

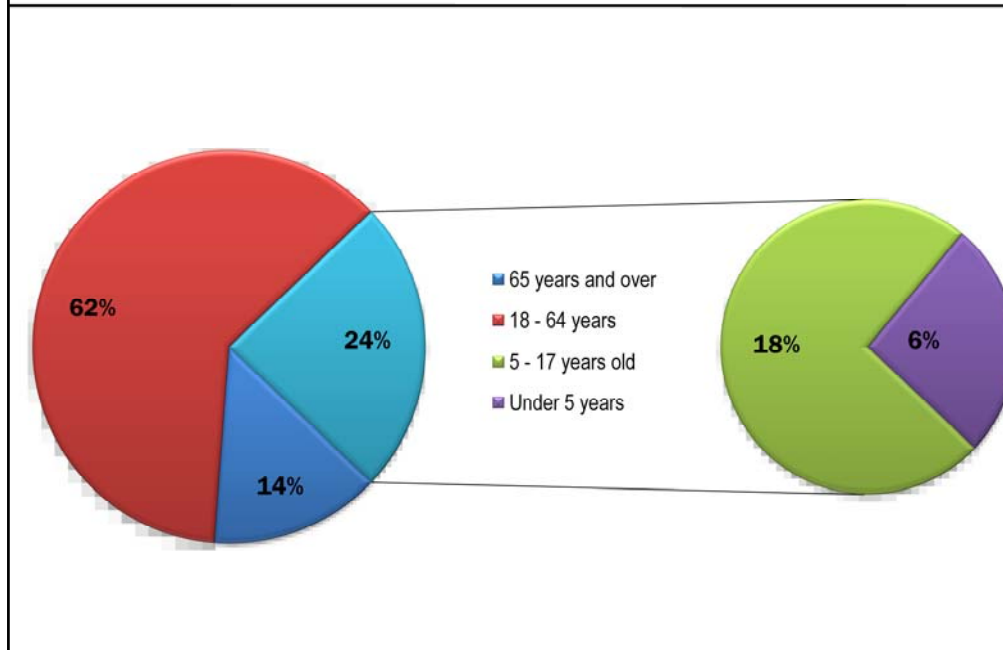


# **A Tale of Two Counties**

## **Racial Disparities in the Lives of Children and Youth**

**March 26, 2009**

## Population by Age

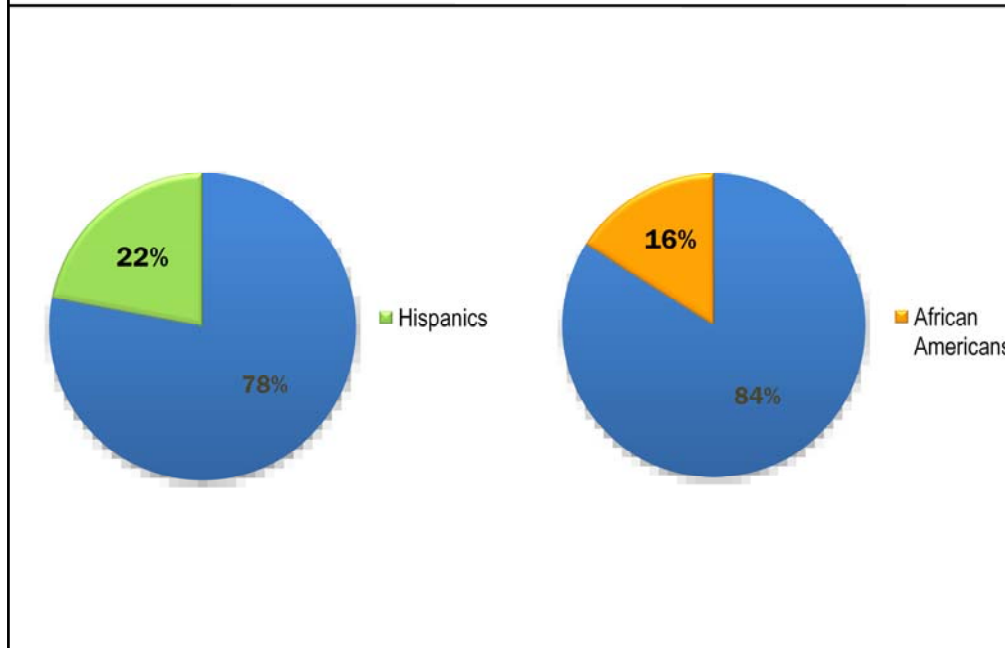


First, let's look at how many children are in Westchester County? According to the 2007, American Community Survey (which is part of the US Census) there are a total of 951,325 residents in the County, and 24% of us, or 228,318, are under the age of 18.

