

El Camino Neighborhood Description Using U. S. Census Data

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Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to describe the Project CLEAN target area and the surrounding area. Project CLEAN is a partner-driven initiative to combat the open-air heroin market in the Northeast neighborhood of Rochester. This paper begins with a description of the methods and then covers the following data: population, demographics, disability and veteran status, health insurance coverage type, geographic mobility, family household details, and housing information. The paper concludes with a discussion of the future use of the data and its limitations.

Methods

The procedure for this data-gathering process was fairly straight-forward. First, using the given map of the project target area, researchers overlaid the same polygon outline onto a map with the borders of the U.S. Census Tracts. From this, we selected all the Census Tracts that overlapped with the target area. The identified tracts are: 7, 13, 39, 50, 51, 52, and 92. Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate this process. A limitation is that the census tracts do not perfectly overlay the target area; therefore the data described in this paper include areas outside of the target area.

The U.S. Census American FactFinder is the data source for this paper. The most recent data available is for 2012. For each identified variable of interest, the data for the listed census tracts were summed to create the values representing the area as a whole. Please note that the age groups throughout this paper are determined by the U.S. Census, raw age was not available.

Figure 1. U.S. Census Tract Map with Tracts Used¹ and Target Area²

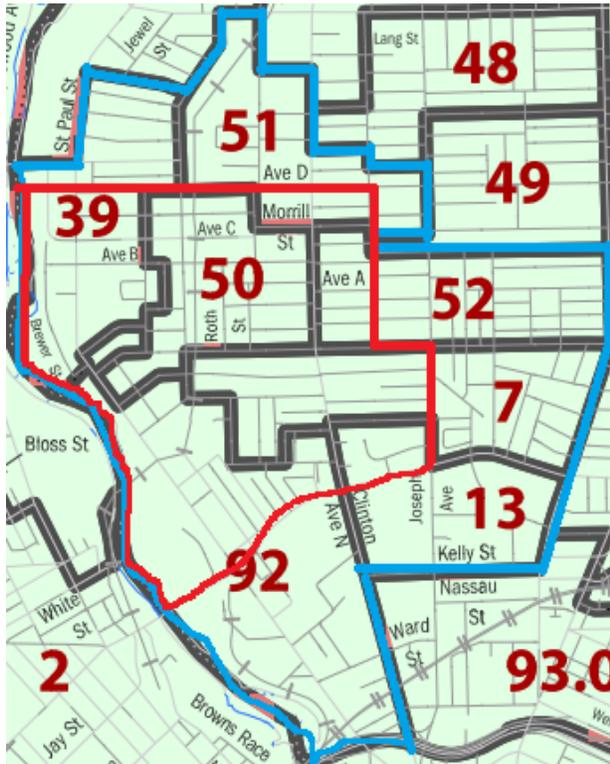


Figure 2. Google Map with Tracts Used¹ and Target Area²



Results

Total Population & Demographics

There are 12,279 reporting residents in this area and 4,430 households³. Of these, 51% are male and 49% are female. Residents' ages range widely as illustrated below, with 46% of the total population below twenty-four years old, and the largest population group is children younger than 5. According to emerging data, individuals 18-24 have the highest risk of an opioid overdose, and 13% of the target area population falls into that age group. Twenty-one percent of the total population is over 50 years old and may be vulnerable to substance abuse. According to a

