sick days a minimum labor standard



Make Sick Pay Standard

November 25, 2006

"The working poor can't afford to get sick. That's the picture that emerged from a survey by the Community Service Society."

"...Paid sick time is not a favor. It's a necessary protection for workers, businesses, and everyday people who want their food and security in healthy hands."

Public Advocate relies on survey findings to call for regulatory changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)



Betsy Gotbaum letter to the US Department of Labor

February 15, 2007

"According to a 2006 CSS survey, 55 percent of all working poor are employed at businesses with fewer than 50 employees and therefore are not protected by the FMLA. **Of these workers, 75 percent do not have a single paid sick day.**

Thirty-nine percent of all low-income single working mothers are not covered by FMLA."

"... First and foremost, FMLA should provide paid family and medical leave, so that employees can afford to care for their children or loved ones."

—Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate for the City of New York

Education

In 2005, approximately 21,000 young people dropped out of New York City public schools.

(Source: NYC Dept. of Education)

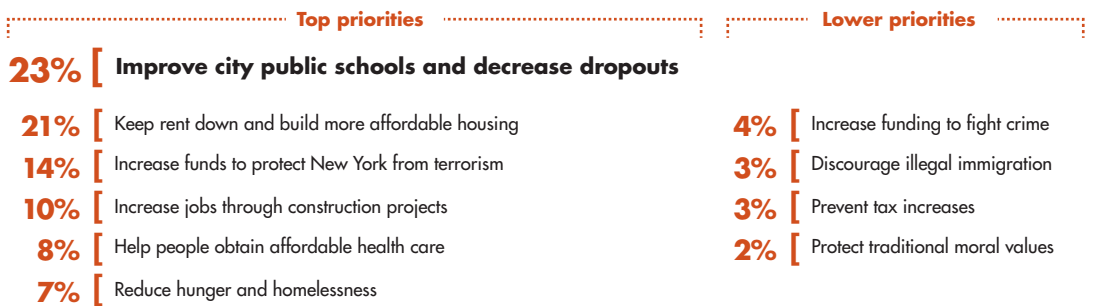
Poor New Yorkers See Some Gains; Urge More Action on Dropouts

Improving the city's public schools and graduation rates are major public concerns—ones recognized by Mayor Bloomberg, who has made education reform a signature issue of his administration. According to The Unheard Third 2006, New Yorkers of all incomes rate education as the single most important priority for their elected officials. When presented with a list of potential issues, 23 percent of survey respondents chose education, slightly more than the 21 percent who cited affordable housing. Other high profile issues, such as protecting the city from terrorism (14%) and affordable health care (8%), ranked much lower by comparison.

New Yorkers' top priority for elected officials is improving schools and decreasing dropouts

Q11. Which ONE of these issues should be the HIGHEST priority for New York's elected officials?

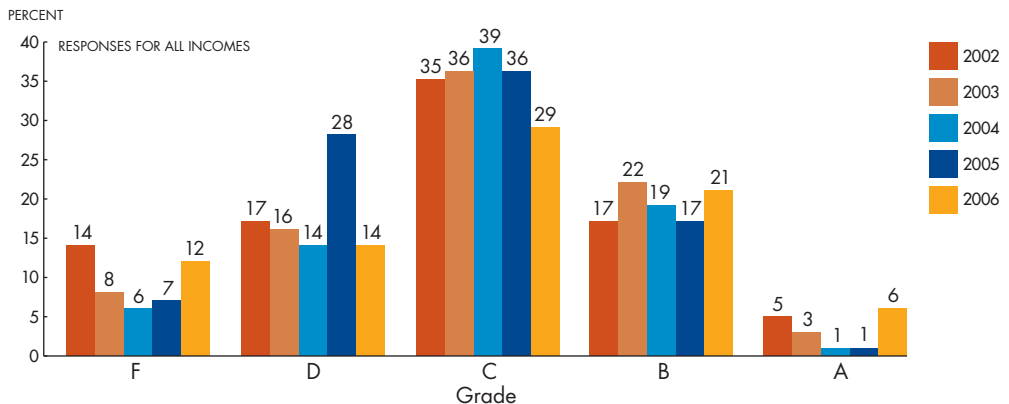
RESPONSES FOR ALL NEW YORKERS



The Unheard Third has been regularly tracking how New Yorkers rate the public schools since 2002, when Mayor Bloomberg won his bid to take control of the schools and began a series of organizational and curricular reforms. We have found mixed reactions. While the public has not seen a significant improvement in the school system overall during the past five years, when it comes to their own child's school, parents—and poor parents in particular—do see improvements.

Public sees no improvement in city schools overall in past 5 years

Q44. I'd like you to give me a grade for the job they are doing in education—A for excellent, B, C, D, or F for fail.

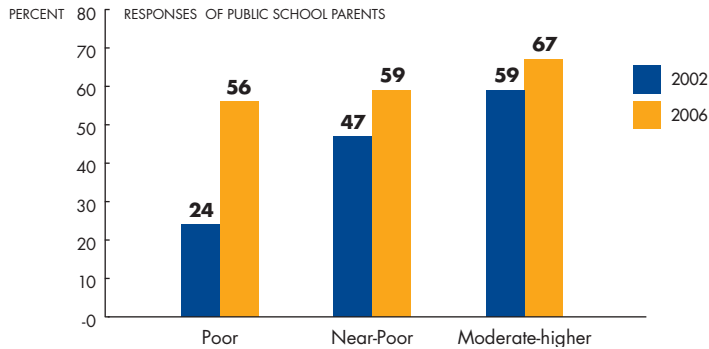


More than half of those surveyed gave a grade of "C" or lower when asked to rate the job that New York City public schools are doing in education. However, when asked to rate their own child's school, parents rated it more highly than city schools in general: 56 percent of poor public school parents, 59 percent of near-poor parents and 67 percent of moderate- to higher-income parents gave their own child's school a grade of "B" or better in 2006. The tendency for parents to rate schools attended by their own children more highly has been found by other researchers. It may reflect self-selection; the most dissatisfied parents move their children to schools they perceive as better. It may also reveal reluctance among parents to admit that they send their children to inferior schools.

But what is more noteworthy is that public school parents—especially the poor—rated their own child’s school significantly better in 2006 compared to 2002. While poor parents were the least likely to give their own child’s public school a high grade, they nevertheless were the group to see the most improvement since the mayor gained control of the schools, with 56 percent giving their child’s school a grade of “B” or higher in 2006, up dramatically from 24 percent in 2002.