That is significantly more than the 14% who are 65 years old or older.

About 1/3 of our young people are under the age of 5.

## Population Under Age 18



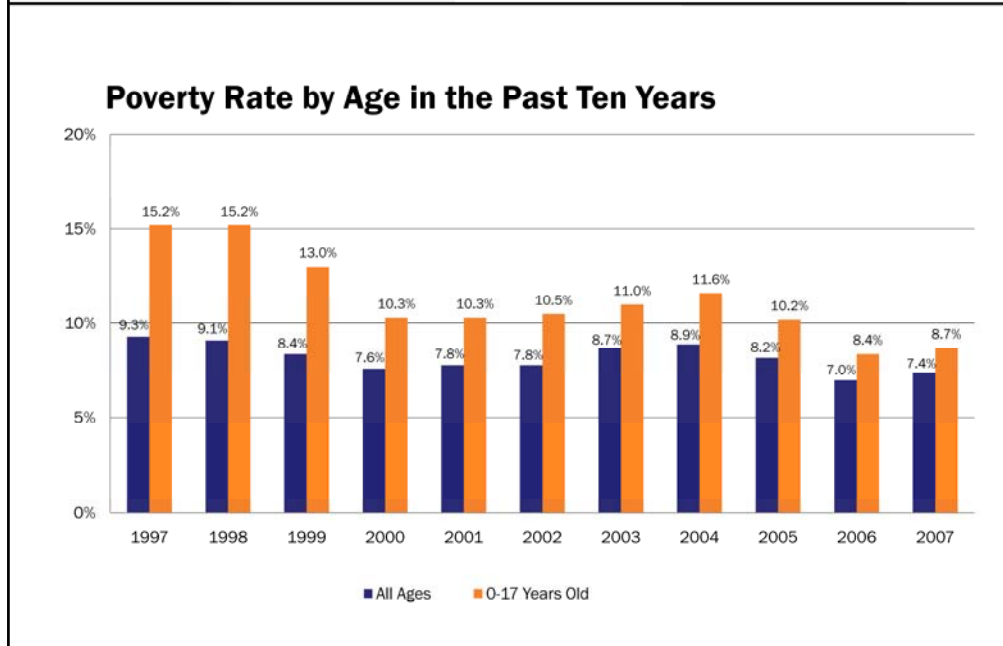
While we have a complex mix of racial and ethnic communities in Westchester, for simplicity's sake we are going to look principally at the white, African American and Hispanic populations.

This slide shows two separate pie charts to illustrate the percentage of the youth population that is African American (16%) and Hispanic (22%) These charts are separate because the Census Bureau counts race and ethnicity separately through two questions. The questions are "What race are you?" and "Are you Hispanic/Latino?" Therefore, a Hispanic individual can be of any race, as can a non-Hispanic individual.

You will see that other data from different sources is calculated differently, counting Hispanic as the same type of category as Black or African American.