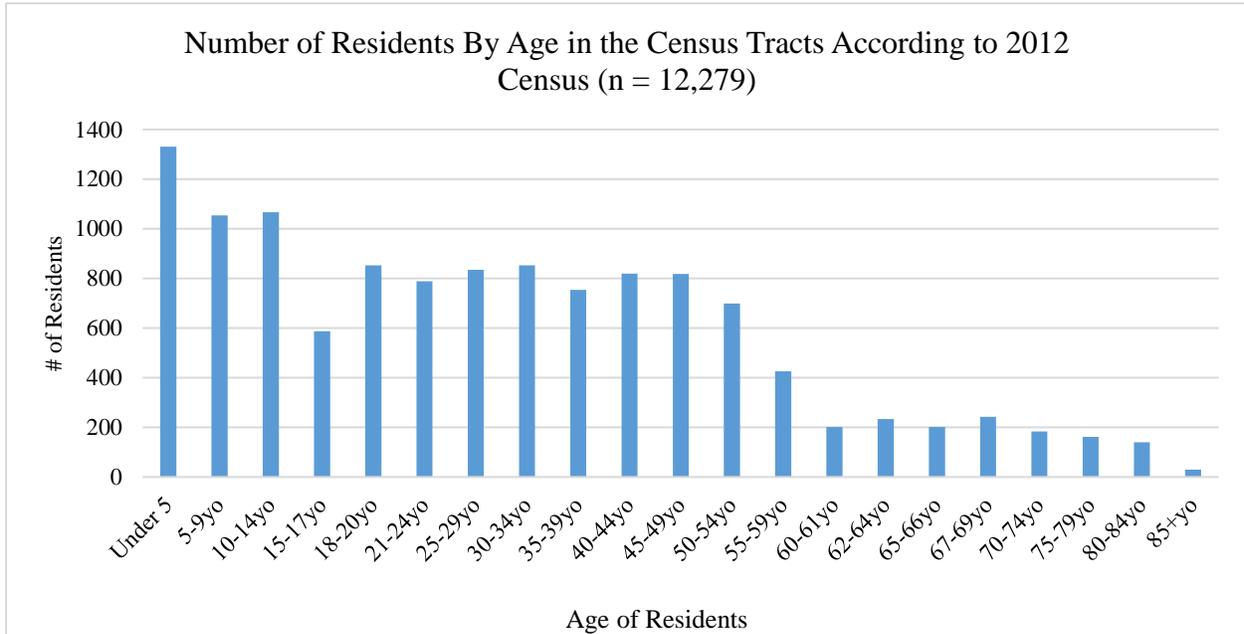
¹ The blue outline represents the total area of census tracts used.

² The red outline represents the defined target area of Project CLEAN.

³ Throughout this paper, the total number of responding residents to each section or graph is marked as 'n = #'. If they differ from the corresponding totals due to discrepancies in the U.S. census data, they are noted in the corresponding footnotes.

study done by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2014, “25% of older adults use prescription psychoactive medications that have a potential to be misused and abused.”

Figure 3.