Parents rate their child’s public school more highly; poor see most improvement

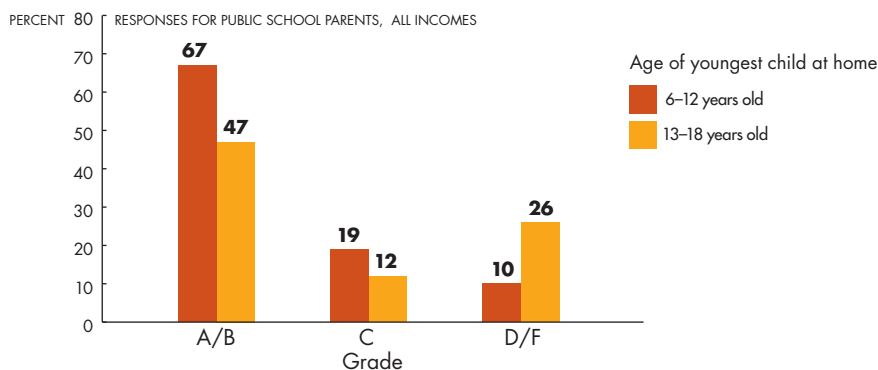
Q45. Percent of public school parents who give the school their child attends a “Grade B” or higher.



In addition to family income, parental views of the public schools vary depending on the grade level of the youngest child. Our findings suggest that parents of middle and high school students tend to be less positive about the performance of schools than parents of elementary-age students. When asked to rate their own child’s school, 67 percent of public school parents with a child aged 6 to 12 years gave the child’s school a grade of “B” or higher, while only 47 percent of public school parents with a child aged 13 to 18 gave their school similarly good grades.

Parents of older students give public schools lower marks

Q45. I’d like you to give me a grade for the job the public school your child attends is doing in education—A for excellent, B, C, D, or F for fail.



The four-year graduation rate for the city’s public high schools was 58.2 percent in 2005, up slightly over 2003 and 2004, according to New York City’s Department of Education. Using a different methodology, the state calculates the on-time graduation rate as 47 percent for 2005 and 50 percent for 2006. Regardless of which figures are used, most people agree that the dropout rate is alarmingly high, especially among minority males. Only about 4 in 10 Black and Hispanic males graduate, and less than 10 percent of those who graduate do so with a Regents diploma, according to a 2005 City Council report.

To explore public perceptions about solutions to the dropout problem, we posed an open-ended question asking New Yorkers to name the things they think would most help more young people finish high school. Respondents cited numerous factors that could reduce the dropout rate, which we subsequently grouped into four categories: parent and student attitudes and behavior; increases in school resources; curriculum changes; and other factors.

Newsday uses survey data to draw broader public attention to city schools, dropout rates



Poll: Better City Schools Biggest Need

February 21, 2007

“New Yorkers are more widely concerned about the city’s high school dropout rate than increasing funds to protect the city from terrorism, according to a survey of low-income residents released yesterday.”

“A spokeswoman for the New York City Department of Education said... ‘we’re in agreement with those who say [graduation rates] should be a top priority.’”

Daily News article on survey highlights action on preventing dropouts



HS Dropout Crisis

February 21, 2007

“The survey results illustrate New Yorkers’ growing impatience with the dropout problem and recognition that a high school diploma is a necessity in today’s economy, advocates said yesterday.... A coalition of educators is convening a dropout summit at Baruch College on Friday to develop an action plan.”

Education Continued...

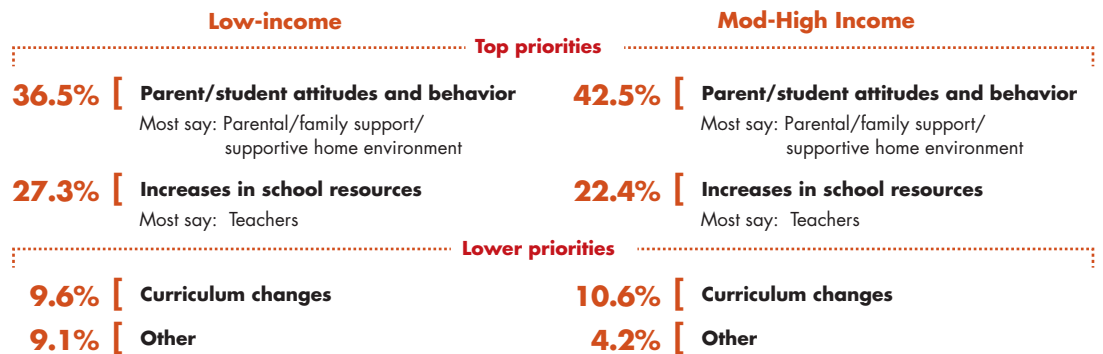
New York City's Disconnected Youth:

According to a 2005 CSS report, nearly 170,000 young people aged 16 to 24 are neither in school nor in the labor market.

Parent and student factors were most frequently mentioned as important influences, cited by about 37 percent of low-income respondents and 43 percent of moderate- to higher-income respondents. A smaller proportion of New Yorkers thought increases in school resources would have the greatest impact in improving graduation rates (27% of low-income and 22% of moderate- to higher-income respondents). When talking about resources, the majority of people pointed to “teachers” as the key factor that would most help young people finish high school.

Parental support and teachers are seen as the most important by all incomes

Q48. What do you think would most help more young people finish high school?

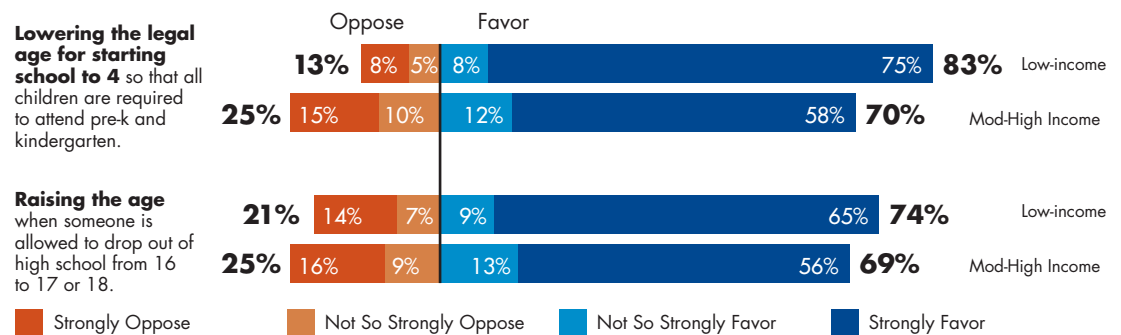


The public expressed strong and widespread support for several proposals that CSS and others have advanced to improve graduation rates, including raising the dropout age. When asked whether they favor or oppose raising the age when a student is allowed to leave high school to 17 or 18, 74 percent of low-income and 69 percent of moderate- to higher-income respondents indicated their approval for such a measure, with 65 percent of low-income and 56 percent of moderate- to higher-income respondents strongly favoring this idea.

