

Homewood: A Community Profile Addendum

Introduction

The Homewood Community Profile was originally prepared by DHS for the Homewood Children’s Village Steering Committee in 2009. It provides an assessment of demographic changes and quality of life issues such as poverty, education, health care and community safety to inform the Homewood Children’s Village collaborative. This addendum contains more current data related to youth involvement with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and focuses on the DHS service activity of youth in Homewood compared to the service usage of youth across the City of Pittsburgh.

All rates of DHS involvement are presented as a percentage of all youth ages 0-18 residing in the neighborhood who has received the specified service. The population estimates are based on Census 2000 data.

Figure 1 is a snapshot of the figures to follow and shows the percentage of youth living in Homewood and Pittsburgh who were involved with each of the listed services at any point in the year 2009. Columns to the left display the total percentage of youth involved with at least one DHS service. In the bars to follow, the percentage of youth in the communities receiving each of the indicated services is graphically illustrated. The charts following Figure 1 break this information down into more detail.

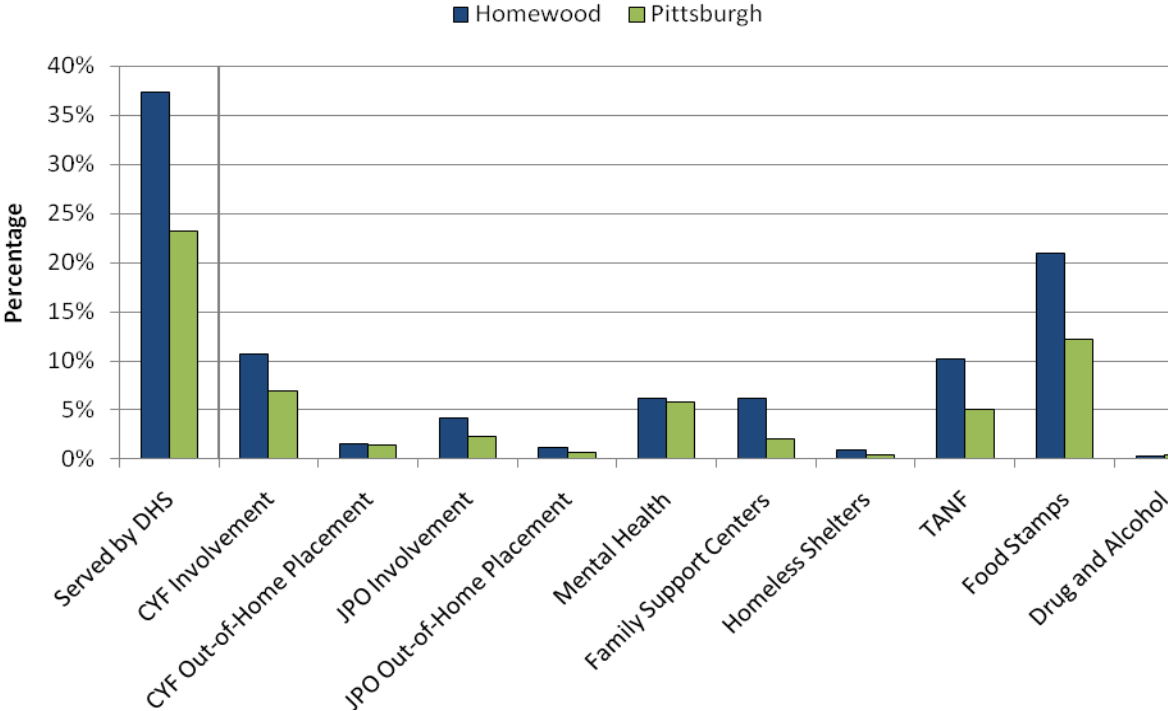


Figure 1: Percentage of Youth Receiving DHS Services in Homewood and Pittsburgh: 2009

Total DHS Involvement

In every neighborhood of Homewood, greater proportions of the youth population receive services from DHS than in Pittsburgh as a whole. Homewood North has the lowest rate among the neighborhoods and the number of youth involved is still ten percentage points higher than in Pittsburgh. In Homewood West, where participation is the greatest, the rate of youth involvement with DHS is almost double that of the rate across Pittsburgh.