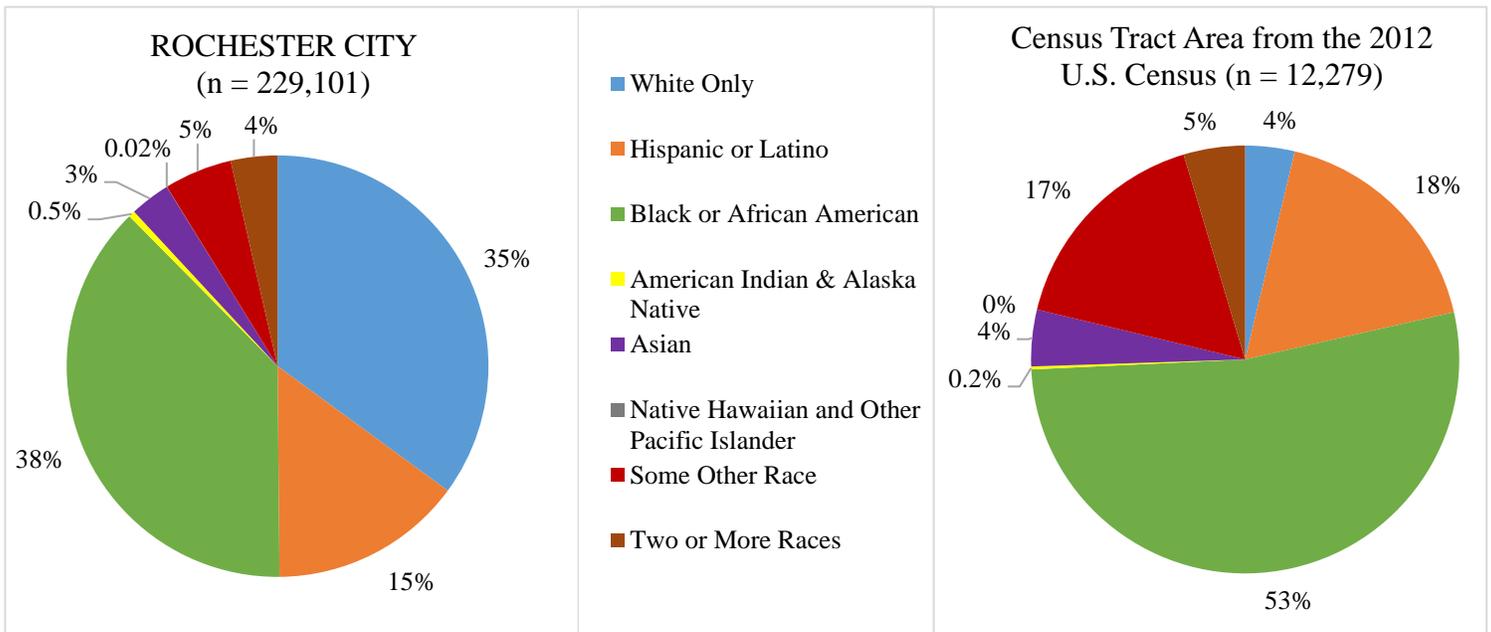


This is a racially and ethnically diverse area. The U.S. Census has race as seven possible categories, including ‘white’, and ethnicity breaks the ‘white’ category into ‘white only, not Hispanic or Latino’ or ‘Hispanic or Latino’. Figure 4 below shows the exact values of each race/ethnicity present in this area. Only 4% of the area reported being white only, while 18% of the total are Hispanic or Latino, and 53% are Black or African American. A relatively large proportion (17%) of the El Camino population identify as a race other than the listed races.

The majority of the population, 71.2% (8,737) are U.S. citizens born in the U.S.. 1,907 (15.5%) are also U.S. citizens, born in Puerto Rico or other U.S. island areas. An additional 959 (7.8%) are U.S. citizens either born abroad of American parent(s) or by naturalization. Only 5.5% (676) are non-U.S. Citizens in this area.

This area is comprised of a majority of minority races and ethnicities when compared to the whole city of Rochester. The black population is the highest percentage in Rochester and the El Camino neighborhood, but the percentage in El Camino is over half black, whereas Rochester was only 38%. Further, Rochester is comprised of 35% white only residents, while El Camino is a much lower proportion of 4%.

Figure⁴ 4.



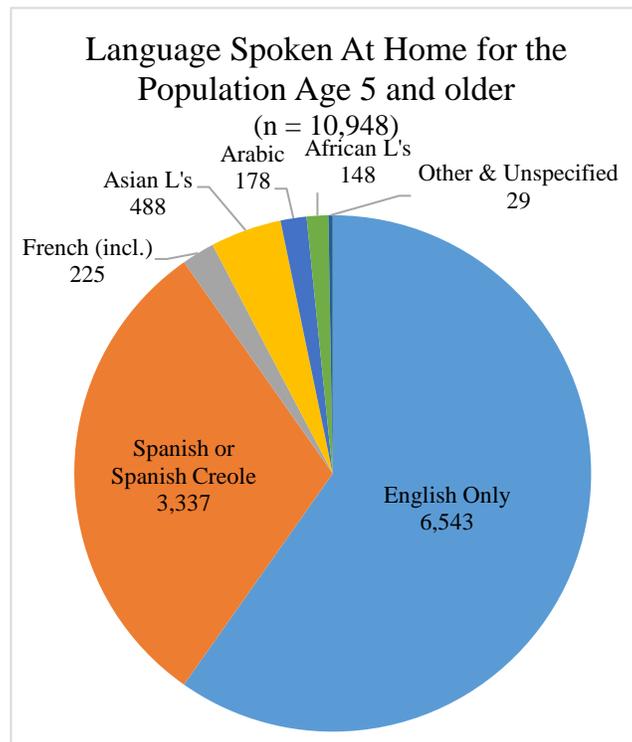
Language

We were interested in language spoken at home to get a better sense of the ethnic makeup of the neighborhood. This variable is measured by language spoken at home for persons over five years old and their ability to speak English ‘very well’, or ‘less than very well’. In this area, the top two languages spoken at home by a large margin are English only and Spanish or Spanish Creole. In this second category, about half could speak English very well, and the other half

⁴ There were none that reported being Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander in the Census Tract Area. There were 40 that reported being Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander in the city of Rochester, which is not visible, but is labeled in its respective chart with the data label ‘0.02%’.

spoke it less than very well. Overall, 80% of the population, regardless of the language spoken at home, report speaking English ‘very well’ and 20% (2,150) report speaking English ‘less than very well’. Of particular interest was that 30% of the respondents reported speaking Spanish at home. This is somewhat incongruent with the racial makeup of 18% reporting Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, yet 30% speak Spanish at home. A possible explanation is that the 17% reporting as “some other race” have Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Figure 5⁵.



