

Crime in Kensington

Prof. Margaryan

CRJ 204

Keven Calixto

I grew up in Kensington Brooklyn NY. My zipcode is 11218 and i can say it has been that since i was 6. That's as far as my memory can go, Before that my memory is extremely vague. Most of my childhood friends have moved on from here or i don't see around here no more but i've stayed here all my life. My go-to deli 2 blocks from my house know my name since i was in 7-8th grade. It's a family owned deli. My elementary school a block away from me. Before this pandemic shut us all down, the community i would say was thriving. People with their family members going out for late night strolls, people sitting on their porch, and staying in the park till 8pm. But now, there is almost none of that and i would understand too, some people to want to catch covid since its still out there. But with that crime has slowly grown. I think i discovered the 'Citizen App' around freshman year of high school, i saw most of my friends have it and it alerted with any time of crime happening near your radius, you yourself can go live on a scene if its safe and you are nearby. I would say i saw random crimes happen rarely around my home and radius. When the pandemic hit around June 2020, I would get more notifications around me of random assaults or just random group of people fighting, you just start to question what is going on. But i would say thats all of NYC. Around that time crime was showing up more on all 5 boroughs, they were writing more news articles and it was coming up on news channels too. I use to feel safe leaving my parents business at 11pm and taking the train home, and walking the two blocks from the train station to my home and now i'm so paranoid to take the train when the sun goes down, and if i have to be walking out at night i always have to stay aware of my surroundings. Look behind me every two minutes to feel safe and make sure no one is following me. My neighborhood is pretty modernized, There are 4 citibike stops all of

them near each other, Access to 4 different bus routes and a train station that has the F & G train. It's really diverse around here, Bangalis, Pakistanis, Russians, Ukrainians, Chinese, Latinos. Some own their homes around here or just rent, Not many apartment buildings but there is a lot of them.

Population as a whole in Kensington is really small. I was shocked by this too but at the same time not really because when you've walked or passed by certain areas within our borders it is pretty small. On point2homes.com I discovered that my community only adds up to 40,282 people. It being male dominant of 50.51% to female being 49.49%. I always felt that within my community it had more undocumented people. It at least felt that way as I was growing up through elementary school and middle school. I felt like there were a lot of immigrants around, which there were and maybe some or a lot have moved into other communities or to another borough or state. Non citizens only make up 12.51% of the overall. Citizens but not U.S born are in 2nd with 24.33% and Citizens born within the U.S is the greater number with 63.16%. I always knew I was born here in the U.S but growing up it just always felt so diversified around me. But even with this low percentage, you don't see discrimination going on. Or maybe I was fortunate enough to have to witness any kind of form of it. I would say it's more common to see people move into the neighborhood than to move out of here. On the same website it shares with us that 92.22% of people still live live in their same home as the year prior.. I love how the community is really centered and friendly with one another. Help out the homeless whenever you have a spare dollar or half a sandwich your not going to finish. Just as every community I believe most or all neighborhoods have a platform for their

community whether on facebook or on an app that is almost new to me called "nextdoor" im more active on the facebook community page, or at least that's my go to for information or updates in the community. Everyone is so loving and kind on that page. From sharing info about new laws or how there will be a community meeting to discuss problems or issues they've been having. For example a woman during Thanksgiving week was offering small containers of soup for the holiday for a small fee like \$6 dollars or even saying that they'll be giving away furniture instead of selling it if anyone was interested. You would see notifications about new hours of parking or if you were to lose keys at this specific location and post about it, anyone in that vicinity would look for it and a day later or later that same day you'd see in the comments that someone found em. It's wholesome i'd say.

Crime like i said has grown a lot after the pandemic hit. You'd notice by all these news articles popping up, more crime incidents popping up your local or favorite news channels. Especially with hearing about how even if they were to be arrested they'd be released the following or same day because of a new policy put in place. On 'Historical NYC Crime Data, you can see how out of the top major 7 crime offenses it grew from 95,593 to 102,741. It grew up to 6 digits and that's a huge deal to me at least because no one wants crime to be going up in their neighborhood when there was rarely any but also for communities who already suffer from crime. For example. Flatbush which is a nextdoor neighbor to my neighborhood, They've always had crime and i know for sure it's grown even much more after COVID. I when i was smaller, enjoyed playing soccer and being part of a team. Near the entrance of the Flatbush neighborhood there are multi purpose turf or natural grass fields. I recall a specific memory on 2 separate

occasions, One involving an individual running from 3 other men who seem to want to hurt him, they eventually catch up to him and beat him in front of everyone and then let him be. On the other occasion Gunshots just started raining out, and our coach at the time made us all drop to the ground laying down to avoid any casualties. and not only our team but anyone else in the field did the same, and when the shots came to an end, everyone gets up and goes on with their life like its normal. I didnt find that normal, i neer grew up around that, and i wouldn't want anyone i know to experience that let alone live it on a day to day basis. On Areavibes.com they rate crime as a letter grades and Flatbush letter grade is an A+. i have friends and family that live near Flatbush or in there and some are already use to it as if it's normal.

