Choice Neighborhoods
Betances Survey
February 25, 2014

Background
HUD requires a survey of the residents who live in the housing that is the focus of a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. NYCHA and LISC designed the parameters for a survey of Betances households, and Banana Kelly conducted door-to-door interviews to fill the survey.

Survey process
NYCHA and LISC designed survey questions that touched on the main issue areas for the planning process while also making sure to keep the survey to a reasonable length of 52 questions. All Choice committee members were asked for their feedback on the draft survey. NYCHA finalized the survey questions with LISC.

NYCHA and LISC discussed the most effective way to gather survey data from Betances, and it was determined that a randomly selected sample of Betances households would be surveyed. Of the 982 total Betances households, 200 would be surveyed. NYCHA pulled a randomly selected sample of 400 Betances household addresses, and LISC employed Banana Kelly to do door-to-door interviews with staff that spoke both English and Spanish.

Banana Kelly completed 222 household surveys in the fall. LISC coded and entered the data, with assistance guidance from NYCHA, and prepared preliminary results information. An analysis of the data is underway to develop key findings of the survey.
Betances Survey Preliminary Data  
February 25, 2014

The following report is a basic layout of the data collected through the Betances Houses Survey. It includes the results reported under the survey sections on Betances households, Children and adult’s Education, Public safety, Health, and Housing.

**Betances Households**

1. **When residents moved-in to Betances**
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the past year</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 years ago</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10 years ago</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-15 years ago</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 15 years ago</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused to answer</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Age groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults (over 18 years old)</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 6-17</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Betances residents’ primary language**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Neighborhood Satisfaction as a place to live**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Satisfaction Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat satisfied</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat dissatisfied</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very dissatisfied</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Betances Children Education**

5. **Adult’s highest education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th grade or less</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th grade or higher, but no diploma</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS diploma/GED</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates degree</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Top five schools that Betances Children go to (from 30+ reported)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School name</th>
<th>Borough</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Student Enrollment</th>
<th>Grades served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS 277</td>
<td>Bx</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>Pk,0K,1,2,3,4,5,SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bronx Preparatory</td>
<td>Bx</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>06,07,08,09,10,11,12,SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 65 Mother Hale academy</td>
<td>Bx</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>Pk,0K,1,2,3,4,5,SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana Kelly HS</td>
<td>Bx</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>9,10,11,12,SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS 223</td>
<td>Bx</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>6,7,8,9,SE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Schools Satisfaction (Out of those households w/ Children)

- Very happy: 33%
- Somewhat happy: 31%
- Neither happy nor unhappy: 15%
- Somewhat unhappy: 16%
- Very unhappy: 5%

8. Important criteria when parents choose these schools (Out of those households w/ Children)

- Location: 16%
- Zone: 59%
- Quality: 18%
- Friend/relative told me about it: 7%
- It’s the only one I know: 0%

9. If there is a child who is under 5 years of age and not going to an education program, please tell us why (Out of those households w/ Children)

- There are no programs nearby to enroll him or her in: 0%
- The programs that are available are not good quality: 0%
- The programs are too expensive: 0%
- It’s better if they child stays at home until he or she is ready for kindergarten: 0%
- An adult in the household does daily educational activities with the child: 5%
- Other: 0%
- Don’t know: 4%
- Refused to answer: 4%
- Not applicable: 90%
10. School meetings or events Betances adults likely to attend (Out of those households w/ Children)

- Social events or children’s programs: 21%
- Meetings about school information, like the new curriculum or how to apply to high school: 29%
- When there are other types of services, like health fairs or financial workshops: 13%
- Meetings with a teacher or principal: 33%
- Fundraisers: 4%

11. Why parents or guardians find it hard to be involved in a child’s school/education (Out of those households w/ Children)

Main two reasons are language translation and timing/scheduling or work commitment.

