Using Indicators to Support Community Decision-Making

Lessons from Baltimore
Bits of information that, when combined, generate a picture of what is happening in a local system.

They provide insight into and ongoing monitoring of the overall direction of a community.

Participation from community residents and other organizations identify and construct indicators to influence policy outcomes in the public sector.

*Rhonda Phillips, Community Indicators 2003*
“The Enduring Neighborhood Effect”

Baltimore is a City of Neighborhoods

*Durable* properties of places based on people, history, geography

Ecometrics of places: indicators that track the context for social-economic-ecological processes

Robert Sampson, *Great American City*, 2012
Communities as Systems

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental
Collective Impact

THE FIVE CONDITIONS OF COLLECTIVE SUCCESS

Common Agenda

Shared Measurement Systems

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Continuous Communication

Backbone Support Organizations
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership-Urban Institute

- Began 20 years ago

- Advanced information systems with integrated and recurrently updated information on neighborhood conditions in their cities

- Overcome the resistance of local public agencies to sharing data

- Indicators of quality of life
  - Ex: births, deaths, crime

- “Democratization of Data”
Population Decline

Baltimore City lost 330,000 between 1950 and 2010.

Reasons for population loss different in different decades based on local, regional, national and global forces

Most people/media attribute the loss to crime and poor education
The Turnaround Decade

Many new housing units in Baltimore built between 2000-2010

Office building conversion in the Downtown

Hope IV/demolition of obsolete public housing

35% of neighborhoods grew (19 out of 55)
### Crime Rates 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing CSAs</td>
<td>82 / 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining CSAs</td>
<td>63 / 1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Map:**

- **Baltimore City Part 1 Crime Rate By Community Statistical Area, 2011**
- **Rate per 1,000 Population:**
  - 15.3 - 33.4
  - 33.5 - 57.1
  - 57.2 - 91.2
  - 91.3 - 165.3
  - 165.4 - 417.4

*Source: Baltimore City Police Department*
*Map created by BNA-JFI, 2013*
Education

5th Grade Reading 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing CSAs</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining CSAs</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baltimore City Percent of Public 5th Grade Students Scoring Advanced/Proficient in the MSA Reading Section

By Community Statistical Area, 2010-2011

Natural breaks method utilized to display data.
Source: Baltimore City Public School System
Map created by BNA JFL 2013
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diversity Index 2010</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing CSAs</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining CSAs</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baltimore City Racial Diversity Index By Community Statistical Area, 2010

**Diversity Index (1-100):**

- 7.3 - 15.4
- 15.5 - 30.9
- 31.0 - 46.4
- 46.5 - 56.9
- 57.0 - 77.8

Natural breaks method utilized to display data.
Source: U.S. Census
Map created by BNA/JFL, 2013
Networks
Transit

% Transit Use 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing CSAs</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining CSAs</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Commuting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel Time 2011</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing CSAs</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining CSAs</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baltimore City Percent of Commuters Spending 45+ Minutes Travelling to Work By Community Statistical Area, 2007-2011

Percent of Commuters:
- 10.1% - 13.8%
- 13.9% - 18.0%
- 18.1% - 22.7%
- 22.8% - 26.0%
- 26.1% - 32.9%

Source: ACS, 2007-2011
Map created by BNA JFL, 2013
Infrastructure
Vacant Housing

% Vacant 2011

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing CSAs</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declining CSAs</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baltimore City Vacant Properties
By Community Statistical Area, 2011

Percent of Residential Properties
Vacant and Abandoned:

- 0.1% to 2.0%
- 2.1% to 5.7%
- 5.8% to 12.9%
- 13.0% to 25.0%
- 25.1% to 41.7%

Source: Baltimore City Housing
Map Created by BNA-JFL, 2012
Vital Signs 12
Housing Market is Rebounding

Median sales price increased in 2012 for the first time since 2006 ($135,000)

Percentage of homes with rehabilitation permits increased (2.6%)

New construction permits increased (0.9 per 1,000 homes)

Cash-based as well as distressed sales through foreclosures declined

But Vulnerable

Percentage of homes receiving foreclosure filing in Baltimore City increased (1.4 %)

Homes with a Vacant House Notice violation increased from 7.8 percent in 2011 to 8 percent in 2012.

What We Learn From Vital Signs 12
Education

Chronic absenteeism was down at all grade levels and significantly for elementary school (16.6% in 2011 to 12.7% in 2012)

Kindergarten readiness increased over all and across many neighborhoods.
Millennials

Seven CSAs have zero number of bike miles (New)

Dickeyville/Franklintown
Edmondson Village
Greater Mondawmin
Greater Rosemont
Harford/Echodale
Lock Raven
Morrell Park/Violetville
Community Resilience

“sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations”
Neighborhood Effect of Access to Jobs

- Low Median Income
- Low Life Expectancy
- High Unemployment
- High Violent Crime
- High Rates of Dirty streets & alleys
- High commute times
Accessibility

20.1% of City Residents commute more than 45+ minutes
Community Health

Life Expectancy is 73.9 years, but ranges from 65 years to 84.4 years.
Physical Disorder

Rate of 311-Service Requests for Dirty Streets and Alleys per 1,000 Residents in Baltimore City

Source: Baltimore CityStat; Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance Vital Signs
Using Indicators
What’s in Your Profile?

Take Action

Download Your Profile

BNIA-JFI produces 55 Community Profiles

Put it on Your Agenda:

Encourage your community association (formal or informal!) to discuss the indicators in the community profile at their next meeting agenda

Set Goals

Join the conversation across the City to reflect on what you see. Any interesting trends?

Let BNIA-JFI know on Facebook or Twitter
Stories

Howard Park/West Arlington

- 2% Vacant Housing in 2011
- 7.1% No Mail
- Canvassed the neighborhood to find all Vacants
- 4.1% in 2012
Who Else Uses the Data?

- City Agencies
- Foundations
- Civic Hackers
- Developers
- Faculty & Students
- Elected Officials(?)
www.bniahjfi.org
@bniahjfi
www.neighborhoodindicators.org