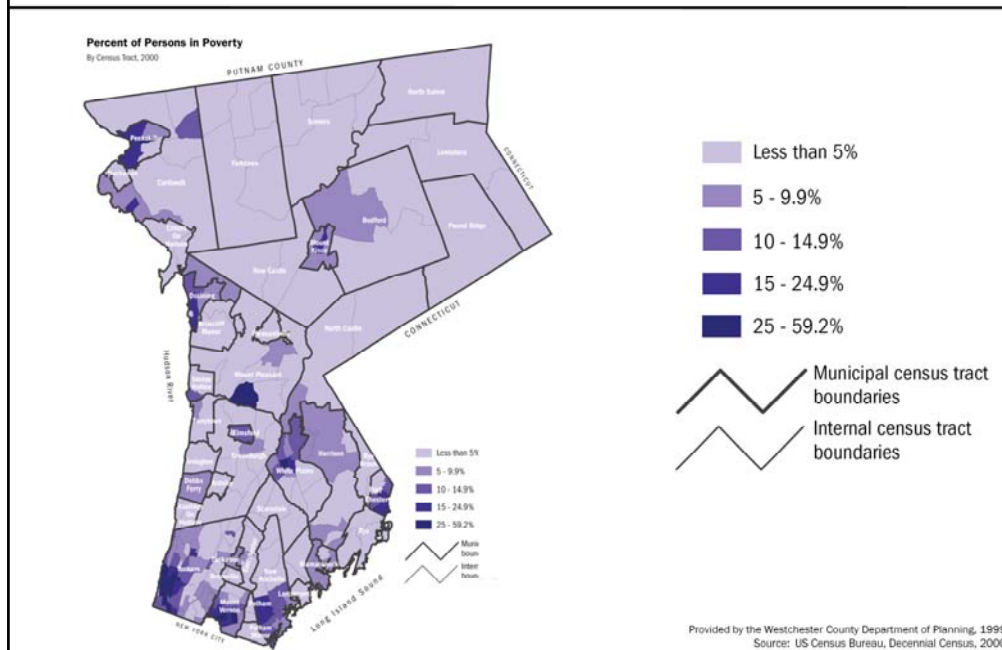
2006, American Community Survey

# Children Are Poorer



Now, irrespective of race or ethnicity, children are overall poorer than the general population. This has been true historically and continues to be true today. The child poverty rate in the County was close to 9% in 2007.

# Poor Children in Every Community



Where in Westchester do poor children live?

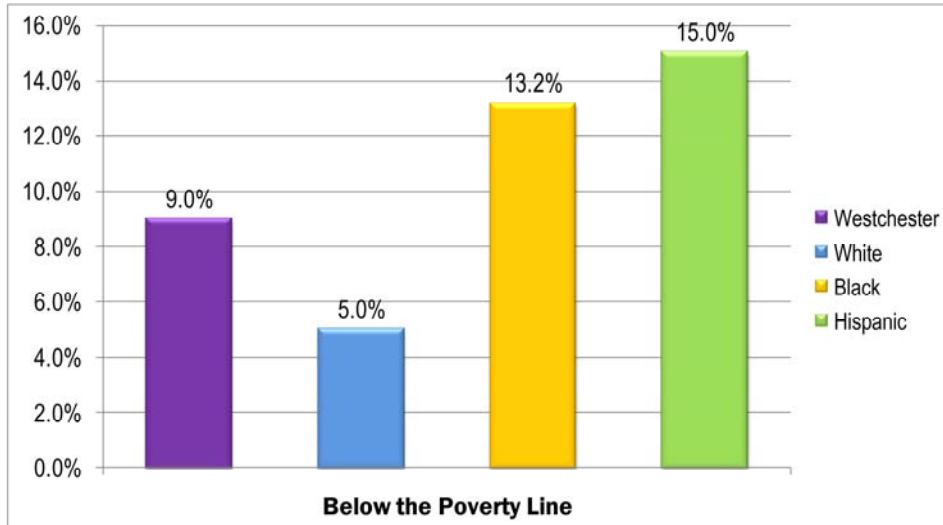
While we typically think of child poverty in connection with our large cities, poor children live in every town and village in Westchester. Truly, there are no communities with a 0% child poverty rate. Even in Pound Ridge, 1% of children are poor.

Although poor children live everywhere, they are concentrated in our urban centers. But even there, poverty is densely concentrated in some neighborhoods.

For example, although the overall child poverty rate for Yonkers is 25%, some census blocs in that city have rates of up to 66%.

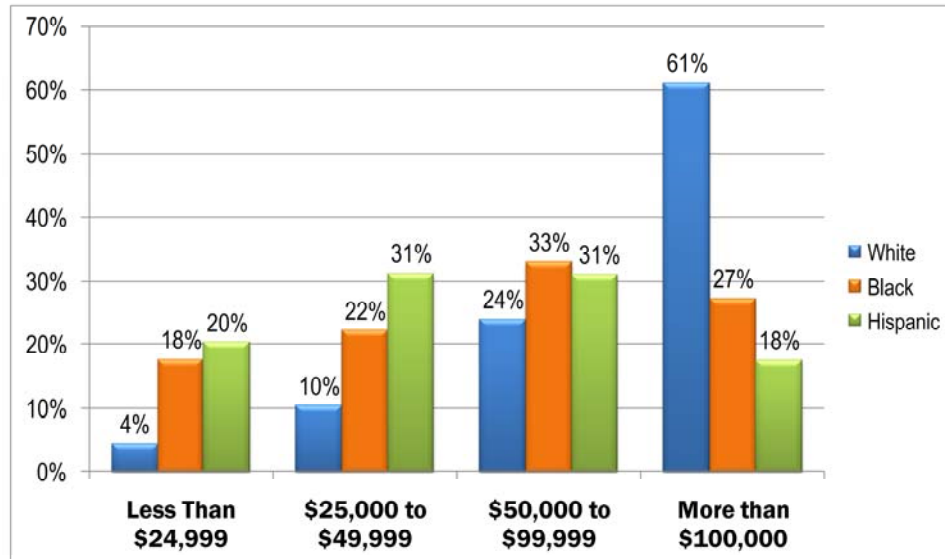
## Poverty Varies by Race

Children's Poverty Rate by Race – 2005-7



Poverty is also concentrated by racial and ethnic group. A Black or Latino child in Westchester is 2-3 times more likely than a white child to be poor.