12. How adults track the children’s progress at school (Out of those households w/ Children)

- Report card: 36%
- Student (the child tells you how he/she is doing): 18%
- Teacher: 42%
- ARIS Parent Link: 4%

13. Top three types of educational programs or services most needed in the community

1- Sports or recreational program
2- Mentoring program for children
3- College prep

Betances Adults Education & Services

14. 32% of the respondents are attending the following services (Total respondents 222)

- Four-year college/university: 15%
- Two-year college/community college: 17%
- GED preparation: 11%
- Other adult education to improve basic reading, writing and math skills: 10%
- English as a Second Language (ESL): 8%
- Computer training: 7%
- Job readiness (interview practice, resume writing): 8%
- Occupational training certificate program (nursing, teaching, commercial driving, etc.): 11%
- Financial counseling: 6%
- Small business/entrepreneurship classes: 6%
15. **Top types of educational/employment services adults would like to see**

1 - Computer training
2 - Job readiness (interview practice, resume writing)
3 - GED preparation
4 - English as a Second Language (ESL)

16. **Adults current employment status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Status</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time job</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time job</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self employed</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. **31% of total adults are looking for employment regardless of the employment status**

18. **64% of those adults unemployed, disabled and retired have had this status for 18+ months**

19. **Main challenges when searching for employment**

- Lack experience
- Lack the right skills, education or training
- Low wages for job offers
- Criminal background issues
- Difficulty with interviews

20. **Adults with a savings account**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused to answer</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing info</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. **Adults with a checking account?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused to answer</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing info</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
22. Most households have access to the internet through a computer at home or a mobile phone

Betances Public Safety

23. How safe is the neighborhood?
Very safe 6%
Somewhat safe 19%
Neither safe nor unsafe 13%
Somewhat unsafe 30%
Very unsafe 28%
Don’t know 1%
Refused to answer 1%
Missing info 2%

24. The top three safety concerns in the neighborhood
1- Drug activity
2- Gun violence
3- Gang activity

25. Top three types of public safety resources/services most needed in the neighborhood
1- Security cameras in my building
2- Better monitoring systems of who comes and goes in my building
3- Better street lighting

Betances Health

26. Primary source of medical care
Private doctor 51%
Health clinic 35%
Emergency room 14%

27. Most needed medical/health services in the neighborhood
Private doctor 26%
Health clinic 24%
Emergency room 16%
Mental health services 15%
Substance abuse treatments clinics 19%

28. Health insurance
94% of adults reported to have health insurance
97% of children reported to have health insurance
29. Kind of insurance household members use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private health insurance</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Health Plus</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Health Plus</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30. Places where residents buy most of their fresh fruits and vegetables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supermarket</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodega</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers’ Market</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit &amp; Vegetable Store</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Cart</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fruit &amp; Vegetable Cart</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31. Walking distance from home to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 min or less</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 5 to less than 10 min</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 min or more</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to walk</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

32. Main reasons people in the community do not exercise more

1. No public place to go        | 4%         |
2. Not safe                     | 14%        |
3. No time/ too busy            | 21%        |
4. People don't like exercising | 24%        |
5. Gyms are too expensive       | 3%         |
6. There are no gyms in my neighborhood | 1% |
7. Other:                        | 11%        |
77. Don't know                  | 18%        |
88. Refused to answer           | 4%         |

33. Participation in any physical activities/exercises activities such as running, gardening, biking, or walking for exercise (last 30 days)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
34. How likely you are to use the following wellness services?

1. Classes on how to cook nutritious meals
   1- Very likely 47%
   2- Somewhat likely 22%
   3- Neither likely nor unlikely 13%
   4- Somewhat unlikely 3%
   5- Very unlikely 8%
   77- Don’t know 1%
   99- Missing info 5%

2. More affordable healthy foods
   1- Very likely 63%
   2- Somewhat likely 20%
   3- Neither likely nor unlikely 7%
   4- Somewhat unlikely 1%
   5- Very unlikely 1%
   77- Don’t know 2%
   99- Missing info 5%

3. Better quality fruits and vegetables
   1- Very likely 66%
   2- Somewhat likely 18%
   3- Neither likely nor unlikely 8%
   4- Somewhat unlikely 1%
   5- Very unlikely 1%
   77- Don’t know 1%
   99- Missing info 4%

