



This community profile is intended to provide insight on the conditions – both strengths and challenges – of a particular neighborhood through a variety of data gathered between 2010-2012*. Bridges seeks to engage the collective resources of this community and take action to improve conditions for children and families.

The Northwood neighborhood that Bridges targets has approximately 1,748 households and a population of 4,958 residents. In 2010, approximately 12% of the population was 0 to 8 years old (588 children).

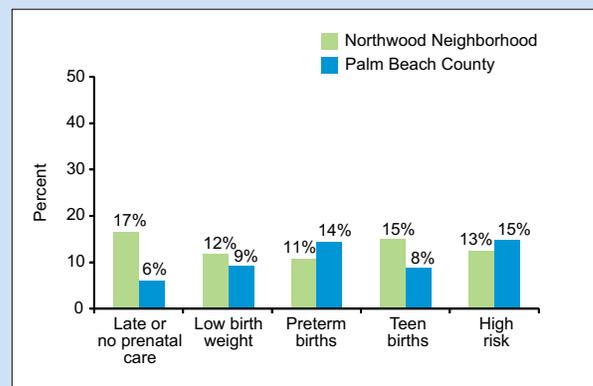
Census Tract = 18.01 Population: 4,958 Population 0–8 years: 588

The first goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children born healthy. Children born in the Northwood neighborhood in 2010 fared worse than children in Palm Beach County on most birth indicators (Figure 3-1). In 2010, 12% of infants were low birth weight, and 11% were born preterm. Approximately 13% of births in the Northwood neighborhood were considered high risk. Approximately 17% of women received late or no prenatal care, and 15% of births were to teen mothers.

The infant mortality rate in the Northwood neighborhood was higher than in Palm Beach County. 8.7 infants died for every 1,000 live births in the neighborhood compared with 5.5 in Palm Beach County.

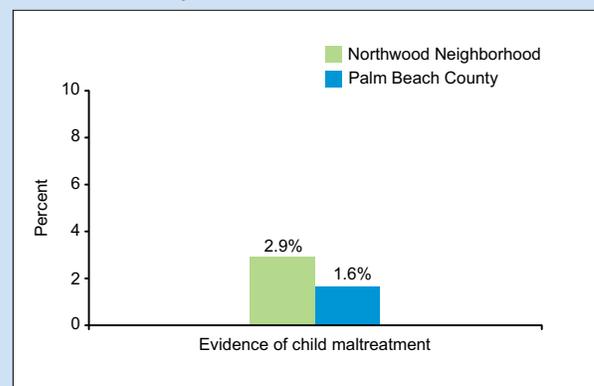
The second goal of the Bridges initiative is to make sure children are in safe and nurturing environments and remain free from abuse and neglect. Evidence of child maltreatment was higher in the Northwood neighborhood than in the county (Figure 3-2). Data provided by the Department of Children and Families of Palm Beach County show that 2.9% of children in the neighborhood had evidence of maltreatment compared with 1.6% of children in Palm Beach County overall.

Figure 3-1. Prenatal Care and Births in the Northwood Neighborhood (2010)



Source: Florida Department of Health

Figure 3-2. Evidence of Child Maltreatment in the Northwood Neighborhood (2010)



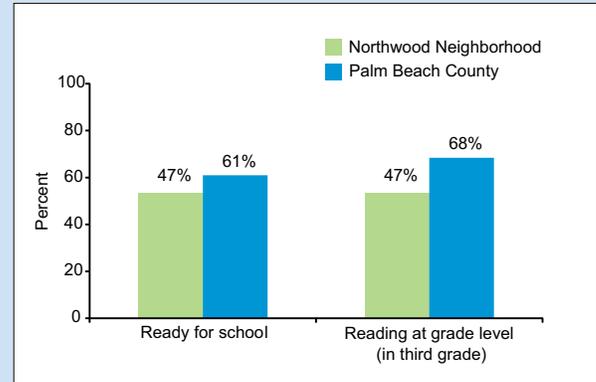
Source: Department of Children and Families in Palm Beach County. Note: Only 60% of children with evidence of maltreatment could be linked to a physical residence and geocoded to the neighborhood level.