## Family Income By Race/Ethnicity



It is no surprise that family incomes also vary by race and ethnicity.

This chart shows that incomes for Black and Hispanic families tend to be more evenly distributed across income levels, while many more White families are clustered at the upper end of the income spectrum.

2005-2007 Three Year Averages, American Community Survey

## Significant Income Gap

### 2007 Median Incomes in Westchester by Family Type



In addition to varying by race/ethnicity and by community, family incomes vary dramatically by family type.

Single parent families, headed by either men or women, have much lower incomes than two-parent families, but families with single moms are clearly and dramatically poorer than others.

And nationally we know that there is a much higher proportion of single female headed household among Black families than White families, so again, this hits communities of color disproportionately.

## Graduation Rates



Now let's look at some education outcomes for youngsters in Westchester.

This chart shows 4 year graduation rates in the 2004-2005 School Year (New York State Education Department)

You can see that the overall rate was 80%, meaning that 80 of Westchester's students graduated in 4 years.

But if we separate this data a little bit, we can see that the rate for White students was 92% , while for black and hispanic students it was only 61%.

There was also an 8 percentage point difference between girls, 84% of whom graduated in 4 years, and boys, of whom only 76% finished school in that time frame.

## School District Info

Highest % Non-White	Highest % Free Lunch	Highest Drop Out Rate
Mount Vernon		
Greenburgh		
Elmsford		
Yonkers		
Peekskill		
Port Chester-Rye		
White Plains		
New Rochelle		
Tarrytown		
Ossining		

The next few slides show data from 2007 about how the racial make up and student income level of some of our school districts correlate with selected educational outcomes.

These are not meant as an indictment of either the schools or the students, but rather an illustration of the interrelated issues that affect students of color and poor students.

The first column lists 10 Westchester districts with the highest percentage of Black and Hispanic students - I've written non-white as a kind of short hand. The list is in descending order, so Mount Vernon is at the top with about 94% students of color.

### School District % -Non White

Mount Vernon 94

Greenburgh 88

Elmsford 86

Yonkers 83

Peekskill 83

Port Chester-Rye 81

White Plains 67

New Rochelle 64

Tarrytown 61

Ossining 59

## School District Info

Highest % Non-White	Highest % Free Lunch	Highest Drop Out Rate
Mount Vernon	Yonkers	
Greenburgh	Port Chester-Rye	
Elmsford	Mount Vernon	
Yonkers	Peekskill	
Peekskill	Tarrytown	
Port Chester-Rye	New Rochelle	
White Plains	White Plains	
New Rochelle	Elmsford	
Tarrytown	Greenburgh	
Ossining	Ossining	

The next slide shows the districts with the highest percentage of students receiving free lunch.

You can see that these are exactly the same districts in different order.

Yonkers 63  
 Port Chester-Rye 41  
 Mount Vernon 36  
 Peekskill 34  
 Tarrytown 30  
 New Rochelle 29  
 White Plains 28  
 Greenburgh 23  
 Elmsford 22  
 Ossining 21

## School District Info

Highest % Non-White	Highest % Free Lunch	Highest Drop Out Rate
Mount Vernon	Yonkers	Mount Vernon
Greenburgh	Port Chester-Rye	Yonkers
Elmsford	Mount Vernon	Port Chester-Rye
Yonkers	Peekskill	Hendrick Hudson
Peekskill	Tarrytown	Tuckahoe
Port Chester-Rye	New Rochelle	Lakeland
White Plains	White Plains	Bedford
New Rochelle	Elmsford	White Plains
Tarrytown	Greenburgh	Tarrytown
Ossining	Ossining	New Rochelle

Here are the 10 Westchester districts with the highest drop out rates. Interestingly, only 6 of the original 10 are on this list.