4. Incentives/Coupons for fruits and vegetables
   1- Very likely 61%
   2- Somewhat likely 22%
   3- Neither likely nor unlikely 6%
   4- Somewhat unlikely 1%
   5- Very unlikely 2%
   77- Don’t know 2%
   99- Missing info 5%
5. Farmers markets
1- Very likely 64%
2- Somewhat likely 17%
3- Neither likely nor unlikely 8%
4- Somewhat unlikely 1%
5- Very unlikely 3%
77- Don’t know 2%
99- Missing info 5%

6. Healthier school food
1- Very likely 50%
2- Somewhat likely 19%
3- Neither likely nor unlikely 11%
4- Somewhat unlikely 2%
5- Very unlikely 8%
77- Don’t know 5%
99- Missing info 5%

7. Fruit and vegetable carts
1- Very likely 66%
2- Somewhat likely 17%
3- Neither likely nor unlikely 6%
4- Somewhat unlikely 1%
5- Very unlikely 3%
77- Don’t know 1%
99- Missing info 5%

8. More recreational activities like dance, gym classes or sports
1- Very likely 51%
2- Somewhat likely 19%
3- Neither likely nor unlikely 9%
4- Somewhat unlikely 2%
5- Very unlikely 9%
77- Don’t know 3%
99- Missing info 6%
9. Other

1- Very likely  12%  
2- Somewhat likely  3%  
3- Neither likely nor unlikely  2%  
4- Somewhat unlikely  0%  
5- Very unlikely  0%  
77- Don’t know  0%  
99- Missing info  80%

35. Parks, playgrounds, or other outdoor recreation areas usage in the neighborhood

Yes  32%  
No  67%  
My neighborhood does not have these  2%

Betances Housing

36. Primary concerns about the physical condition of resident’s apartment (since August 2012)

Poor plumbing/leaky faucets  18%  
Poor condition of appliances  15%  

Drafty windows (cold breeze coming in during the winter even when the window is closed)  16%  
Lack of heat or hot water  17%  
Leaking roof  18%  
Mold  13%  
Other:  0%  
Don’t know  2%  
Refused to answer  1%

100%

37. Top improvements that residents would like to see in their buildings

New paint for building, hallways and/or apartments  
Replace flooring in building and apartments  
Upgrade elevators  
Renovate lobby, hallways and stairways
38. Condition rate of the shared spaces in Betances buildings

### Stairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor*</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing info</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lobby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor*</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing info</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lawn/green space

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor*</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing info</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hallways on your floor

1 - Excellent 1%
2- Good 26%
3- Fair 29%
4- Poor* 32%
5- Neutral 6%
77- Don’t know 0%
88- Refused 1%
99-Missing info 4%

Elevators

1 - Excellent 1%
2- Good 15%
3- Fair 22%
4- Poor* 36%
5- Neutral 6%
77- Don’t know 0%
88- Refused 1%
99-Missing info 17%

39. Top three housing issues in the community

1- Poor quality of housing
2- High rents
3- Lack of affordable housing

40. Attended community meeting in the past?

1. Yes 17%
2. No 77%
3. My neighborhood does not have these 0%
77. Don’t know 1%
88. Refused to answer and missing answer 4%
41. What would encourage more resident in the building to participate in the Betances Residents’ association and meetings?

1. Weekend meetings 11%
2. Evening meetings during the weekdays 7%
3. Meetings on housing repairs 13%
4. Meetings on services like job training or day care 10%
5. Meetings on public safety 10%
6. Meetings where NYCHA property managers can respond to questions/concerns 15%
7. More social events 3%
8. Having food at the meetings 3%
9. Having events with music 2%
10. Other 3%
77. Don’t know 21%
88. Refused to answer 3%

Other general concerns heard through the data collection:
- Lack of cooperation from Management.
- Lack of Security, no cameras on site, broken doors.
- Playgrounds are dirty and disgusting.
- Housing Conditions are very poor.
- Renovation of children’s playground.
- Mold and mildew growing in apartments.
- Maintenance Workers are rude.
- Repairs on apts, no assistance.
- People taking drugs and selling drugs in hallways.
- Lack of housing cooperation in neighborhood watch or forming one.
- Broken Window.
- Broken steps.
- Garbage Smell in hallways and outside.