*Information contained in the profile represents a point in time; perceptions and staff insight may not express the views of the entire community.

The third goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children who enter kindergarten ready to learn. In 2010, 47% of children in the Northwood neighborhood were ready for school at kindergarten entry compared with 61% of children in Palm Beach County (Figure 3-3).

The fourth goal of the Bridges initiative is to increase the number of children who are proficient readers in third grade. In 2010, 47% of children in the Northwood neighborhood were reading at grade level in third grade compared with 68% of children in Palm Beach County (Figure 3-3).

Figure 3-3. School Readiness and Third-Grade Reading Skills in the Northwood Neighborhood (2010)



Source: Palm Beach County School District. Note: Measured by the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

Northwood Neighborhood: At A Glance

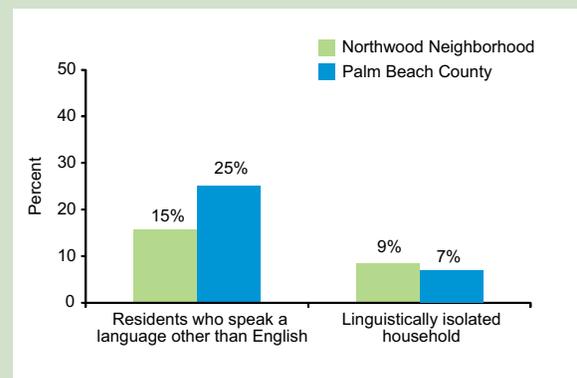
Race & Ethnicity. The racial composition in this neighborhood is 73% black and 17% white, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The majority of residents in this neighborhood are non-Hispanic (86%); 14% identified their ethnicity as being Hispanic. The majority of individuals served by Bridges at Northwood describe their ethnicity as Guatemalan (42%) or African American (28%).

Language. Among Northwood neighborhood residents, 15% reported speaking a language other than English at home, and 9% of households are considered linguistically isolated. Linguistically isolated households are those where no one 14 years old or older can speak English fluently.

Education. High school graduates accounted for 72% of the population in the Northwood neighborhood compared with 87% in Palm Beach County, which indicates 28% of residents did not complete high school or obtain a GED. Among Northwood neighborhood residents 25 years old or older, 22% completed an associates degree or higher compared with 40% in Palm Beach County.

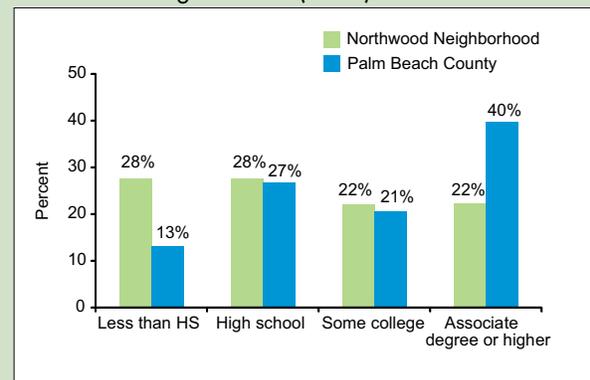
Housing & Household Composition. In this neighborhood, 62% of households are owner-occupied and the remaining 38% are renter-occupied. According to census data, 84% of residents report residing in the same household as one year ago (compared with 85% for Palm Beach County). Over half (53%) of the children live in single-parent households compared with 37% in Palm Beach County.

Figure 3-4. Language of Residents and Households in the Northwood Neighborhood (2010)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 3-5. Highest Education Attained by Residents in the Northwood Neighborhood (2010)



Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

Economic Indicators:

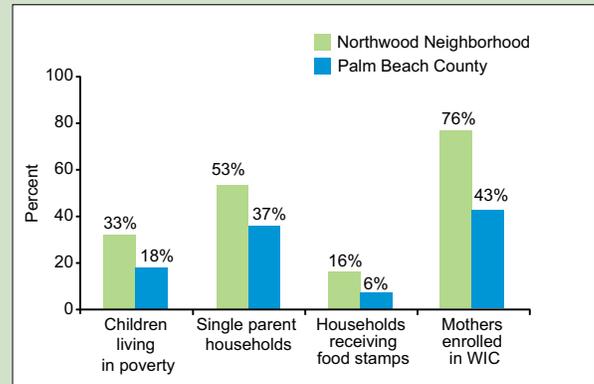
The median household income was \$41,092, compared with \$58,709 in Palm Beach County. The unemployment rate in the neighborhood was 15% compared with 9% in Palm Beach County.

