

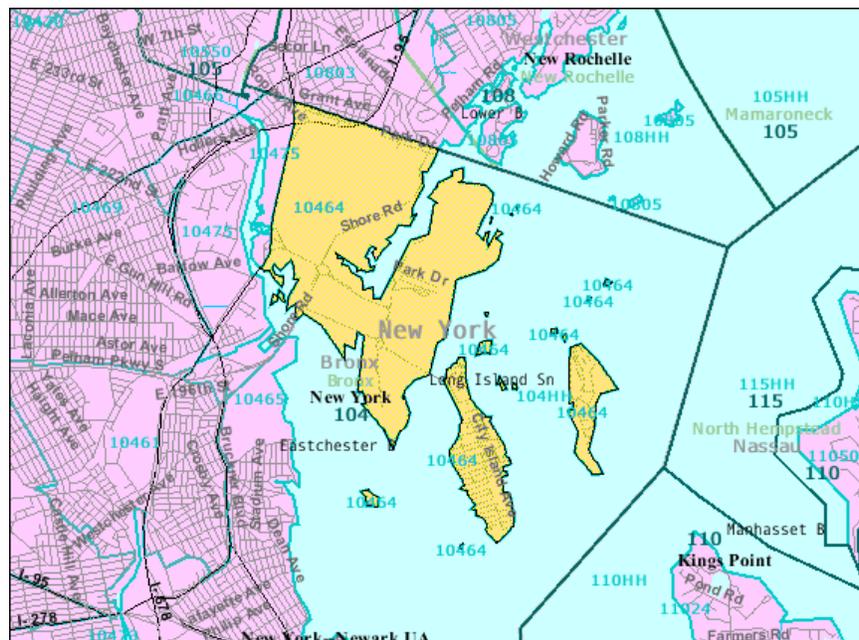
CITY ISLAND, NY¹

Community Profile²

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Regional orientation

City Island, New York (40.85°N, 73.79°W), is an island in Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay located to the east of the Bronx and north of Long Island. City Island is part of the Bronx borough in New York City. The total land area is 0.395 sq mi and is situated about 19 miles from Manhattan in New York City (USGS 2008). (*Note: New York City is profiled separately.*)



Map 1. Location of City Island, NY (US Census Bureau 2000)

Historical/Background

The first inhabitants of City Island were the Siwanoy Indians, who used this land during the summer to harvest fish, oysters, and clams. City Island was established as an English settlement in 1685 (City Island 2004). City Island was part of the town of Pelham, and then became part of New York City in 1895 when parts of Pelham were annexed by the city (Forgotten NY nd). The practice of cultivating oysters is reported to have started on City Island, and was an important part of the island's economy through the early 20th century (NYC Dept of City Planning 2001). This area was a thriving shipbuilding and yachting center during the 18th and 19th centuries, and many captains built their homes here. In the early 20th century between

¹ These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

² For purposes of citation please use the following template: "Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov."

WWI and WWII, there were mine sweepers, PT boats, and other naval vessels built on the island. After WWII, yachting and yacht construction again became a prominent activity (City Island Chamber of Commerce nd). Many of the boats that have competed in the America's Cup race were built on City Island, including three of the 12-meters which won the race. City Island's maritime character is still evident in the large number of yacht clubs, sailing schools, marinas, sail makers, fishing boats, boating supply shops, etc. that are found here. There have also been a number of movies and television shows shot here, but largely the island is known as a destination for fishing as well as for its multitude of seafood restaurants (City Island Chamber of Commerce nd). In 1994, City Island was designated as one of 17 "historic maritime communities" on Long Island Sound (NYC Dept of City Planning 2001). Across from City Island is Hart's Island, which today houses a prison for the Department of Corrections as well as a potter's field, where the "indigent and un-befriended" of New York City are buried (NY Correction Historical Society 1967).

Demographics³

According to Census 2000 data, City Island had a total population of 4,634, up 12.4% from the reported population of 4,123 in 1990. Of this 2000 total, 48.1% were males and 51.9% were females. The median age was 42.5 years and 78.4% of the population was 21 years or older while 19.9% was 62 or older.