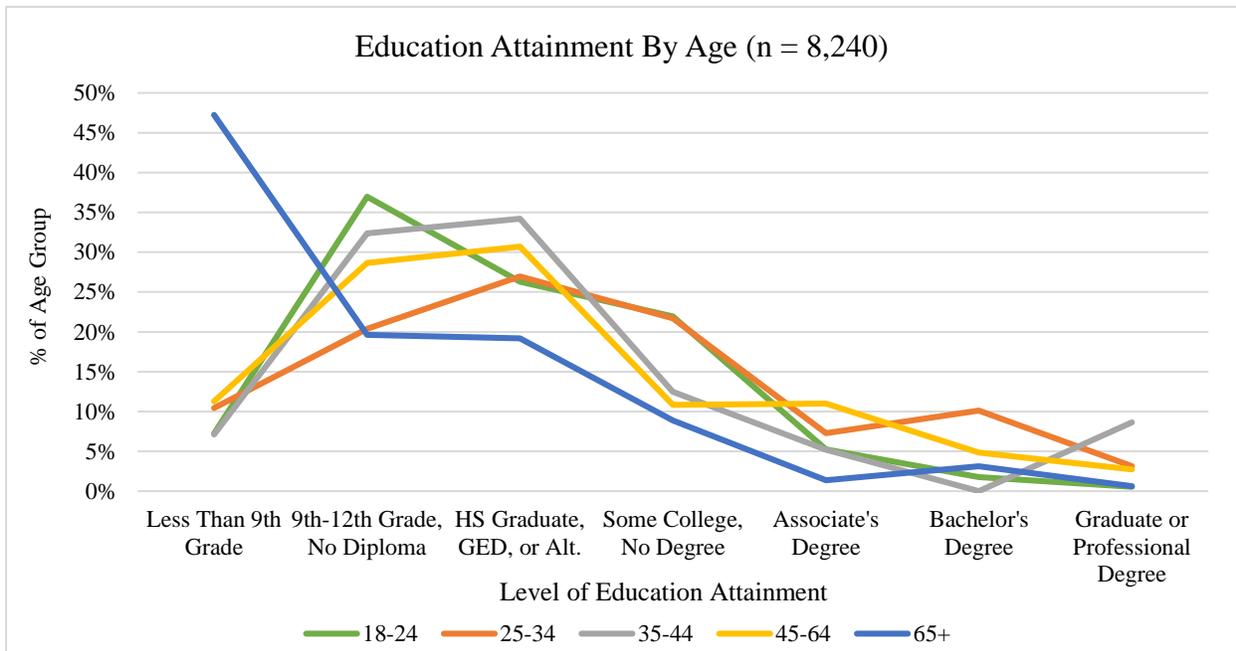
Educational Attainment

In total, 42% of this area’s residents 18 years old or older have less than a high school diploma or alternative. The age group with the highest prevalence of this are those 65 years old and above. But 28% of the neighborhood successfully completed high school and received a GED or an alternative, which is over 1% higher than the percent of residents for the city of Rochester.

⁵ The French category includes Patois, Cajun, and Creole dialects. The Asian languages category includes Chinese, Mon-Khmer, Cambodian, Laotian, Vietnamese, and ‘Other Asian’. The Other and Unspecified Languages category includes Tagalog, Yiddish, Russian, and the original ‘Other and Unspecified’ category.

Figure 6 shows the educational attainment by age group, with a decreasing trend in the amount of people getting advanced levels of education, which is consistent across the nation. Based on the data, any educational outreach or awareness programs should insure that the material is understood by those with less than a high school diploma.

Figure 6⁶.



Children in Households

Just under 44% of the households (n = 4,430 total households) in this area have one or more people under 18 years old. Out of these, 29% are married-couple families, 9% are male householders with no wives present, and 62% are female householders with no husbands present. Over half of the family female-only householders are living below the poverty. Single-parenthood can limit residents' resources available to participate in the project, so using innovative ways to gather information related to the problem as well as identifying interventions that don't burden residents will be critical to success.

⁶ This figure only consider those 18 years old and above

Employment Status

Out of the 4,721 residents 16 years old and above in the labor force, 77% are employed. Additionally, there are 3,929 residents of employment age who are not in the labor force. For those that are employed, the highest category of employment type are employees of private companies. There is a variety of employment types in this area ranging from self-employment to local, state, and federal government work as shown in Figure 7.

The next figure reviews the type of transportation used to get to work. The majority use a vehicle either alone or carpooling with others (75%). However, 25% use various types of transportation including public transport, biking, walking or other means.

Figure 7⁷.