Among children in the Northwood neighborhood, 33% lived below the federal poverty level in 2010 compared with 18% in Palm Beach County. (Figure 3-6).

Households receiving food stamps accounted for 16% of the neighborhood compared with 6% in Palm Beach County.

Births to mothers enrolled in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program was 76% in the Northwood neighborhood and 43% in Palm Beach County. (Figure 3-6).

Figure 3-6. Child and Family Socioeconomics in the Northwood Neighborhood (2010)



Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

WIC provides vouchers for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Neighborhood Strengths, Existing Resources, and Partners

Staff at Bridges identified many resources and supports as the community's strengths, including a strong sense of community and the potential for strong partnerships in the neighborhood and surrounding area.

Bridges at Northwood is located on the campus of Northmore Elementary school in the Northwood Hills Historic District area surrounded mostly by owner-occupied single-family residences built between 1925-1953. The only business in the immediate area is the TGI Grocery store, which has allowed Bridges at Northwood to make contact with local families and introduce them to what Bridges offers. Northwood is part of the city of West Palm Beach located in eastern Palm Beach County, not far from the Atlantic Ocean. Other than its office space, Bridges at Northwood utilizes space at Mt. Zion Orthodox Baptist Church, Pleasant City Multi-Cultural Center, and Northmore Elementary school for parent-child activities, events and gatherings.

Bridges staff describe specific strengths that include:

- **Most people have lived in this community for a long time and tend to live close to their relatives.** Census data show relatively low mobility, with approximately 84% of residents reporting to be in the same household for the most recent year (compared with 85% for Palm Beach County).
- **Residents regularly attend a local church or faith-based organization.** There are 17 churches in the larger community shown in the map (Figure 3-7). Bridges at Northwood has developed relationships with Mt. Zion Orthodox Baptist Church and Grace Episcopal Church. These partnerships enhance both Bridges and the churches' ability to meet the needs of families. The partnership with Mt. Zion Orthodox Baptist Church resulted in Bridges being able to reach out to parents who have children enrolled in the Orthodox Zion Child Development Center, as well as providing a location to host exercise classes for members. Additionally, Trinity United Methodist Church has been a resource to families for children's clothing, and has donated gifts for Bridges children during the holidays.

There are collaborative efforts and partnerships happening in the Northwood neighborhood

- Northwood also reports local nonprofits frequently communicate and share resources. The YWCA facilitates workshops on-site focusing on healthy relationships, bullying, and child abuse and neglect. The Palm Beach County Zoo facilitates animal encounters for children and families on site at Bridges once a month. Bridges at Northwood partners with the Urban Youth League to offer enrichment activities for Bridges children.
- Bridges staff agreed that the local elementary school (Northmore) views collaborating with Bridges as important. Bridges at Northwood and Northmore Elementary are working together to discover ways in which they can improve the academic success of children they both are serving.
- Businesses are willing to collaborate with Bridges, such as Royal Touch Barber Shop and Zandi's Unlimited Beauty Salon, which offer free haircuts to Bridges families.
- Additional partners of Bridges at Northwood include some of the following community agencies: Community Action Program, DCF (Florida ACCESS partner), Healthy Mothers / Healthy Babies, Florida Resource Center for Women and Children, and Safe Kids.



The map (Figure 3-7) shows the census tract area that Bridges at Northwood targets for services as well as the location of the Bridges site. It also includes a one-half mile area outside the census tract to show potential resources available to families living in the Northwood neighborhood. The services indicated in the map and descriptions below were those identified in a scan of area resources using 211 online registry, accessible registries for licensed child care providers, health, schools, libraries, parks, and locally developed resource guides that were believed to be current at the time the resource list was developed in fall of 2012. This may not represent all area resources.

Services and resources exist in the Northwood area include the following:

- Family planning/pregnancy prevention
- Medical care for pregnant women
- Non-medical resources for expectant parents
- Pediatricians/family medical practices
- Counseling/mental health services
- Licensed child care providers
- Parks/playgrounds/recreational facilities.