The population structure of City Island (Figure 1) presents a picture of a middle-aged, family-oriented community. The largest percentage of the population is between 30-39 years of age, followed by 40-49 and 50-59. There is also a significant number of residents, particularly female, in the 70-79 and 80+ categories. Like many fishing communities, City Island experiences a drop in population for the 20-29 age category, although it is not as significant as many other communities. This may be due to the high cost of buying or renting on City Island.

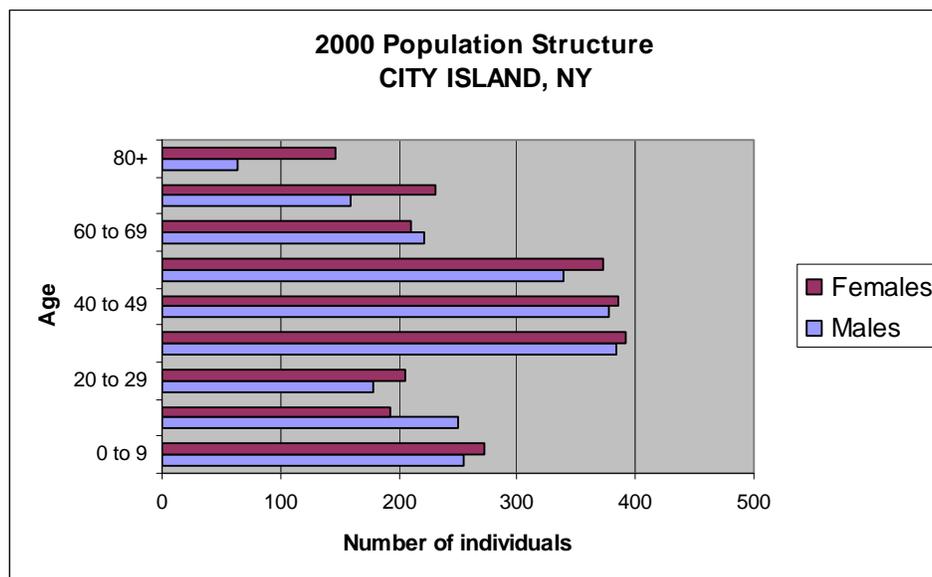


Figure 1. City Island's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

³ While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

The majority of the population was white (89.7%), with 2.5% of residents black or African American, 3.6% Asian, 0.5% Native American, and 0.1% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (Figure 2). Only 8.9% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Italian (32.2%), Irish (28.2%), German (10.3%), English (5.9%), and Russian (4.3%). With regard to region of birth, 77.4% were born in New York, 9.9% were born in a different state, and 11.2% were born outside of the U.S. (including 5.9% who were not United States citizens).