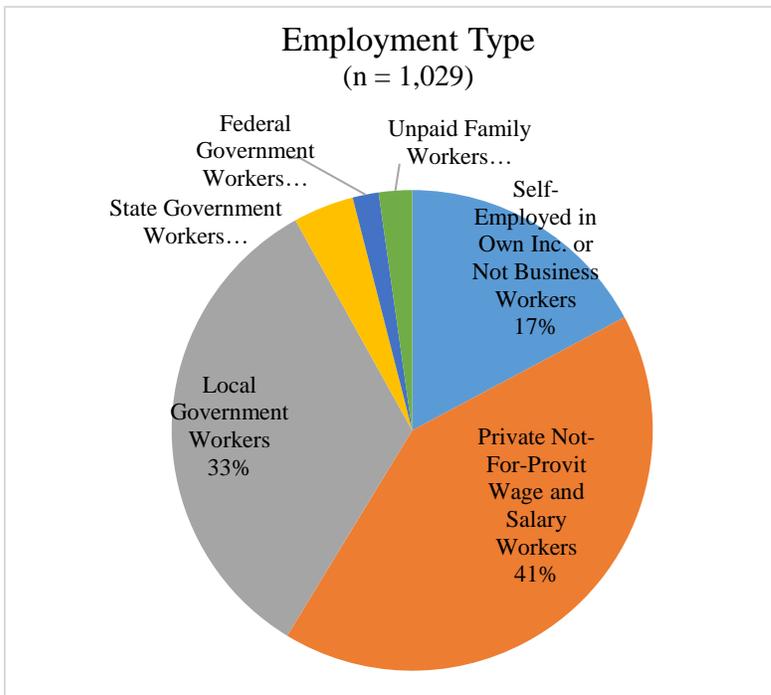
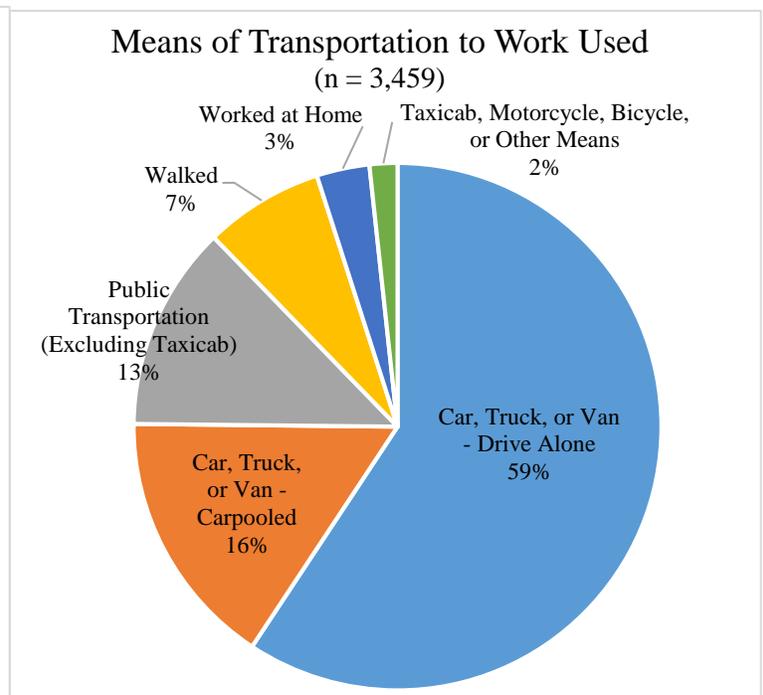


Figure 8⁸.