Kensington is part of the 66th precinct and part of "Brooklyn South" Within my community, the total of crimes reported was only 122, That seems great but i just assume what about the ones that go unreported. Only 0.6375 per 1,000 residents are reported to the precinct. I feel that from my perspective that is sadly true. In my experience this year on two separate occasions the police took 1hour to show up and they call you when they show up and it took them an hour to call back and say they sre outside. On the second occasion, no one showed up or i never got a call back. I feel that due to the low activity of crime or almost no crime at all, the NYPD doesn't show importance to the community because the lack of. But i'd feel safe if there were more patrol cars patrolling or seeing officers on foot patrolling. I've seen police patrol walking in other neighborhoods that are near me or that i commute through to go to my parents place of work and that's probably due to those neighborhoods having high crime.

On NYC crime maps, the 66th precinct covers the population of 191,382 and from January 2021 to October 2022 10.7743 of crimes per 1,000 residents were reported. That is still very alarming considering the population is close to 200,000 people. I grew up in Sunset Park because i attended middle and high school in that part of town which is a neighbor to my neighborhood and there has always been crime there. I remember in 2019 during the summer, nearing the end of school, The NYPD busted a group of 14 individuals connecting to a drug ring in southern brooklyn. I remeber seeing it in the Brooklyn Paper and i was shocked because i knew that street it happened on isn't considered safe, and its only a block radius connecting 5th ave to 4th ave. You'd see people smoking marijuana on their porch or just smell the stench of it walking down or up the block. On the Citizen app, shootings and stabbings always come up from that neighborhood, I find it weird mostly because there is almost always patrol around there. A precinct is 20 blocks away from that drug bust. Its on 4th ave and the road its on is like a highway type of ave. Cars moving fast on it. I am fortunate enough to not live in a neigborhood where crime isn't as high as other neighborhoods and other boroughs.

I was an only child up till 2019, and my brother came into the picture. I'd love it if he grows up just like me here in Kensington. Having family really close by but i just hope that crime doesn't grow as exponetially as other parts. Most of my mother's brothers and their own families live 3 blocks and at max 6 blocks from us, Having family near us is really important because we have people to fall back on. Some of my cousins if they weren't family i'd consider great friends due to all the bonding ever since we were toddlers. My father's side is all over the place, but one aunt only lives 4 blocks away

and the farthest but within my community 7 blocks away. Im so grateful for having family near me cause they're almost always the ones there to support you or a shoulder to lean on. If it were up to me i'd live in this community till im old and wrinkly but just like any other neighborhood, rent and mortgages rise up. We luckily don't pay high on rent because my mother's older brother owns the entire household(we rent the basement) but i know from friends and just people of the community that pay over 2,500 close to 3,200 dollars. My parents are looking to move out of state, right next door in New Jersey. Specifically into Clifton NJ, because at least over there my mother has a brother who has recently moved out there. I wasn't too keen at first but having already gone more than once, i love it, i love the community it feels like suburbs from movies and shows. Peaceful. Plus housing over there for several houses doesn't pass the 1 million dollar range. A year ago 10 houses down from me, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and it being one family sold for 2.2 million dollars. Over in Clifton or other parts close to it such as Bloomfield or Nutley they go for almost half of that or close 800k. My parents see that as a green flag but if it were up to me and i had the last word, i wouldn't ever leave Kensington. If we move and its most likely, once i have the funds and have good wage or make good money annually, i'd definitely come back to Kensington

<https://maps.nyc.gov/crime/>

<https://compstat.nypdonline.org/2e5c3f4b-85c1-4635-83c6-22b27fe7c75c/view/89>

https://www.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/analysis_and_planning/historical-crime-data/seven-major-felony-offenses-2000-2021.pdf

<https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/NY/New-York-City/Brooklyn/Kensington-Demographics.html>

<https://www.areavibes.com/new+york-ny/flatbush/crime/>

<https://www.brooklynpaper.com/cops-bust-14-people-in-connection-with-southern-brooklyn-drug-ring/>