New Yorkers are even more enthusiastic about extending schooling at the other end of the age spectrum. An overwhelming majority favor lowering the legal age for starting school to four. Eighty-three percent of low-income respondents and 70 percent of moderate- to higher-income respondents favor such a measure, reflecting a consensus about the value of early childhood education.

Public strongly favors extending mandatory school age on both ends

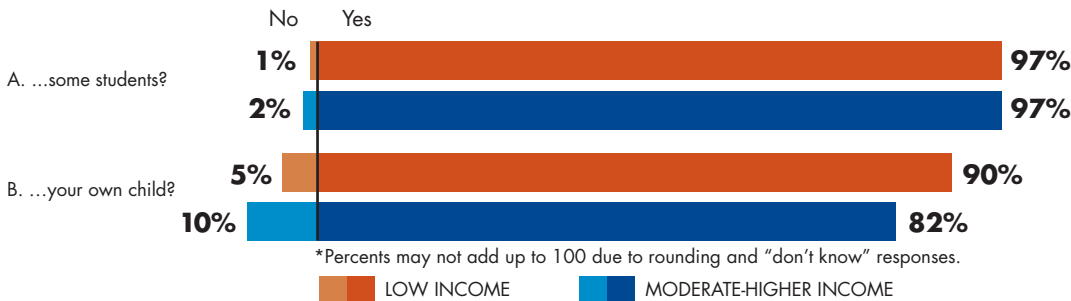
Q49 and Q53. Do you FAVOR or OPPOSE the following...?



Quality career and technical education is also seen as a way to increase graduation rates by strengthening the connection students perceive between schoolwork and real work. When asked whether they thought high quality career, technical, or vocational programs in high schools would be a good option for some students, 97 percent of low-income and an equal percent of moderate- to higher-income respondents said “yes.” Perhaps even more telling, nearly as many said “yes” when asked whether they thought it would be a good option for their own child. Clearly, New Yorkers see a role for quality technical education programs.

New Yorkers give broad support to quality technical education programs

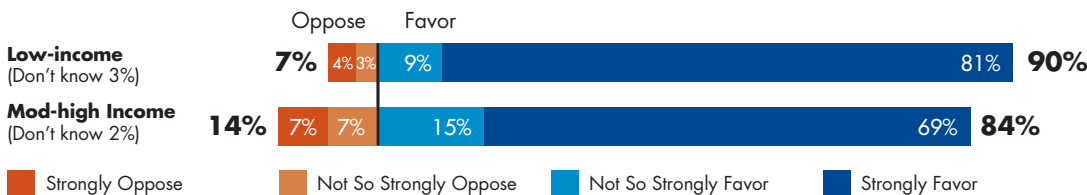
Q50 and Q51. Do you think high quality career, technical or vocational programs in high schools would be a good option for... (Split sample question)*



Students might also be more motivated in high school if they saw a diploma as a ticket to higher education currently beyond their financial reach. We asked New Yorkers whether they favored or opposed waiving tuition to CUNY colleges for low-income families living on less than \$32,000 per year. The public overwhelmingly favors such a measure, with 90 percent of low-income New Yorkers and 84 percent of moderate- to higher-income New Yorkers voicing their support. Moreover, the intensity of their support is noteworthy, with 81 percent of low-income respondents and 69 percent of moderate- to higher-income New Yorkers indicating that they strongly favor such a change.

Public overwhelmingly supports waiving CUNY tuition for low-income families

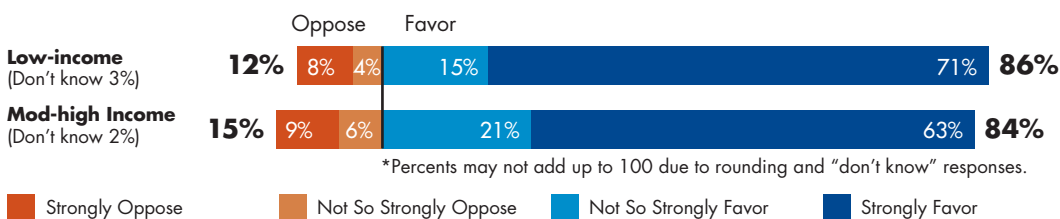
Q52. Would you FAVOR or OPPOSE...Two and four year colleges in the CUNY University system should be tuition free for all New York City families living on less than \$32,000 per year.



Finally, New Yorkers support second chance programs for youth who have already dropped out and are unemployed: 86 percent of low-income New Yorkers and 84 percent of moderate- to higher-income New Yorkers favor more public funding to give unemployed high school dropouts a second chance at getting job skills and on-the-job training.

Public supports second chance programs for unemployed high school dropouts

Q58. Would you favor or oppose more public funding to give unemployed high school dropouts a second chance at getting job skills and on-the-job training?*



New Yorkers of all income levels are concerned about the quality of public education in the city, and they are calling on elected officials to do more. Respondents to our survey voice broad support for several measures that could increase graduation rates and better prepare public school students for careers and higher education.

Survey findings presented at citywide dropout summit focused on spurring city, state, and federal action



BLA Caucus, Partners to convene Dropout Summit

February 23, 2007

"The New York City Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus, in conjunction with Directions for Our Youth, is convening a Dropout Summit on February 23rd at Baruch College. The Summit includes participation from dozens of community leaders, elected officials and civic groups, and will examine key issues surrounding dropout rates for our youth."

State Senator John Sabini reviews survey data, introduces legislation extending mandatory school age

New York State Senate

AN ACT to amend the education law and the family court act

Introduced March 8, 2007

"In each school district, the board of education shall have power to require minors from {sixteen} SEVENTEEN to {seventeen} EIGHTEEN years of age who are not employed to attend upon full time day instruction until the last day of session in the school year in which the student becomes {seventeen} EIGHTEEN years of age."

Immigration

Voices of The Unheard Third:

“It isn’t prejudice; it’s that people are hungry.”

“There are three guys outside ready to take the job.”

*Because the number of Asians in our sample is small, much of the analysis focuses on Black and Hispanic New Yorkers.

A Common Agenda, Despite Job Competition

Throughout our nation’s history, New York City has been a gateway to democracy and upward mobility for new Americans. Given the city’s high poverty rate—20 percent—and large and diverse immigrant population—35 percent of New Yorkers are foreign-born—we sought to explore attitudes on the issues underlying the national debate on immigration reform. How do lower-income New Yorkers, those most likely to be in direct competition with newcomers for jobs and housing, see immigrants? Do they view one another as competitors fighting for their slice of the Big Apple, or as allies in the fight against discrimination and unfair labor practices?