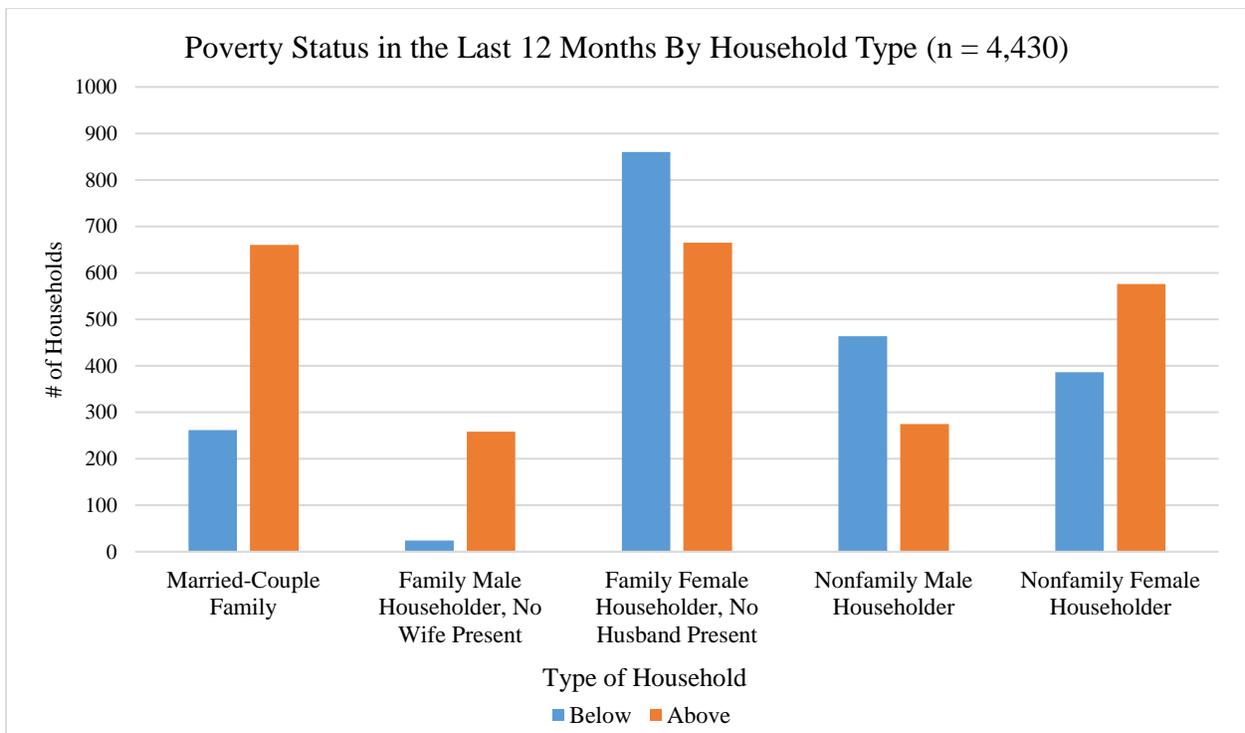
Poverty Level & Income

⁷ Exempt from this figure is the category 'Self-Employed in Own Incorporated Business Workers' in order to better view the variety of other types of employment. The percentages present are of the employed work force not including the exempt category.

⁸ There is no reported reason for the difference between the number of residents represented in this figure (3,459) and the total number of employed residents (3,636).

The number of households above and below the poverty level is nearly split, with 45% below and 55% above in the last 12 months. The figure below shows the break-down of households in relation to poverty level by household type. Out of the total, 1,146 family households are living below the poverty level, along with an additional 850 non family-type households. Transportation can be a challenge for people living in poverty and, as shown in the previous section, 25% of residents rely on forms of transportation other than cars, trucks, or vans.

Figure 9.



Many in the community care greatly about their neighborhood and city, but living in poverty has its own burdens, and it can be extremely difficult for those with financial difficulties to get involved in community programs and attend block meetings. These individuals may be working multiple low wage jobs, which can limit their ability to be home and care for their children, homes, and community. Individuals may also have limited funds to improve or maintain their property. Interventions and strategies should consider and be responsive to these realities.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) both report that those with low-income are at high risk for prescription drug abuse and overdose. And they agree that when we are “addressing the opioid crisis”, this means we must also be “confronting socioeconomic disparities” (2017).

Disability or Veteran Status

Disability status in New York State is generally defined as any medical condition(s) that is 1) severe, 2) prevents you from working, and 3) has or is expected to last twelve or more months (Social Security Disability SSI Resource Center). This includes both physical and mental disabilities. Physical disabilities include chronic health conditions such as arthritis, hypertension, and glaucoma. New York State reported that 13% of its population has disability status. In the El Camino neighborhood there are 2,765 (23%) who report having disability status, nearly split in half between males and females. The age group that has the highest frequency of those with disabilities are those between 35-64 years old.

Less than 2% report veteran status ($n = 229$) in El Camino, whereas NYS reports 6% of the population. In the neighborhood, the highest percentage of veterans are between 55-64 years old, with a steady decrease as age decreases. The majority of veterans are male, with the only reported female veterans being between 18-24 years old.