MT VERNON CITY SD 14%

YONKERS CITY SD 13%

PORT CHESTER-RYE UFSD 7%

HENDRICK HUDSON CSD 6%

TUCKAHOE UFSD 4%

LAKELAND CSD 4%

BEDFORD CSD 4%

WHITE PLAINS CITY SD 4%

UFSD-TARRYTOWNS 4%

NEW ROCHELLE CITY SD 4%

## School District Info

Highest % Non-White	Lowest Graduation Rate	Lowest College Bound Rate
Mount Vernon		
Greenburgh		
Elmsford		
Yonkers		
Peekskill		
Port Chester-Rye		
White Plains		
New Rochelle		
Tarrytown		
Ossining		

On the next two slides we'll see how our original 10 districts stack up when we look at the 4 year graduation rates and the percentage of graduates who go directly to 2 or 4 year college after high school.

## School District Info

Highest % Non-White	Lowest Graduation Rate	Lowest College Bound Rate
Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon	
Greenburgh	Yonkers	
Elmsford	Port Chester-Rye	
Yonkers	Ossining	
Peekskill	Greenburgh	
Port Chester-Rye	Elmsford	
White Plains	New Rochelle	
New Rochelle	White Plains	
Tarrytown	Tarrytown	
Ossining	Hendrick Hudson	

Again, we see an almost complete overlap with the poorest districts.

Mount Vernon 51%

Yonkers 58%

Port Chester 67%

Ossining 69%

Greenburgh 70%

Elmsford 70%

New Rochelle 72%

White Plains 74%

Tarrytown 77%

Hendrick Hudson 85%

## School District Info

Highest % Non-White	Lowest Graduation Rate	Lowest College Bound Rate
Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon	Greenburgh
Greenburgh	Yonkers	Peekskill
Elmsford	Port Chester-Rye	Port Chester-Rye
Yonkers	Ossining	Yonkers
Peekskill	Greenburgh	Elmsford
Port Chester-Rye	Elmsford	New Rochelle
White Plains	New Rochelle	Mount Vernon
New Rochelle	White Plains	White Plains
Tarrytown	Tarrytown	Ossining
Ossining	Hendrick Hudson	Tarrytown

Finally, here's the list of districts with the fewest graduates going directly to college.

Now why do we think the rate of college attendance is important?

Its because it links directly back to the issue of income security and self-sufficiency.