It turns out that New Yorkers’ views are complex and nuanced. Immigrants are seen as bringing needed skills and economic vitality to the city; yet they are also seen as competitors for jobs, especially among those struggling to climb the first rungs of the job ladder. Despite that, The Unheard Third uncovered much common ground that could serve as the basis for a coalition.

In our 2006 survey, we asked New Yorkers to identify the issue they thought should be the highest priority for the city’s elected officials. Among low-income Blacks and Hispanics, both native- and foreign-born* respondents identified affordable housing as their top priority (24% and 22%, respectively). Similarly, 23 percent of low-income native-born respondents indicated that improving city public schools and decreasing dropouts was a top priority, closely followed by 21 percent of low-income immigrants.

Low-income Blacks and Hispanics, whether native or immigrants, agree on top issues

Q11. Which ONE of these issues should be the HIGHEST priority for New York’s elected officials?

RESPONSES FOR LOW-INCOME BLACK AND HISPANIC NEW YORKERS

Native	Top priorities	Immigrant	
24% [	Keep rent down and build more affordable housing	22% [	Keep rent down and build more affordable housing
23% [	Improve city public schools and decrease dropouts	21% [	Improve city public schools and decrease dropouts
11% [	Increase funds to protect New York from terrorism	14% [	Increase jobs through construction projects
10% [	Increase jobs through construction projects	12% [	Increase funds to protect New York from terrorism

Although low-income Blacks and Hispanics born here agreed with those born abroad on a common political agenda, the groups voiced different personal concerns. Job worries were most often mentioned as the greatest concern of the native-born, while housing was the top worry among low-income Black and Hispanic immigrants. And while 16 percent of the foreign-born we surveyed indicated that health care and prescription drugs were their greatest worry, other issues, like crime, drugs, and gangs, loomed larger for the native-born.

These differing worries may reflect varied experiences in job holding, housing, and health coverage. Among low-income Blacks and Hispanics surveyed, the native-born were more likely to have suffered long stretches of unemployment. Though low-income immigrants were more likely to be working, they were less likely to receive rent subsidies or health insurance. Thus, when asked which of several government benefits would most help them get ahead, 36 percent of the foreign-born cited health insurance, and almost as many (34%) said housing. Among the native-born respondents, 36 percent identified vocational and higher education, followed closely by job training (34%) and housing (33%).

Getting ahead: Natives seek help with job skills while immigrants put health, housing aid first

Q39 and Q40. Of the following government benefits,* which would be the most important in helping you and your family get ahead? (first and second responses combined)

RESPONSES FOR LOW-INCOME BLACK AND HISPANIC NEW YORKERS

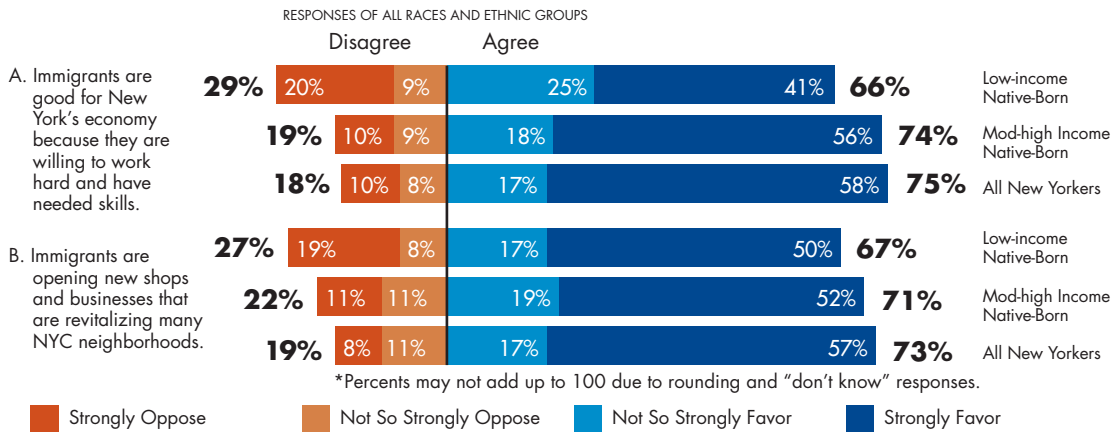
Native-born	Top needs	Immigrant	
36% [	Voc/higher ed	36% [	Health insurance
34% [	Job training	34% [	Housing
33% [	Housing	29% [	Job training
31% [	Lower taxes	26% [	Voc/higher ed
26% [	Health insurance	23% [	Lower taxes

*Government benefits: Job training; Health insurance for you and your family; Subsidized child care; Lower taxes; Basic education or GED; English language training; Housing assistance; and Vocational or other higher education.

The Unheard Third also probed attitudes of native-born New Yorkers and immigrants towards each other. We found that New Yorkers overwhelmingly view immigrants as making positive contributions to the city. For instance, 75 percent of survey participants agreed with the assertion that immigrants are good for New York's economy because they are willing to work hard and have needed skills, with 58 percent agreeing strongly. Similarly, 73 percent of New Yorkers agreed that immigrants are opening new shops and businesses that are revitalizing many city neighborhoods.

New Yorkers overwhelmingly see immigrants as making positive contributions to city

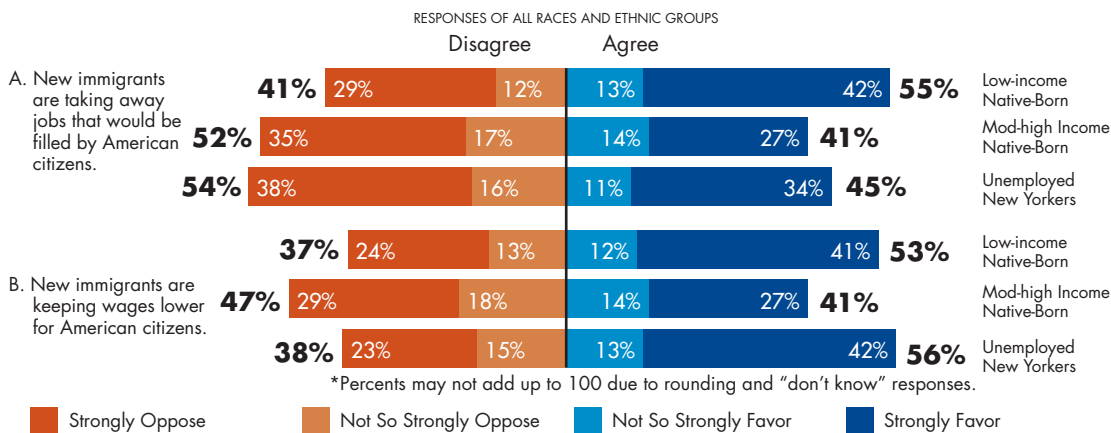
Q68 and Q69. I'm going to read you some statements; I want you to tell me if you agree or disagree... (Split sample question)*



However, low-income native-born New Yorkers are the most likely to think that new immigrants are taking away jobs that would otherwise be filled by American citizens: 55 percent agreed with that view compared to 41 percent of moderate- to higher-income native-born New Yorkers. Similarly, when asked whether they thought new immigrants are keeping wages lower for American citizens, 53 percent of low-income native-born New Yorkers said yes, compared to 41 percent of moderate- to higher-income native-born New Yorkers.