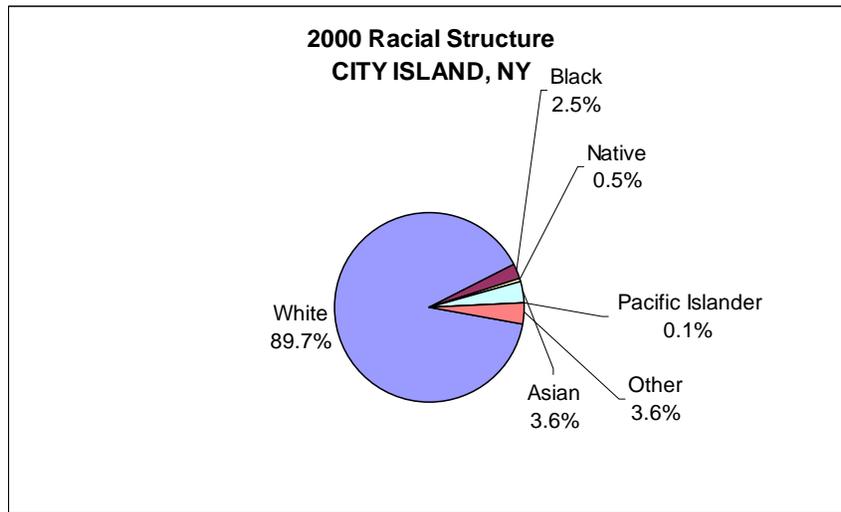


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

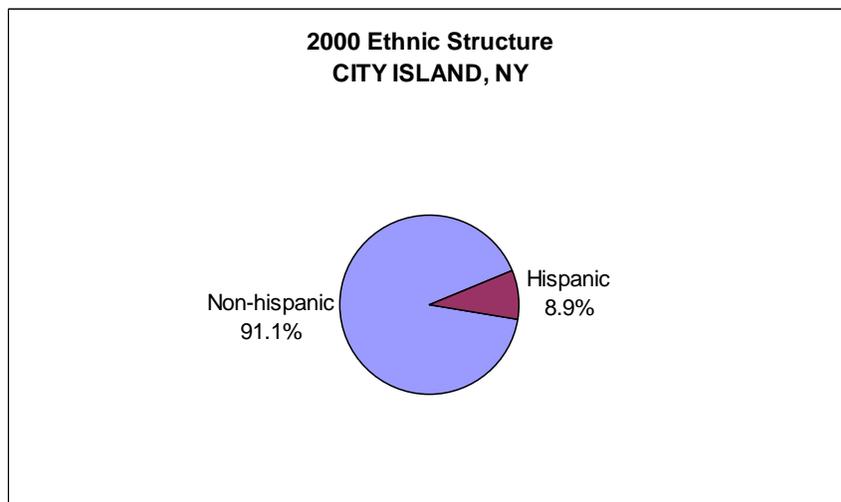


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 82.2% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 17.8% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, and including 4.1% of the population who spoke English less than 'very well' according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 90.9% were high school graduates or higher and 33.8% had a bachelor's degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 2.7% did not reach ninth grade, 6.5% attended some high school but did not graduate, 30.6% completed high school, 19.9% had some college with no degree, 6.6% received an associate's degree,

14.7% earned a bachelor's degree, and 19.1% received a graduate or professional degree.

Although religion percentages are not available through the U.S. Census, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of adherents in Bronx County was Catholic with 72 congregations and 581,824 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were Jewish (44 with 83,700 adherents), Muslim (12 with 12,164 adherents), American Baptist Churches in the USA (26 with 11,498 adherents), and Assemblies of God (41 with 10,968 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 2.8% from 1990 (ARDA 2000).

There are four houses of worship listed on City Island; one Jewish, one Catholic, one Episcopal, and one Methodist (City Island 2004).

Issues/Processes

Harvesting shellfish from the waters around City Island is prohibited because of the levels of PCBs, dioxins, and other pollutants in the water (Freedenburg 2006). Developers are erecting numerous condominiums, and City Island residents are concerned that this community will no longer be an urban fishing village (Pascoe 2006). The number of charter fishing boats here has dropped from seven a few years ago to just four; the captains are concerned about new development here, but even more concerned about fishing regulations restricting the number of fish passengers are allowed to keep (Anon 2004).

Cultural attributes

City Island calls itself the "Seaport of the Bronx". The City Island Nautical Museum is dedicated to the island's maritime history (Pascoe 2006). The City Island Museum also has an exhibit portraying the importance of maritime industries here (City Island 2004). The North Wind Undersea Institute was another museum located on City Island, focused on educating the public about the health of the marine environment (Museum Register nd); it is no longer in existence, however.⁴

INFRASTRUCTURE

Current Economy

According to the U.S. Census 2000, 66.3% (2,516 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (Figure 4), of which 1.9% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 64.4% were employed.

⁴ Profile review comment, Chris Cullen, Island Current Fishing Fleet, 663 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464, October 10, 2007



Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data⁵, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for no positions. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 124 positions or 5.1% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (27.9%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services (13.5%), professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services (11.6%), and public administration (8.4%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in City Island was \$57,458 (up 40.5% from \$40,886 in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and per capita income was \$31,402. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 13.6% more per year than females.

The average family in City Island consists of 2.93 persons. With respect to poverty, 0.6% of families (down from 4.9% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 3.9% of individuals earn below the official U.S. Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239 through \$35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 18.5% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, City Island had a total of 2,265 housing units of which 92.4% were occupied and 43.0% were detached one unit homes. More than one third (38.8%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, vans, etc. accounted for 4.4% of the total housing units; 82.9% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$277,900 (although one community member noted the median home price is at least double this in 2007). Of vacant housing units, 3.3% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units 44.9% were renter occupied.

Government

City Island, as part of the Bronx, is governed by the Bronx borough president, currently Adolfo Carrión, Jr., who works with the mayor and city council of New York City. There is also a Bronx borough council (Bronx Borough President's Office nd).

