

Newport Census Tract 505

Alessa Rulli

Newport is split into east and west, like we said before, at York Street. The east side is the higher income side while the west side families struggle with income. There are many helpful communities in the west side that are open 24/7 such as The Henry Hosea House. At the Henry Hosea House the younger children, older children and families are learning to help their futures. They are being taught how to eat healthy, grow their own food and, the most important understand the staff of the Henry Hosea House is there to help. Monica Remmy said, "It's not a bad neighborhood – it's a poor neighborhood that needs more opportunity, more cohesion". She is correct, the west, I believe, is not hurting the ways we think they are. There are so many non-profit organizations that help out the families. The west side of Newport just needs more job opportunities to help amp the economy and income of the families. Along with the poor income, really the only other problem the west side is having is the lead contamination in their soil. Due to the old houses that are being renovated so that families can live in them, the lead based paint that was used to paint the house may have began to chip or was stripped away ends up mixing into the soil around the house contaminating it. Lead is potentially toxic element to humans if at high concentrations. So in Newport, they have to import soil from other areas and put that soil on top of the soil that is already in their back yard making a 'raised bed.' That is the only way the families can garden due to the lead in

the soil already. But, soil is expensive and the families already have a low income so it's difficult for the families to get the soil needed to grow their own food.

Based on the census numbers, many economists and census professionals have said Newport is "hurting." And when asked the question "how can we measure hurt?" I think of the Hurt scale that is typically in the doctors offices and in hospital rooms, like it says 1= no pain... 10= severe symptoms. But then when thinking further into measuring pain, its not a physical pain Newport is having, it's a mental pain, which cannot be measured on a scale. The pain the families experience is mainly around money. When parents cannot provide for their children in the correct ways, they mentally feel like bad parents. When I spoke with Monica Remmy she told me that at the beginning of the month there are around one hundred to two hundred people that come to The Henry Hosea House but towards the end of the month there are around three hundred to four hundred people. Remmy also noted that towards the end of the month she sees parents wait outside of The Henry Hosea House so that their children can eat and get a good amount of food. So measuring hurt in Newport would be difficult because people hurt in different ways, economically and mentally. But one way of measuring hurt is by understanding how people deal with the pain. There are many different ways with dealing with pain- going to church and praying, actually seeing a doctor or therapist if mentally the pain is getting unbearable, picking up extra shifts just to bring in that little extra bit of money. There is ways of measuring hurt but I don't think, "Hurt" is a metric because like I said previously, people experience hurt in different ways.

Comparing Newport to other areas is difficult in a mathematical perspective. The Census numbers for Newport in the income field are higher due to Monmouth Street. So its difficult, in my opinion, to compare Newport to other areas.