Immigrants seen by many as competing for jobs and lowering wages

Q70 and Q71. I'm going to read you some statements; I want you to tell me if you agree or disagree... (Split sample question)*



Race and ethnicity affect perceptions of job competition from immigrants, with native-born Blacks holding the most strongly negative views. About half of native-born Blacks (52%) and Hispanics (50%) see new immigrants as taking jobs away, compared to only 44 percent of native-born Whites. Moreover, 56 percent of native-born Blacks see new immigrants as keeping wages lower for American citizens, versus just 45 percent of native-born Whites and 44 percent of native-born Hispanics.

Editorial on survey findings calls for common ground between immigrants and native-born New Yorkers



Bridging Immigrants and Natives

January 24, 2007

"As the survey shows, there is a list of common interests, including affordable housing, improving public schools and decreasing dropouts rates, along with access to healthcare and jobs. These issues are the entry points for collaboration and cooperation."

CSS and Immigration Coalition host meeting with community leaders to discuss findings on New York's immigrant experience

The New York Immigration Coalition

African-American and Immigrant Leadership Dialogue on the Unheard Third

January 8, 2007

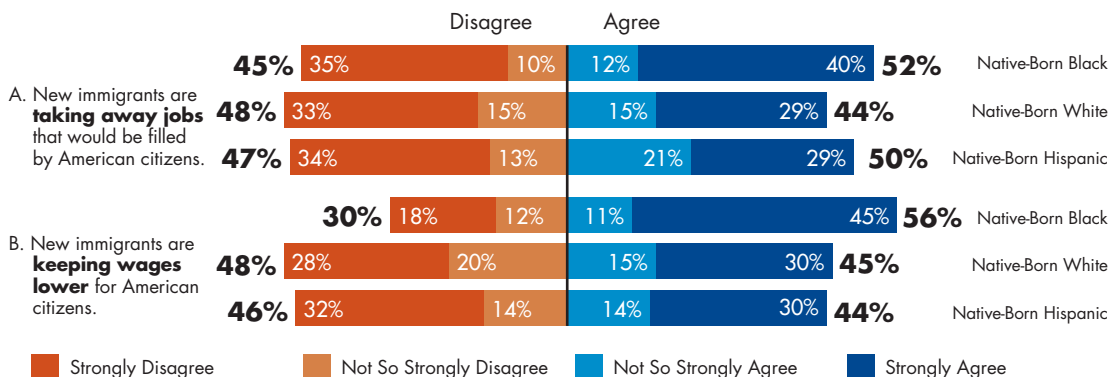
"Thank you for inviting me to speak with you about the importance of immigrant issues as part of a coalition of forces that can move a progressive agenda forward. I believe that there is a unique opportunity here for constructing a new model of inter-group cooperation around the issues of work and economic mobility between immigrant and native-born working people."

—David R. Jones, CSS President and CEO

Immigration Continued...

Native Blacks divided; hold strong views on job threat from newcomers

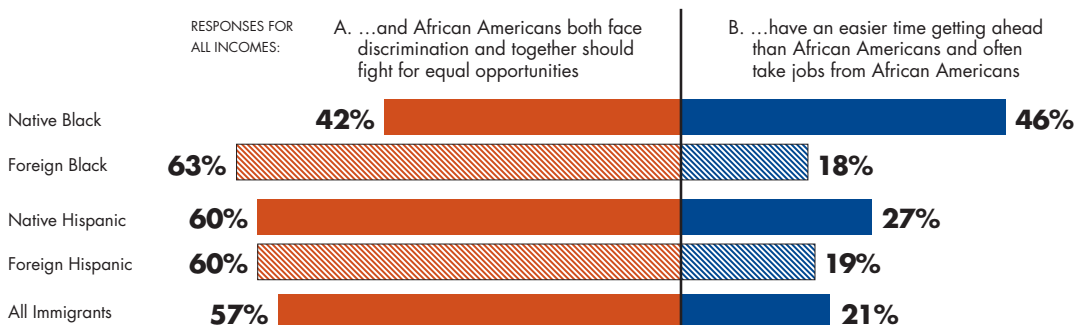
Q70 and Q71. I'm going to read you some statements; I want you to tell me if you agree or disagree... (Split sample question)



While findings on job competition point to tensions between native-born Blacks and immigrants, views on other issues reveal common ground. Native-born Blacks are divided on whether immigrants have an easier time getting ahead than African Americans and often take jobs from African Americans, with 46 percent agreeing with those sentiments. However, an almost equal proportion (42%) agreed with the opposing view that immigrants and African Americans both face discrimination and together should fight for equal opportunities.

Hispanics see discrimination as a common front; native Blacks divided

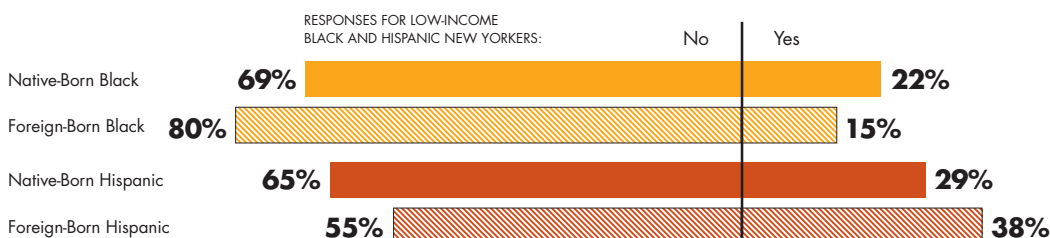
Q72. Which is closer to your view? Some/other people say that immigrants...



Hispanic respondents (60%) were more likely than African Americans to see discrimination in hiring as the basis for a coalition. This appears to be rooted in perceptions of their own experiences. When asked whether, in the last five years, racial discrimination made it more difficult for them to find work, low-income Hispanic immigrants were almost twice as likely as native-born Blacks (38% vs. 22%) to feel blocked by discrimination.