School District % - College

Greenburgh 71

Peekskill 79

Port Chester-Rye 81

Yonkers 81

Elmsford 83

New Rochelle 83

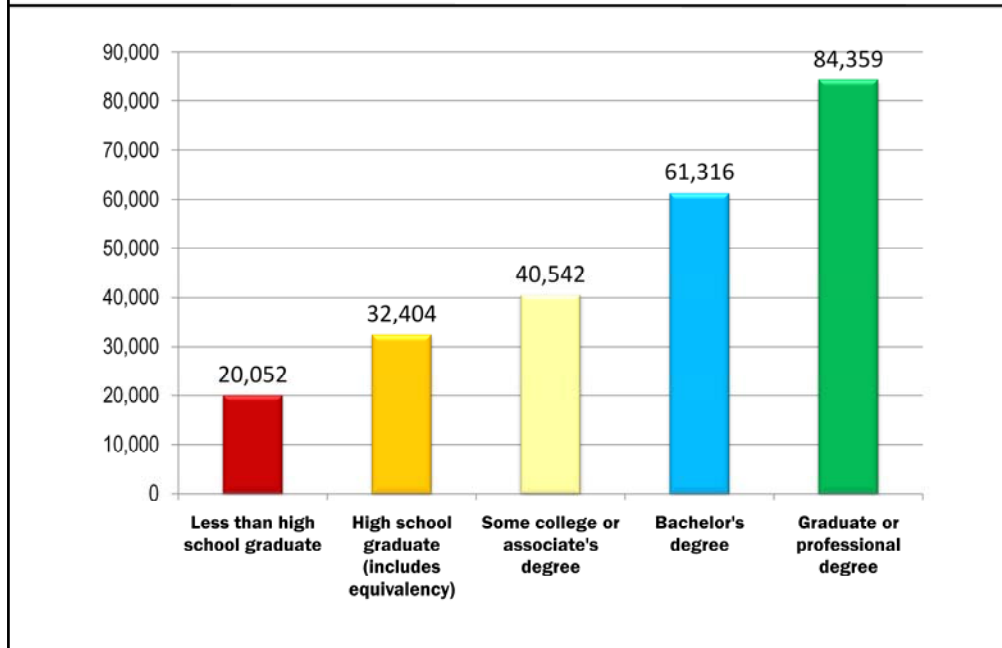
Mount Vernon 86

White Plains 88

Ossining 88

Tarrytown 88

## Median Income - Education Level

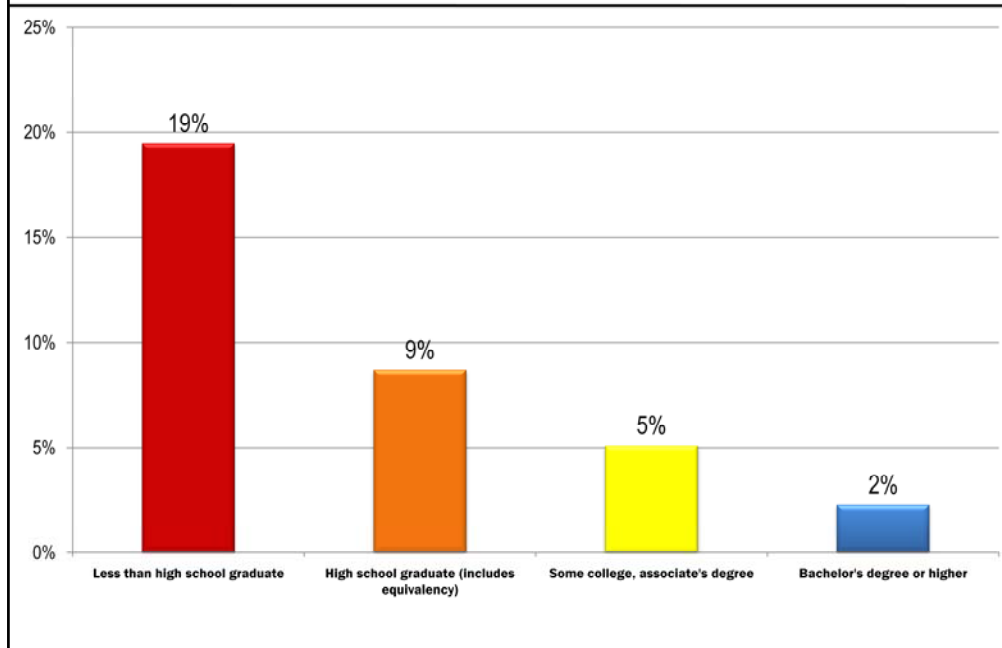


Here we can see the impact of education on median individual income.

Without a high school diploma, median individual income is only about \$20,000. This amount doubles with some college education or an associates degree, and triples with a bachelor's degree.

2007, American Community Survey

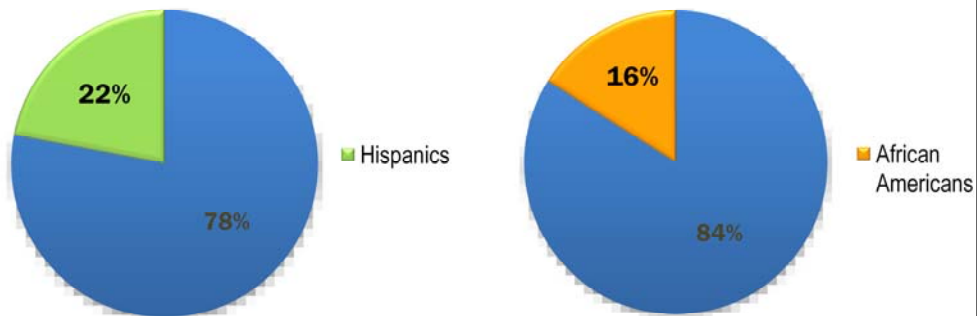
## Poverty Status by Education Level



Conversely, further education can help protect an individual from falling into poverty. With less than a high school degree, nearly one in five people are likely to be poor, whereas only one in twenty people with some college are likely to be poor.