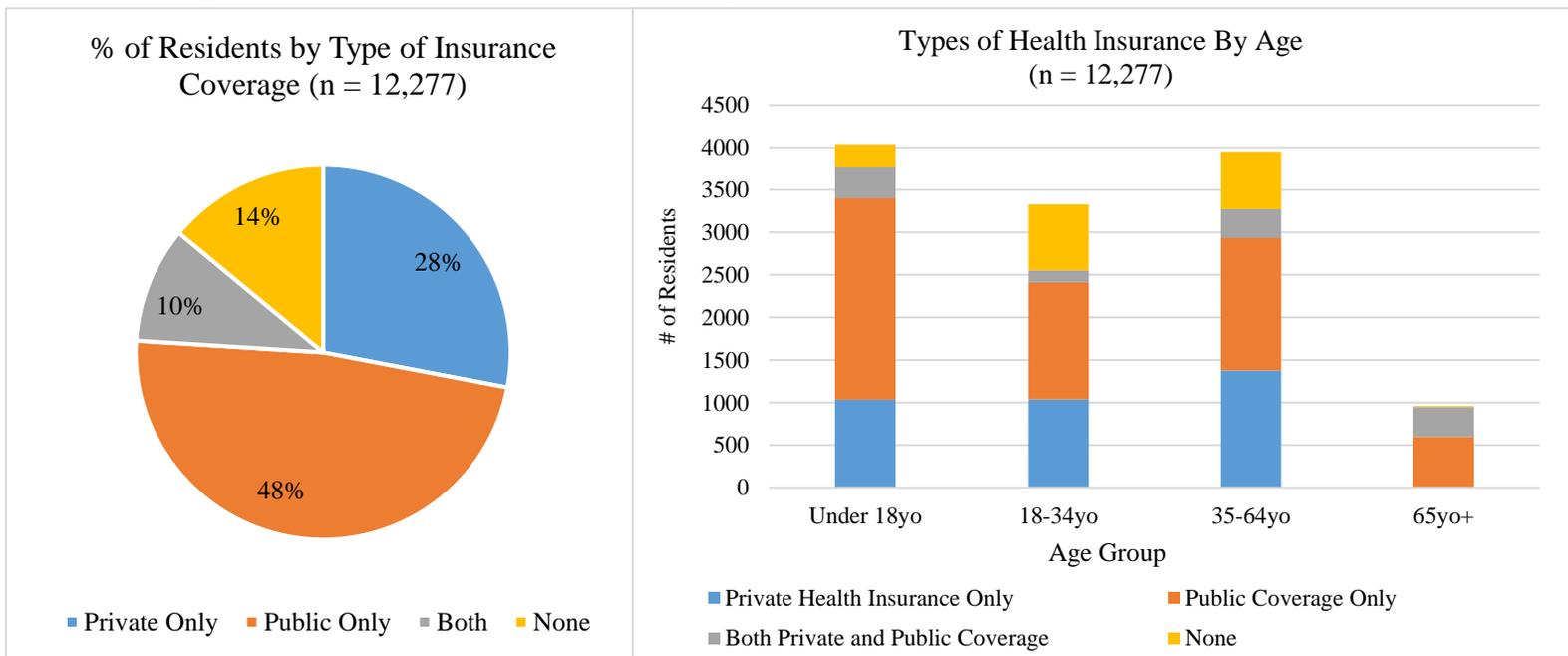
Some people with disabilities may experience high amounts of pain and, as a result, be prescribed opioids. Veterans have also been documented as having high levels of drug use and abuse. SAMHSA conducted a national survey on drug use and health in 2015, which found that 1 in 15 veterans had a substance use disorder within that past year.

Health Insurance

Almost half of the residents receive public health insurance coverage (n = 12,277 residents), and 38% have either private health insurance only or both public and private. But there are 1,739 residents (14%) without health insurance. Figure 11 shows these categories by age. Without health insurance, medical costs can skyrocket, and for those who may need prescription painkillers but are unable to pay, turning to illegal sources may be their only perceived option.

Figure 10.

Figure 11.