Getting ahead: Hispanic immigrants almost twice as likely as native Blacks to feel blocked by discrimination

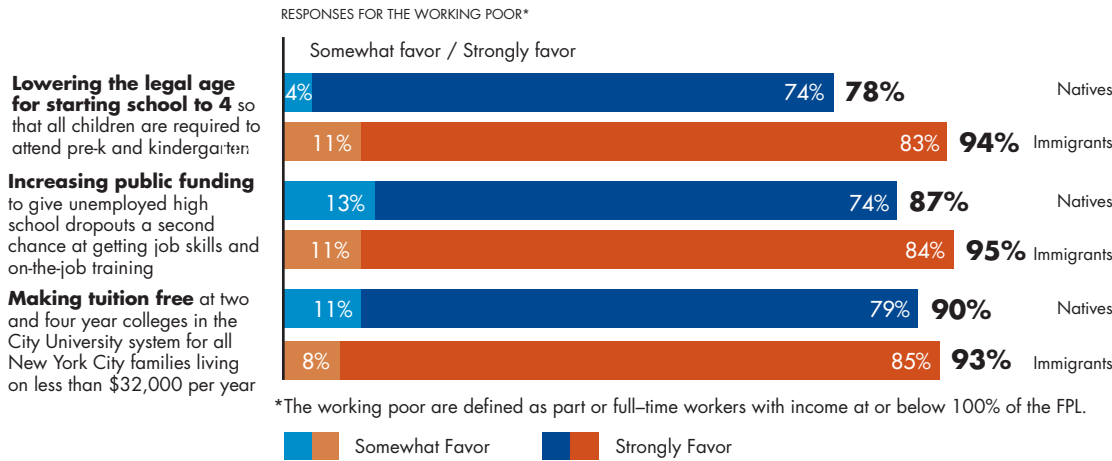
Q38. In the last five years has racial discrimination made it more difficult for you to find work?



While Blacks are divided on the idea of joining arms with immigrants to fight job discrimination, agreement on a number of other policy issues suggests potential common ground for coalition building. For instance, among the working poor, both native- and foreign-born show strong support for requiring all public school students to attend pre-K and kindergarten; increasing public funding to give high school dropouts a second chance; and making CUNY tuition free for low-income families.

Shared views on priority issues suggest bridge agenda that could unite working poor

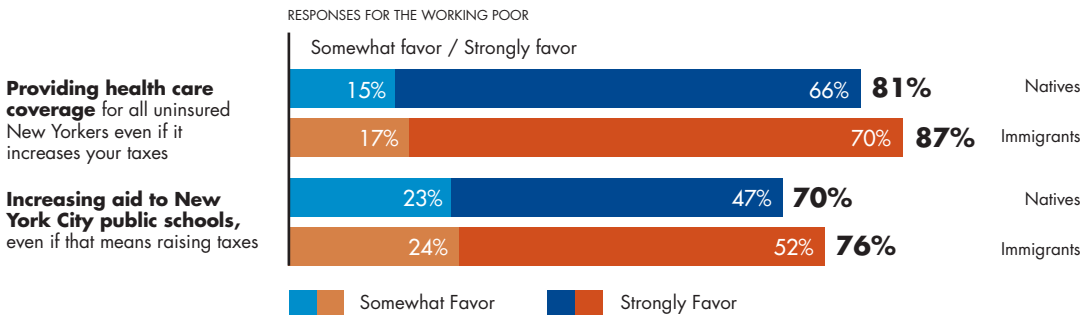
Q52, 53, 58. Do you FAVOR or OPPOSE the following proposal for education in New York City...?



Moreover, low-income New Yorkers, whether native- or foreign-born, favor expanding health care and school aid, even if it means higher taxes.

Both groups favor expanding health care and school aid—even if it means higher taxes

Q21 and Q57. Do you FAVOR or OPPOSE the following proposal...?



Viewed together, these findings suggest that New Yorkers have a complex view of the city’s growing immigrant population. Despite seeing competition from foreign-born New Yorkers on the jobs front, native-born New Yorkers acknowledge the positive contribution that immigrants make to the city, and both groups share policy goals that could be the basis for a coalition.

Appendix

The Unheard Third: Documenting Impact: Citations and Briefings, 2002–2006

Findings from The Unheard Third survey are disseminated broadly in an effort to bring greater visibility to issues that concern low-income New Yorkers. Our outreach efforts target public officials, foundations, researchers, the nonprofit community, and the media and include presentations, special data requests, press releases, and interviews. Following is a summary of our dissemination efforts since the survey was first inaugurated in 2002.

The Unheard Third 2006: Complete Citations

Media Coverage

Includes data citations and interviews in print, television, radio, and online media.

New York Sun—May 22, 2007—Letter to the editor from Donna Dolan, Chair, New York State Paid Family Leave Coalition, cites survey data supporting paid family leave.

Public Welfare Foundation—April 25, 2007—Announcement of a new 2-year, \$1 million Special Initiative on Paid Sick Days cites survey data.

WBAI Radio—February 28, 2007—Broadcast report cites findings on education.

New York Resident—February 26, 2007—Magazine article includes a quote from Nancy Rankin and survey findings on education.

New York Daily News—February 24, 2007—“The Dropout Dilemma,” cites findings on education in coverage of the dropout prevention summit held at Baruch College on February 23, 2007.

WLIB Radio—February 24, 2007—“Dialogue with Dinkins” program features interview with Nancy Rankin regarding findings on education.

1330 AM Radio—February 23, 2007—Broadcast report cites findings on education.

Bronx News, Channel 12—February 23, 2007—Broadcast report cites findings on education.

amNewYork—February 21, 2007—“Dropout rates top list of concerns,” cites findings on education.

City Limits Online—February 21, 2007—“In the News” section cites findings on education and links to CSS website.

Gotham Gazette—February 21, 2007—“Today’s Report” section features survey findings on education, with link to CSS website.

Hoy—February 21, 2007—“Neoyorquinos quieren erradicar la desercion escolar,” cites findings on education.

New York Daily News—February 21, 2007—“HS dropout crisis,” cites findings on education.

New York Newsday—February 21, 2007—“Poll: Better city schools biggest need,” cites findings on education.

New York Post—February 21, 2007—“Bad Schools Bigger Concern Than Terror: Poll,” cites findings on education.

Staten Island Advance—February 21, 2007—“Survey says education should be top concern for elected officials,” cites findings on education.

amNewYork Online—February 20, 2007—“NYers fear dropout rates more than terrorism,” cites findings on education.