2007, American Community Survey

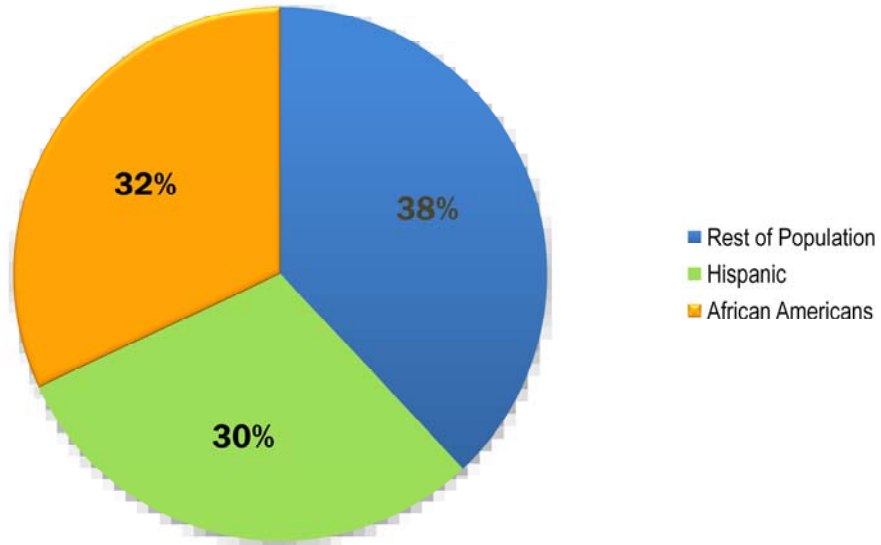
## Population Under Age 18



Now we're going to take a look at racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems involving young people. Here again is the percentage of Westchester youth who are African American and Hispanic.

2006, American Community Survey

## PINS Population

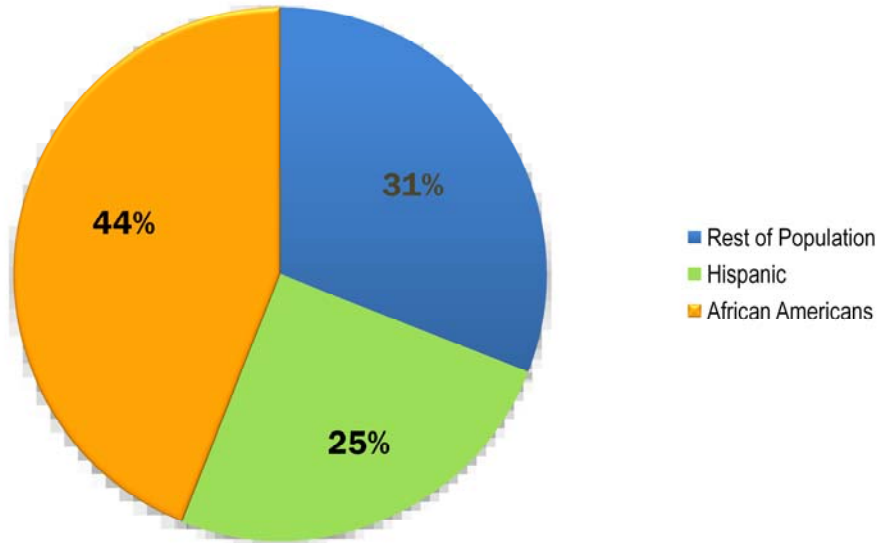


PINS stand for Person in Need of Supervision and is a service system that provides extra support and guidance for young people under 18 who are ungovernable by their parents. In other words, they have usually committed offenses such as chronic truancy, repeatedly running away, etc. African American youth are involved in the PINS system at double their percentage in the population, while Hispanic youth are also over-represented.

Percentage are large, but they are small numbers of individuals. The total number of youth referred for PINS in 2006 was 1,336.

2006 Westchester County Department of Probation

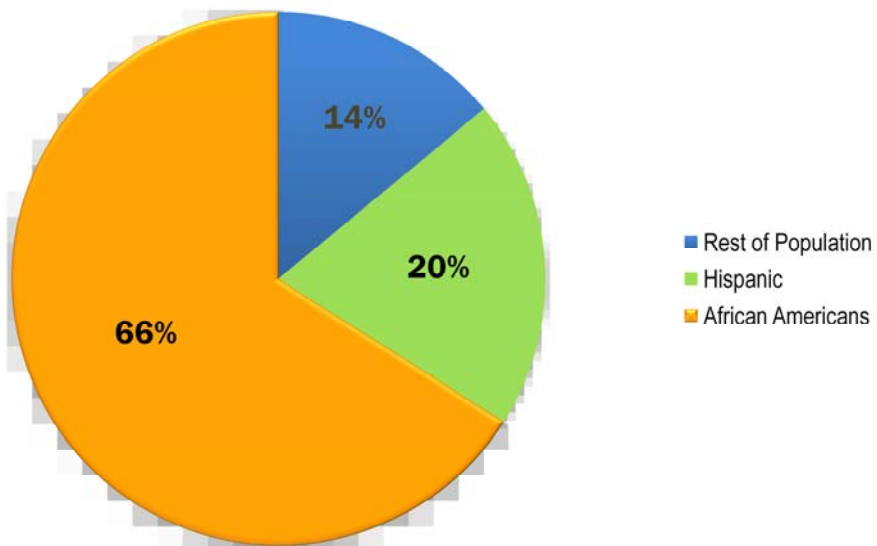
## Juvenile Delinquent Population



As we move up the scale of severity of offense, we see the proportion of African American youth rise. This chart is based on the number of appearance tickets issued to young people in Westchester, which totaled 991 in 2006.