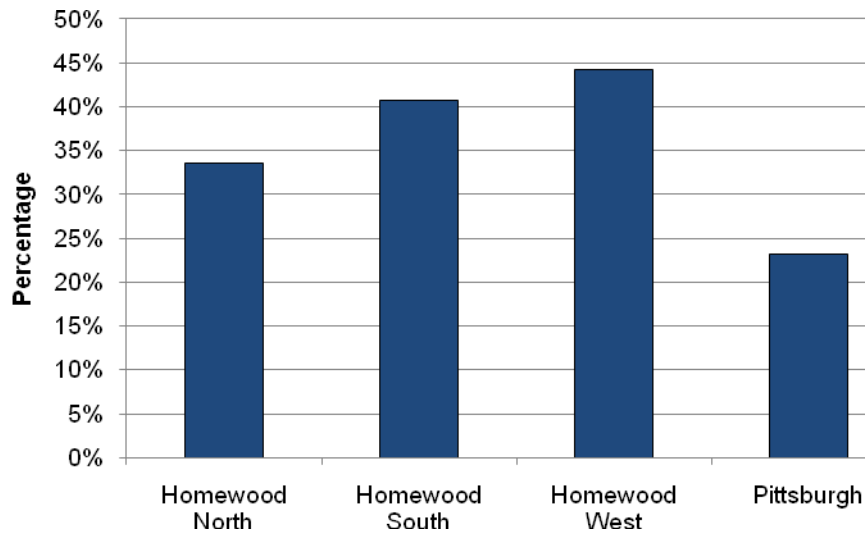


Figure 2: Youth Served by the Department of Human Services: 2009

Child Protective Services

Children living in Homewood are consistently involved with child protective services at a higher rate than children in Pittsburgh. In Homewood North and Homewood South, the rate is three percentage points higher, which results in one in ten Homewood children receiving service compared to one in 14 in Pittsburgh. In Homewood West, the rate is double that of Pittsburgh, with one in seven children receiving service.

The rate of out-of-home placements in Homewood does not significantly vary from the rest of the city, so even though more youth are actively involved with child protective services, higher rates are receiving in-home services rather than entering out-of-home care.

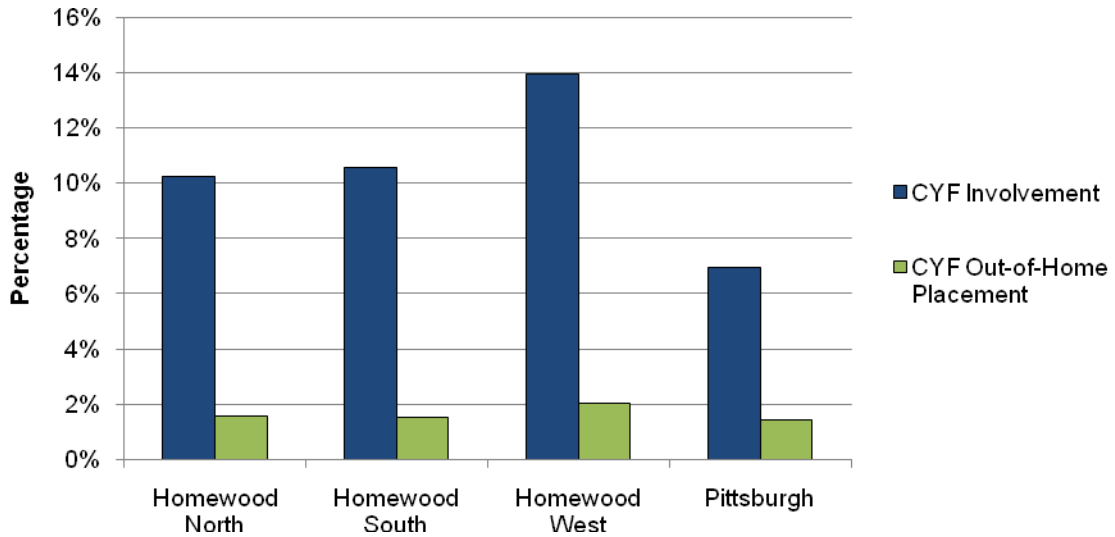


Figure 3: Youth Receiving Services from the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF): 2009