There are 21 social service and nonprofit organizations in Northwood shown in the map in light blue (e.g., Catholic Charities, Families that Care, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Highridge Family Center, The Lord’s Place, Mothers Against Murderers, PATH Project, Senator Phillip D Lewis Center, and Urban Youth Impact).

There are 24 organizations that provide health care or medical services in this larger area, some of which include: St Mary’s Medical Center, West Palm Beach Health Center, Hanley Center, Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health, and First Care Family Resources. Bridges at Northwood partners with the Health Department to offer workshops and activities focusing on prenatal and infant health. Additionally, the Caridad Center comes to Bridges every other week offering free health screenings, exams, and health and nutrition workshops.

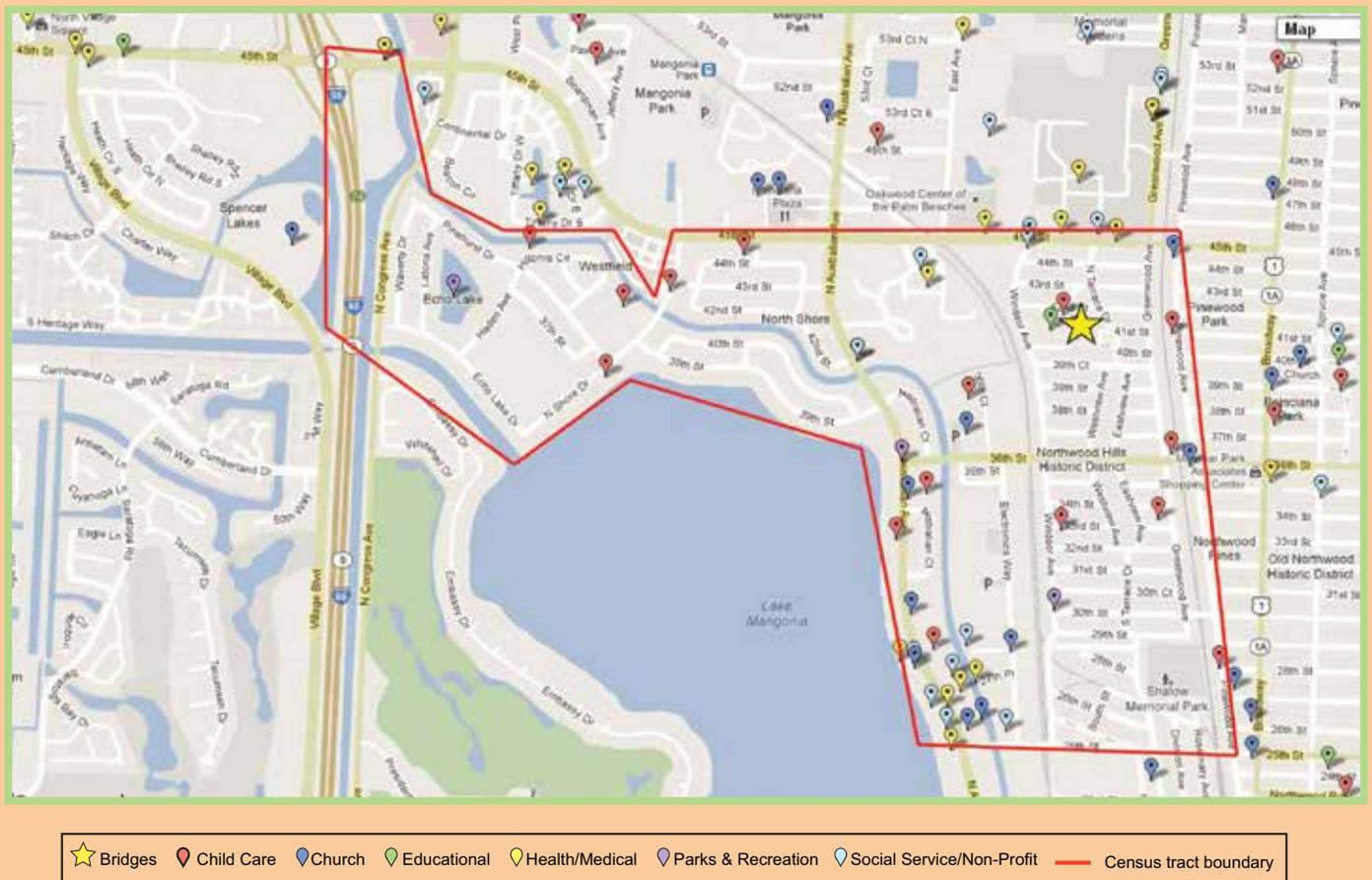
Three parks and other recreational facilities shown in the map in purple are accessible for those interested in them. This includes: Sullivan, Sunset and Echo Lake Park. Bridges at Northwood on occasion will use