International Access Network Blog—February 19, 2007—Post announces the release of findings on education.

RaceWire: The Colorlines Blog—February 13, 2007—Post by Andre Banks discusses findings regarding attitudes of and towards immigrants.

DMIBlog—January 29, 2007—“Wasting Our Money,” by Andrew Friedman, cites survey findings and links to CSS website.

El Diario/La Prensa—January 24, 2007—Editorial, “Bridging immigrants and natives,” cites data regarding immigrants.

WNYC Radio—January 23, 2007—“Survey Shows African Americans More Likely to be Anti-Immigrant,” reports data from the 2006 survey.

Tenant/Inquilino—January 2007—“Making the Rent Out of Reach,” cites data from the 2006 survey.

Progressive States Network—December 8, 2006—Post links to data pertaining to paid sick days on the CSS website.

Washington Post—December 3, 2006—“Caught the Flu, but No Sick Leave,” cites data regarding paid sick days and includes a quote from Nancy Rankin.

Gotham Gazette—November 27, 2006—“Today’s Report” section features survey findings on paid sick days, with link to CSS website.

El Diario/La Prensa—November 25, 2006—Editorial calling for passage of paid sick days legislation cites survey findings.

New York Times—November 23, 2006—Neediest Cases article, “Finding Help to Bear the Load as the Burdens of Diabetes Pile Up,” cites survey findings on personal savings.

National Partnership for Women and Families—November 21, 2006—Press release cites findings on paid sick days.

Gotham Gazette—November 13, 2006—Editorial by Nancy Rankin, “New Help for the Working Poor?” cites findings from the Unheard Third.

New York Times—November 5, 2006—Neediest Cases kickoff story cites survey findings regarding reductions in spending on school clothes and supplies by low-income mothers.

New York Times—October 5, 2006—Article pertaining to a City Council survey of prescription drug prices cites survey data.

Point of View (Democracy Now, PBS)—August 18, 2006—Nancy Rankin interviewed for podcast as part of ongoing web series on the documentary film, “Waging a Living.”

2006: Complete Citations Continued...

Speaking Engagements Includes briefings, speeches, testimony, and other presentations.

June 5, 2007—Testimony of Donna Dolan, Chair, New York State Paid Family Leave Coalition, and testimony of Nancy Rankin, at a Public Hearing on Paid Family Leave, NYS Senate Labor Committee, both cite survey data on paid leave.

May 24, 2007—Presentation on panel, “Honoring Mothers,” sponsored by Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, the Working Families Party, and 1199/SEIU.

April 25, 2007—Presentation to the Visiting Delegation of the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

March 19-20, 2007—Presentation on the impact of survey research at “Whose Responsibility is it? Haifa Conference for Social Responsibility” at the University of Haifa, Israel.

February 23, 2007—Presentation of findings regarding education at the Dropout Prevention Summit at Baruch College.

February 22, 2007—Presentation of findings regarding paid sick days at a meeting of the Paid Family Leave Coalition.

February 2, 2007—Presentation of findings regarding paid sick days at the Work-Family Summit.

January 23, 2007—Presentation of findings regarding paid sick days to the staff of Christine Quinn, Speaker of the NYC Council.

January 17, 2007—Presentation of findings regarding paid sick days by Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners at Wingspread (Wisconsin).

January 8, 2007—Presentation of findings regarding immigrants to the New York Immigration Coalition.

October 4, 2006—Presentation of findings to Jack Rosenthal and several reporters at The New York Times in preparation for that paper’s “Neediest Cases” campaign.

Special Data Requests Detailed findings prepared for researchers, elected officials, funders, and other organizations.

National Partnership for Women and Families

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate for New York City

Andrew Cuomo, Attorney General for New York State

The Unheard Third 2002–2005: Selected citations

Media Coverage

Includes data citations and interviews in print, television, radio, and online media.

New York Times—May 14, 2006—“The Other Mothers,” op-ed by Betsy Gotbaum and Nancy Rankin, cites findings on paid sick leave.

New York Daily News—January 19, 2006—“When doling out the perks, let’s remember renters,” op-ed by David R. Jones and Gail B. Nayowith, cites findings on housing hardships.

New York Amsterdam News—November 24–30, 2005—“Poor in New York, Part 1: Housing Hardships,” cites findings on housing hardships as well as other CSS research.

WLIB Radio—October 30, 2005—“Dialogue with Dinkins,” features hour-long interview with David R. Jones and Nancy Rankin in a program focused on The Unheard Third.

WNYC Radio—October 21, 2005—Cindy Rodriguez interview with Nancy Rankin discusses survey.

New York Amsterdam News—October 20–26, 2005—“A Voice for the Unheard,” covers release of survey findings.

New York Times—September 13, 2005—“New York’s Ever-Changing Electorate: Next, the White Minority,” cites the survey and quotes David R. Jones.

El Diario/La Prensa—September 2, 2005—“Pobres no creen en politicos,” cites survey findings on voting attitudes of low-income New Yorkers.

WWRL Radio—July 21, 2005—“The Unheard Third,” hour-long radio program with guests Dr. John Plateau, Mindy Tarlow, and Walter Fields, Mark Levitan, and Nancy Rankin of CSS.

New York Newsday—April 12, 2005—“Housing hijacks income,” front-page article cites CSS research on rent burdens and related survey findings.

Congressional Record—March 17, 2005—“Black and Youth Unemployment in New York City,” remarks by Representative Charles Rangel, cite survey findings and additional CSS research on joblessness and disconnected youth.

New York Daily News—March 11, 2005—“City schools need 21st century vo-tech,” op-ed by David R. Jones, cites survey data to show public support.

PBS Television—March 2005—Documentary, “City of Rich and Poor: Jack Newfield on New York,” features findings from the survey.

New York Times—January 30, 2005—“Fires Highlight Weaknesses New Yorkers Often Overlook,” cites survey data on low-income New Yorkers.

The Nation online—January 12, 2005—Editor’s Cut by Katrina vanden Heuvel, “The Real Moral Fight,” cites survey data.

New York Daily News—December 6, 2004—“Go Senate,” editorial supporting increase in New York state minimum wage, cites survey data.

New York Daily News—November 9, 2004—“Make room

for more: Here’s a policy that can create affordable housing for the poor,” column by Errol Louis, cites survey findings.

New York Daily News—November 8, 2004—“It’s time, Joe,” editorial supporting increase in New York state minimum wage, cites survey data.

New York Daily News—November 1, 2004—“Recovery Skips Working Poor, 90% say finances no better in ’04,” covers release of 2004 survey findings.

New York Times—October 31, 2004—“The Hope of Charity, Reflected in 3 Working Families Who Found Help,” kick-off story for the Neediest Cases campaign, cites survey data.