Juvenile Probation

The percentage of youth in each Homewood neighborhood that was referred to the Juvenile Probation Office in 2009 exceeds the percentage in Pittsburgh. While the rate in Pittsburgh was 2.3 percent, the rates in Homewood ranged from 3.8 percent to 4.6 percent. While the numbers are small, this amounts to a difference of one in 44 youth in Pittsburgh compared to an average of one in 24 youth in Homewood. This disparity also appears in the rates of youth in out-of-home placement. Again, percentages are very low at less than 1.5 percent, but the rates in Homewood neighborhoods double the rate in Pittsburgh.

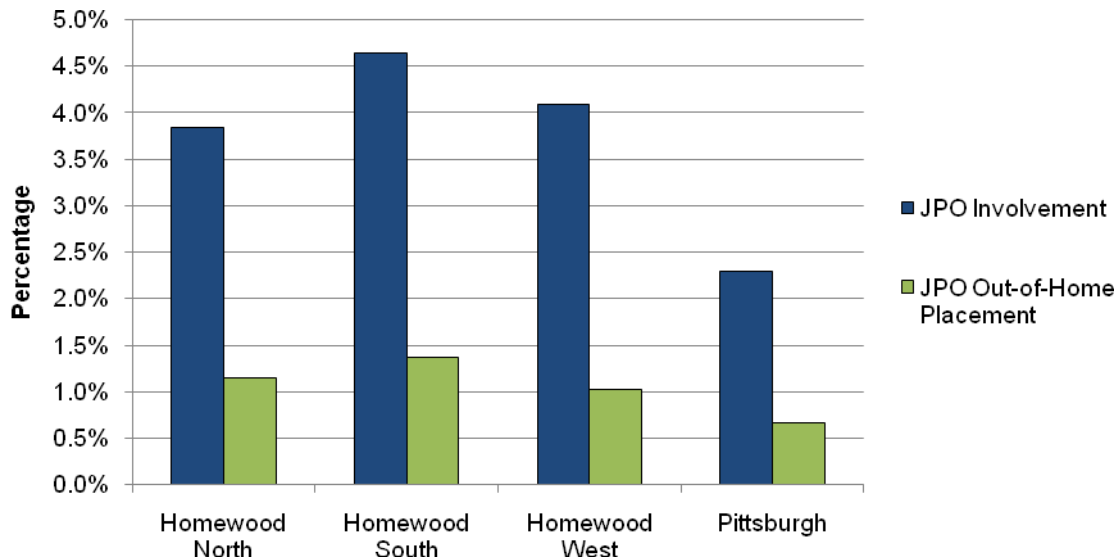


Figure 4: Youth Referred to the Juvenile Probation Office (JPO): 2009

Mental Health

Mental health service in Homewood varies little from the city average. Youth in Homewood North receive mental health services at the same rate as all youth in Pittsburgh. Youth in Homewood South and Homewood West receive services at slightly higher incidences, with an increased rate of less than one percentage point.

