

II. NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

HUMAN RESOURCES

Asylum Hill is a racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood to the west of the City's Central Business District. The residents and workers of Asylum Hill are its strongest asset. The following demographics, however, do not convey the commitment and strength many people bring to the neighborhood. The "Hill" consists of 615 square acres and has a population of 12,451, as of 1990 Census. Approximately 52% are African-American, 25% are White, 15% are Puerto Rican, 5% are of other Hispanic ethnicity, nearly 3% are Asian, and .5% are Native American. This makes Asylum Hill one of Hartford's most diverse neighborhoods. We view this diversity as an asset.

Collectively, there are 2,436 families on the Hill with 2.8 persons per family, lower than the City average. Thirty-one percent of households are headed by a female, the same as the City average. Slightly over one-half (50.5%) of everyone 15 and over is single, and only 23% are married. Of adults 25 and over, 71% are high school grads and 9% are college grads, compared with the City-wide average of 59% and 14% respectively. Median household income was \$18,955 in 1989, while the City average was \$22,140. Per capita income was higher than the City's \$12,999 to \$11,081. This discrepancy is partially due to the differences in household size. Asylum Hill has 1.8 persons per household while the City average is 2.55. (The difference according to the U.S. Census Bureau between *family* and *household* is this: A *household* is all the persons who occupy a housing unit while a *family* consists of a householder and one or more other persons living in the same housing unit who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption).

23% of Asylum Hill families are below the poverty level, compared to 26% City-wide. Of the total 558 families below the poverty level on the Hill, 381 of those were female-headed households with children. The unemployment rate for persons 16 and over in the labor force was 9.2% compared to a City average of 10.7%.

Every weekday, however, Asylum Hill's population actually triples due to the influx of office workers and students. In fact, approximately 15,000 students attend 10 campuses within a five mile radius of the Hill. Economically, this employee and student population may become the most important ingredient of our NRZ "success formula" and the foundation upon which the Hill can rebuild a thriving, self-sustaining academic and business/residential "entity", simply by meeting their commercial and residential needs.