2006 Westchester County Department of Probation

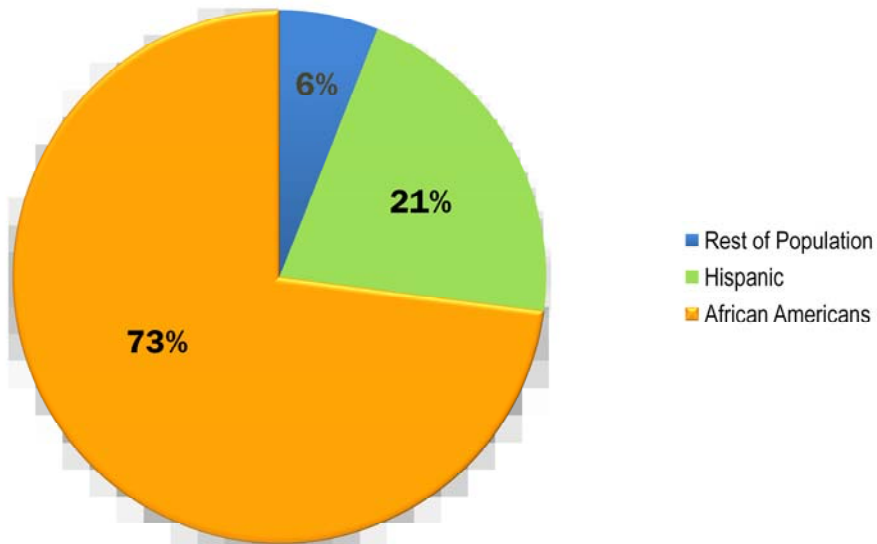
## Juveniles in Secure Detention



Here again as we increase the severity of the situation, the disproportionality, particularly for Black teens, increases. In 2006 there were 244 youth in secure detention.

2006 Westchester County Department of Probation

## Youth in Adult Corrections



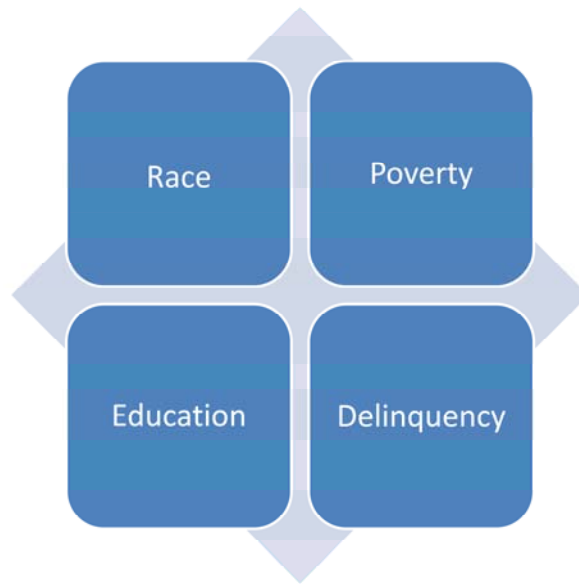
This chart is a little different from the previous ones, because it represents a “snapshot”, specifically on July 11, 2007, rather than an annual total.

2007 Westchester County Department of Correction. Snapshot July 11, 2007.

On this date there were 34 Incarcerated Youth under 18 years old.

Let’s remember that these charts not only represent small numbers, but they also represent only those young people who are involved in the public systems. There are certainly many more white youth, middle class and above, who act out, who are troubled and troublesome. But many of them do not wind up being involved in the PINS system or the JD system because their parents have greater resources to help them, such as private hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and private lawyers to help them avoid legal consequences of their actions.

## Dismantling the pipeline



I hope we've given you some food for thought about the interrelation of race, poverty, educational outcomes and involvement in the juvenile justice system. Currently these elements are related and connected in ways that can hurt young people and keep them from realizing their potential.

But this doesn't mean that poor young people of color are fated for lousy outcomes. There are many people, both here in Westchester and throughout the country who are changing the script. They are changing the "inputs," and getting different outputs.

**Thank you.**



[www.wca4kids.org](http://www.wca4kids.org)

And please do look for more information about how Westchester's children are doing and how to join with others who are working to improve their lives.

Thank you.