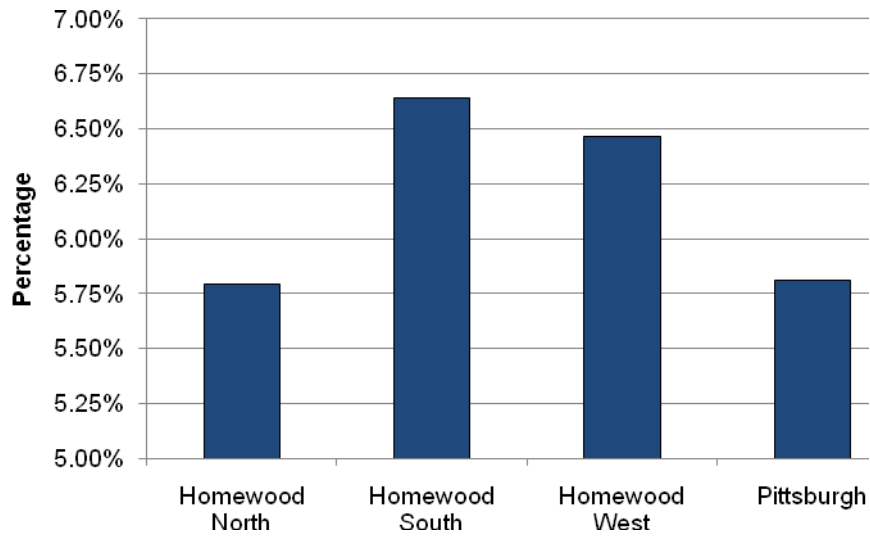


Figure 5: Youth Receiving Mental Health Services: 2009

Family Support Centers

Family Support Centers (FSCs) promote the healthy development and growth of small children by supporting the families and communities in which they live. Youth in Homewood are two to four times more involved in FSCs than youth in the City. In this instance, higher rates of involvement in Homewood may be viewed positively, since families are connected with services designed to promote positive child development, strengthen families and prevent involvement with the child welfare system.

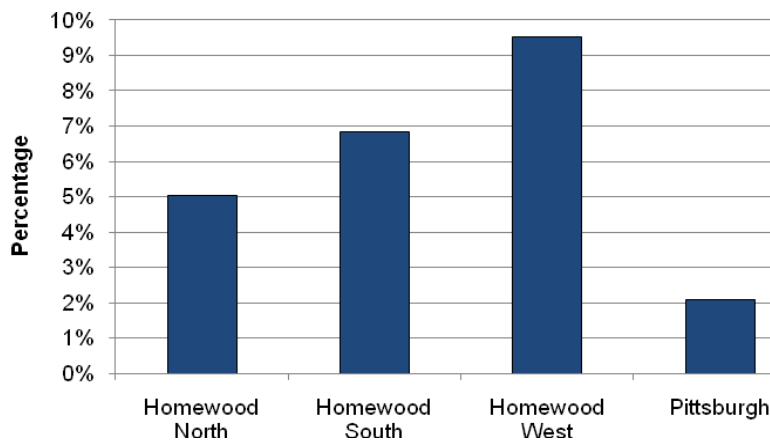


Figure 6: Youth Involvement in Family Support Centers: 2009

Homelessness

Children living in Homewood North and Homewood West reside in families that seek services for homelessness slightly less and more often, respectively, than children throughout Pittsburgh. In Homewood South, the percentage of children who were homeless for at least part of 2009 was significantly higher than in the rest of Homewood, reaching almost four times the rate of homelessness in Pittsburgh.

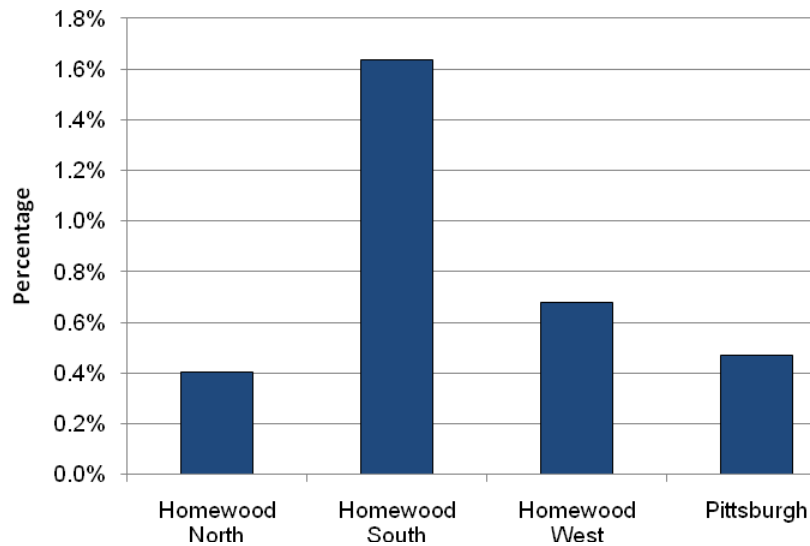


Figure 7: Youth Receiving Homeless Services: 2009

TANF and Food Stamps Eligibility

The percentage of children living in families eligible for TANF and food stamps is higher in all Homewood communities than in Pittsburgh. These rates are to be expected given the greater levels of poverty in the Homewood communities. (See *Homewood: A Community Profile* for more information on income levels in the community.)