New York Post—October 21, 2004—“Poor’ grades for city schools,” cites survey findings on education.

Newsweek—September 20, 2004—The Last Word column by Anna Quindlen, “The War We Haven’t Won,” cites survey data.

New York Sun—January 13, 2004—“While the Struggling Class Drowns,” op-ed by Errol Lewis, discusses findings from the 2003 survey.

CNN Financial News—December 15, 2003—“On the Line: Poverty in America,” features interview with David R. Jones about the survey.

New York Post—December 4, 2003—“NYers: System doing a poor job educating our kids,” features survey findings on education.

WLIB Radio—November 23, 2003—“Politics Live with Mark Reilly,” features interview with David R. Jones about the survey.

New York Daily News—November 21, 2003—“City’s working poor a study in despair,” covers findings from the 2003 survey.

The Nation—March 17, 2003—“How the Other Half Still Lives,” by Jack Newfield, cites survey findings.

Research Reports Citations in published reports.

“A Better Recipe for New York City: Less Red Tape, More Food on the Table,” by Rebecca Widom, Ella Ewart and Olivia Marinez, Urban Justice Center Report, January 2006.

“Can Growth Work for New York’s Communities? Community Development, Social and Environmental Justice, and the City’s Future,” by Robert Neuwirth, paper prepared for the Pratt Center for Community Development conference on Growth and Equity in New York City, December 1, 2005.

“NYC Hunger Experience,” by the Food Bank for New York City, November 2005.

“Taking Away the Ladder of Opportunity: Hotel Conversions and the Threat Posed to New York City’s Tourism Jobs and Economic Diversity,” by the Fiscal Policy Institute, May 2005.

“Stopping Drugs Now—Protecting Bronx Neighborhoods Today,” by the Office of the Bronx Borough President, Adolfo Carrion, Jr., April 2005.

2002–2006: Selected citations Continued...

“Community Action Plan to Reduce Homelessness,” by Susan Leicher for the United Way of New York City, February 2005.

“Seeking a Workforce System: A Graphical Guide to Employment and Training Services in New York,” by the Center for an Urban Future and the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals, December 2003.

Speaking Engagements Includes briefings, speeches, testimony, and other presentations.

June 9, 2006—Presentation on findings related to class perceptions at the Class Works Conference at Stony Brook University.

May 17, 2006—Presentation to the annual meeting of the Fund for the Advancement of Social Services.

April 19, 2006—Presentation at the United Way of New York City Board Meeting.

March 30, 2006—National teleconference for Alliance for Children and Families member agencies

March 1, 2006—Briefing for city’s ethnic press, hosted by El Diario/La Prensa and Carib News.

February 28, 2006—Briefing for foundation community, hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation.

February 7, 2006—Briefing to the Welfare Reform Network, coalition of over 50 New York City nonprofit service and advocacy organizations.

February 6, 2006—Press conference held by Senator Hillary Clinton on reactions to the release of President Bush’s proposed budget, at University Settlement House.

January 25, 2006—Panel discussion on “Perspectives on the Future of New York City,” CUNY Honors College, CUNY Graduate Center.

March 23, 2005—Panel discussion on “Poverty in New York City,” The Data Connection XV, conference organized by The New York Area Data Council.

February 17, 2005—Briefing for funders hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation.

December 7, 2004—Presentation on “Shaping Public Opinion: Winning Hearts & Minds,” for the Partnership for the Homeless “Conversations with the Experts” series.

January, 2003—City Club Panel on Affordable Housing.

December 4, 2002—Presentation to Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies member agencies.

Briefings for public officials

March 3, 2006—Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate, and her staff.

February 2, 2006—School’s Chancellor Joel Klein.

November 16, 2005—NYC Council members and staff, hosted by Council member Robert Jackson, co-chair of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus.

February 4, 2005—Staff of Senator Charles Schumer; Minority Staff of the Senate Finance Committee; and Staff of the New York City Congressional delegation, hosted by offices of Representative Nita Lowey and Senator Hillary Clinton.

January 27, 2005—Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President.

January 21, 2005—Betsy Gotbaum, Public Advocate.

January 20, 2005—William Thompson, New York City Comptroller.

February 27, 2004—New York City congressional delegation staff, hosted by office of Congressman Charles Rangel.

January 21, 2004—Staff of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

January 5, 2003—City of New York Washington Office.

December 17, 2002—NYC Council members and staff, sponsored by Council member Robert Jackson.

Invited testimony

November 15, 2005—NYC Council Joint Hearing of the Select Committee on Community Development and the Committee on Economic Development.

June 3, 2003—New York City Rent Guidelines Board.

May 1, 2003—New York City Rent Guidelines Board.

April 28, 2003—NYC Council, on Medicaid and health cuts.

January 27, 2003—NYC Council Women’s Committee.

December 9, 2002—NYC Council, on Liberty Bonds.

December, 2002—NYC Council Social Services Committee.

Special Data Requests

Detailed findings prepared for researchers, elected officials, funders, and other organizations.

NYC Rent Guidelines Board

The New York Women’s Foundation

Center for the Study of Brooklyn, Brooklyn College, CUNY

National Partnership for Women and Families

Office of the Bronx Borough President

New York State Paid Leave Coalition

The Partnership for the Homeless

New York City Coalition Against Hunger

FoodChange

New York State Assembly member Deborah J. Glick, Chair, Social Services Committee

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Want to know more about The Unheard Third?

CSS makes every effort to respond to data requests from individuals and groups including research analysts, public officials, foundations, community organizations, and the media. To find out more about how to use the survey, contact Nancy Rankin, Director of Research, at 212-614-5309 or nrankin@cssny.org.

For more information, including detailed survey findings and additional CSS research, visit our website at www.cssny.org.

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Additional Research from the Community Service Society

Closing the Door 2007: The Shape of Subsidized Housing Loss in New York City, by Tom Waters and Victor Bach, May 2007.

Unemployment and Joblessness in New York City, 2006, by Mark Levitan, February 2007.

Making the Rent, 2002 to 2005: Changing Rent Burdens and Housing Hardships Among Low-Income New Yorkers, by Tom Waters and Victor Bach, December 2006.

Poverty in New York City, 2005: More Families Working, More Working Families Poor, by Mark Levitan, September 2006.

Shortchanging Security: How Poor Training, Low Pay and Lack of Job Protection for Security Guards Undermine Public Safety in New York City, by Nancy Rankin and Mark Levitan, May 2006.

Out of School, Out of Work . . . Out of Luck? New York City's Disconnected Youth, by Mark Levitan, January 2005.

Publications are available at www.cssny.org