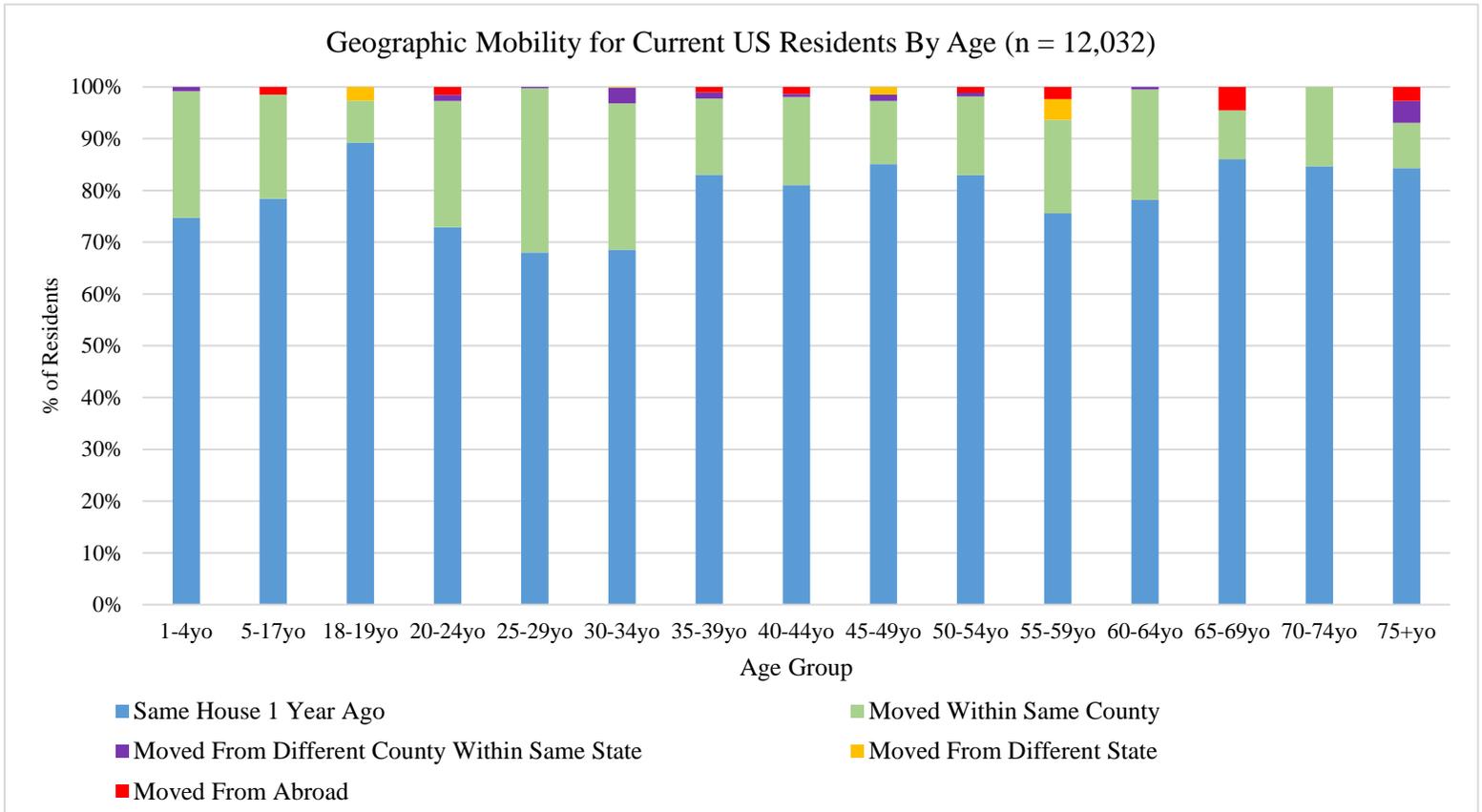


Geographic Mobility

The majority of residents in this area report low geographic mobility, with 78% residing in the same house as they did the previous year. According to the census data there is almost no difference in the geographic mobility levels between males and females. The figure below shows the percent makeup of the areas' geographic mobility by age. Ages 25-34 are the most mobile, although the majority of that movement is within the same county. The data indicate that these

residents are less transient, and potentially more invested in the community, than those who may move from neighborhood to neighborhood over short time periods.

Figure 12⁹.



Discussion

The purpose of this paper is to describe the target area of Project CLEAN through census tract data, and what we found is that this area is exceptionally diverse and vibrant. With this diversity comes important considerations to reach as much of the community as possible including

⁹ The total residents counted for this variable from the U.S. Census data was only 12,032 rather than the 12,279. Although the U.S. Census does not provide a direct explanation for this, this particular data set only included those at or above 1 year old, so it is presumed that the 247 resident-discrepancy are infants under 1 year old, but this could not be confirmed with the provided data.

language, financial factors, and the level of child-care commitment residents are facing. Knowing and adapting to these unique community features will help us to improve our understanding of the open-air heroin market and to identify appropriate interventions.

Limitations

There are some limitations to consider when using this information. As previously mentioned, this information is based on census tracts, which cover much more than just the target area. We cannot be completely sure that the census tracts describe fully, accurately represent the El Camino area. Also because this information is from the 2012 and the U.S. census is only officially conducted every ten years, some differences may have occurred between the last time the census was completed and now.

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