⁵ Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

Fishery involvement in the government

“In 1998 the New York State Department of State awarded a grant to the Department of City Planning to conduct the City Island Maritime Heritage Preservation Study as part of the New York City Waterfront Revitalization Program. The grant provided the opportunity to explore and define City Island's maritime heritage, to identify the community's historic maritime resources, and to consider ways in which to preserve and enhance those resources.” The results of this grant were the City Island Maritime Industries Assessment report and two narrative research reports about City Island’s maritime heritage” (NYC Dept of City Planning 2001). The Bronx borough has also been working on the Bronx Waterfront Plan, with the aim to redevelop some of the borough’s waterfront to increase public access, recreation, and business opportunities along the Bronx waterfront (Carrion 2004).

Institutional

Fishing associations

The New York Seafood Council is the larger association representing fishing interests in the state. “The New York Seafood Council (NYSC) is an industry membership organization comprised of individuals, businesses, or organizations involved in the harvesting, processing, wholesale, distribution or sale of seafood products or services to the seafood industry in New York” (NYSC 2008).

Fishing assistance centers

Information on fishery assistance centers in City Island is unavailable through secondary data collection.

Other fishing related organizations

The Working Waterfront Association works to promote intelligent waterfront planning around the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary, and to maintain waterfront access (Small Town Brooklyn 2005). SUNY Maritime College, located in nearby Throggs Neck, prepares students for careers in maritime fields (SUNY Maritime College nd).

Physical

City Island is surrounded by New York City’s largest park, Pelham Bay Park (City Island Chamber of Commerce nd). There is one road which leads to City Island from the park, which is just a short distance from Interstate 95. There is a bus to City Island, and a train that goes to Pelham Bay Park, from which travelers can get on the City Island bus. There is also a ferry between City Island and Hart’s Island, which is used to transport prisoners and the deceased (Guest 1987). City Island is about 6 miles from the heart of the Bronx and 19 miles from the heart of Manhattan by car. It is 13 miles from LaGuardia Airport and 20 miles from JFK International Airport by car (MapQuest 2005).

There is one bait and tackle shop on the island. Several of the charter boats are docked at the bait and tackle shop, which also rents boats. One website lists five marinas and a boat yard on City Island (City Island 2004). City Island has a number of other marine-related businesses including boat retailers, supply stores, a surveyor, a marine contractor, a diving service, a sailmaker, and a port documentation service among others (City Island 2004). There are also five yacht clubs on City Island (City Island Chamber of Commerce nd). There is one marina

located at the [City Island Lobster House](#). The [Sea Shore](#) is another restaurant with marina facilities.

INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES⁶

Commercial

City Island has little to no commercial fishing activity. In many years there is only one boat listed as home ported on City Island (see Table), but there is no data indicating this vessel is active.

Vessels by Year⁷

Table 1. All columns represent vessel permits or landings value combined between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)	Level of fishing home port (\$)	Level of fishing landed port (\$)
1997	1	1	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0
1999	1	1	0	0
2000	1	1	0	0
2001	1	1	0	0
2002	1	1	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	1	1	0	0
2006	1	1	0	0

Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport

Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence⁸

Level of fishing home port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries associated with home ported vessels

Level of fishing landed port (\$) = Landed value of fisheries landed in location

⁶ In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

⁷ Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

⁸ The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

Recreational

Between the years 2001-2005, there was only one charter or party boat listed which logged trips from City Island, carrying a total of 16,498 anglers on 430 different trips. The [Island Current Fleet](#) consists of a party boat and a large charter boat. They offer day and night fishing through most of the year for bluefish, porgies, blackfish, striped bass, fluke, flounder, mackerel, and sea bass. [Jack's Bait and Tackle](#) on City Island is one of the largest bait wholesalers on the East Coast. There are five charter and party boats that depart from Jack's; they also rent boats for fishing.

Subsistence

Information on subsistence fishing in City Island is either unavailable through secondary data collection or the practice does not exist.

FUTURE

A new bridge to City Island is in the process of being built (City of New York 2003). The city planning department wishes to change the zoning on City Island to maintain its low-rise/low-density character, and to improve public access to the waterfront (NYC Dept of City Planning 2003).

Many of City Island's residents are concerned that it will lose its fishing-village character as more and more condominiums are built here and property values are forced up (Pascoe 2006).

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