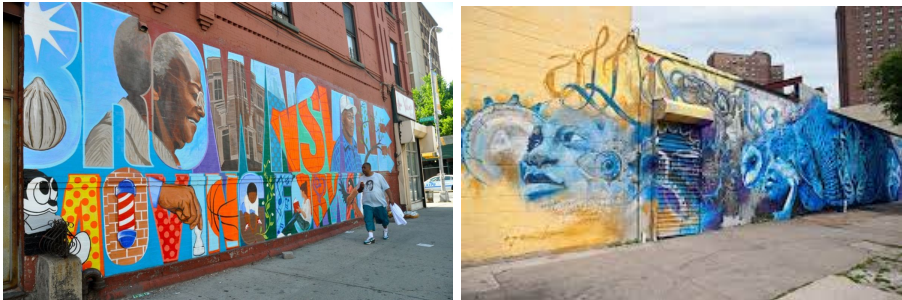


I live in the 11212 area of Brownsville, Brooklyn which is located in New York City. I have lived in the Brooklyn borough all my life, and so have my parents, I also have plenty of family that are from Brooklyn. Before moving to Brownsville, my family resided in Bedstuy, Brooklyn, and before that, Flatbush, Brooklyn. We had to move from Flatbush because our old apartment was being turned into a leasing office, which resulted in us having to shelter elsewhere. I do not know why this community was chosen because I was too young to remember, however now I am old enough to see the many changes made from then and now. Above all in 2006 we finally moved into our NYCHA residence in Brownsville that started our new lives, where we met new people and made new memories. It is currently 2022 and I still live in the same place. For 16 years my family and I have called Brownsville Brooklyn my home and will continue to until it is my time to move on and find a home of my own. Since I have been living here for 16 years, I do not remember much about where I resided before living where I currently am. Previously where we lived was nothing like where we live at the current moment. I do not remember much because I was very young, but I do know that our apartment was much smaller. I remember it being quiet throughout the neighborhood and it did not make my parents feel any safer. I also remember my parents being really close with many of our neighbors, and I remember going to daycare around the corner from our building.

When I was growing up, there was so much rival violence between the different neighborhoods in Brownsville. There were murders, stabbing, and rapings, and many other crimes transpiring across the neighborhood. My parents wanted to move away because they did not want their children to be on the news for being hurt in any sort of way. Currently my side of the neighborhood has quiet down, and it is rare that I hear any confrontation at all. I believe that the people in my community have been there so long that they found a foundation in their community. My family does want to relocate and not because of the violence, we just feel as if we deserve a fresh start in a new home.

Recently there have been many changes in my neighborhood that seem like satisfactory changes to the neighborhood. On Pitkin Avenue and Mother Gaston Avenue there used to be this huge abandoned building. I do not know what it was previously, but I do know that for as long as I have lived there, it was vacant. However, about a year ago, the building was developed into a clinic. Dora Health and Wellness has many aspects to it that satisfy many different medical needs. They do Covid tests, have Primary doctors, as well as family doctors, they have

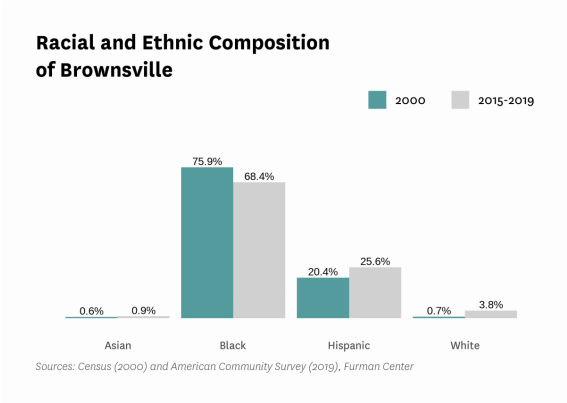
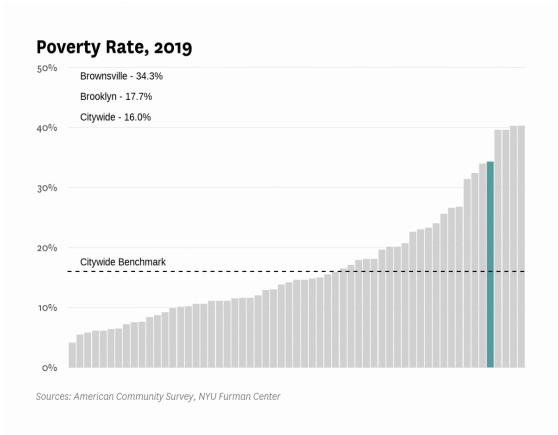
STD testing, and many more. This was a quick change I believe the neighborhood needed. Another change is that many of the murals are being erased. Brownsville has murals all over the place dedicated to the history and love of the neighborhood, but recently some of them were painted over. However, they did bring some of the murals back.



Another substantial change I noticed was that there are new apartment buildings everywhere. All of the vacant lots that were there previously are gone and new affordable housing is being built. In the past there have been many vacancies in my neighborhood, almost everywhere. There are still many abandoned buildings, and old houses that are being transformed into affordable housing. There is also a community garden in my NYCHA complex that is really big. It lies at the center of the housing projects and has so many vegetables, and they give out vegetables for free to the community. There are also motels/inns everywhere, mainly for the homeless people, but anyone can book and have a local stay. The unique thing about my neighborhood is the garden, the library and the community center. The center offers many programs for children and so does the library. People love to spend time in

those places because it is a sense of togetherness. Everyone is like family to one another and that type of union is not found everywhere.

There were many homeless people that were very dangerous at times, and there are still plenty of homeless people. There were open lots with rabid dogs barking the minute you walk by, and abandoned buildings all over. The neighborhood is very dilapidated, and the poverty rate was really high. There are plenty of homeless



Brownsville: Total New Units

2010-2020

Market Rate Units	Moderate and Middle-Income Units	Low Income Units	Income Targeting Unknown	Total New Units
283 (13%)	57 (3%)	1,934 (85%)	16 (1%)	2,262 (100%)

Sources: NYC Department of City Planning's PLUTO and Housing Database (2021, 2020), NYC Department of Finance's RPAD (2021), NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Housing New York data (2021), NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development and Housing Development Corporation's NYC Housing Connect (2016-2021), NYU Furman Center

As I grew up the resources that became available were decent opportunities for the NYCHA residents. I would always see flyers in my building about different jobs that are available for

people that need it. There are always food drives that are held by the people in charge of the community. There also was a community baby shower that was available for expecting moms to pick up anything they might need. These types of resources give people the boost they need to get their life together. With the help of some of these things people are able to find child care during the day so that they can go to work.

I believe at this moment the community is getting exactly what it needs, and that is making people happy and scared. With the community garden and community center, an updated neighborhood becomes a need. I can also tell that the public school has received funding as well because the outside of it was renovated. The school was very poor when I went there, and to see that it is getting the money it needs is a good start.

I would prefer to live in another neighborhood because I want a change. I have been living here since I was in the first grade and I want to leave. I have witnessed people come and go and I have witnessed numerous changes to my community. I do not believe I can thrive my best living here and I know I have better living conditions coming my way. Also, not everyone is as kind to the neighborhood as they should be. Some of the people do not take care of our neighborhood and it is terrible. Some people do not treat the building with respect, even though we do have cleaners, they are not maids. The people may not respect the neighborhood but they do respect each other. I want to live in a community where everyone respects the neighborhood and one another because that promotes strength in the neighborhood.