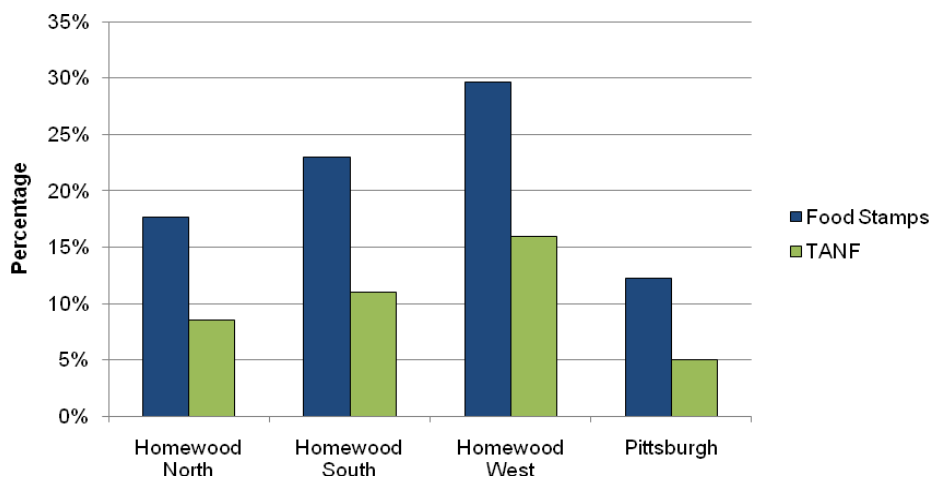


Figure 8: Youth in Households Eligible for Food Stamps and TANF Benefits: 2009

Drug and Alcohol

In contrast to the trends above, the percentage of youth in each of the Homewood neighborhoods receiving drug and alcohol services in 2009 was below the average for youth in Pittsburgh. Rates in all neighborhoods were low (below .5%), and the rates in Homewood North and Homewood South were about half that of Pittsburgh.

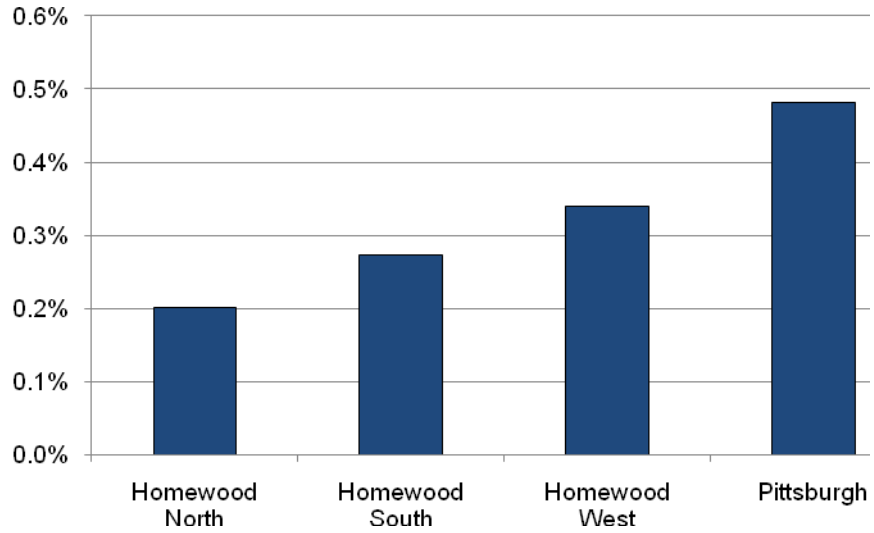


Figure 9: Youth Receiving Drug and Alcohol Services: 2009