Sunset Park to host parent-child activities. There is also a Youth Empowerment Center located nearby, which provides cultural, social, and physical recreation opportunities for teens.

Four educational resources are shown in the map in green, including Northmore Elementary School, Lincoln College of Technology, Center for Creative Education, and Northboro Elementary School.

Bridges at Northwood works with several local child care providers. Some of them include: Bentley Child Development Center, Faith Place Center for Education, Orthodox Zion Child Development Center, Peter Pumpkin Wee Care Nursery & Kindergarten, and Tysons Tiny Tots. There are 21 licensed child care providers in the larger area shown on the map. Of those, 24% participate in the Quality Counts system. Quality Counts is an early care and education improvement and support system that is designed to enhance the quality of child care so that children birth to five years of age are healthy and ready to learn when they enter school.

Figure 3-7. Greater Northwood Neighborhood





Staff identified several challenges to improving outcomes for children and families in the Northwood neighborhood:

The percent of births in the Northwood neighborhood where women receive late or no prenatal care was almost three times higher than in Palm Beach County (17% in the Northwood neighborhood compared to 6% in Palm Beach County).

Although the majority of residents living in the neighborhood identify as black, non-Hispanic, many families using Bridges thus far identify as white, Hispanic. According to staff, engaging African American residents in the neighborhood has been a challenge.

There is a higher rate of unemployment and lower education levels in the Northwood neighborhood when compared to the county. A homeless shelter was recently opened near Bridges at Northwood, indicating an unmet need, and that homelessness is an issue in this community.

Residents in the neighborhood do not generally feel safe. There is significant crime committed in the larger area according to the local police department serving the Northwood neighborhood.

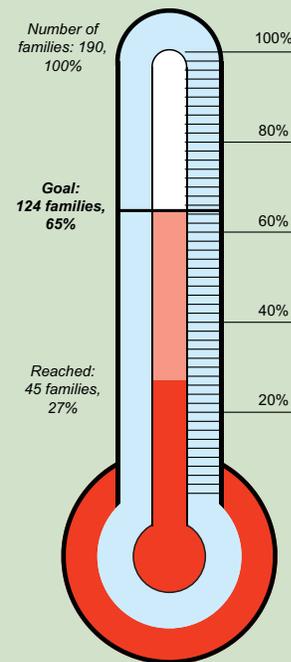
Participation Rates: Of the families who visited Northwood Bridges,

- 41% participated in parent-child activities.
- 10% participated in Triple P individual sessions, groups, and seminars.
- 93% participated in navigation activities.
- 23% participated in adult education or capacity-building workshops and activities.

Service Reach (between June 2011 and December 2012):

- 249 parents of children 0–17 participated in services or activities at Bridges at Northwood.
- 248 families participated, and of those families, 76% had children ages 0–5 (n = 188).
—Of those families with children 0–5, 27% resided in a target neighborhood (n = 51).
- 190 families with children age 0–5 lived in the Northwood neighborhood during the 2010 census.
- 45 families with children age 0–5 who live in the Northwood neighborhood participated in activities at Bridges.
—Therefore, we estimate Bridges has been successful in reaching approximately **27%** of the families with children 0-5 in the Northwood neighborhood thus far.

Bridges works hard to meet the needs of families in order to enhance parents’ ability to promote the health, early development, safety, and school success of their children. The Bridges model is inspired by the Harlem Children’s Zone core principle of saturating a neighborhood with information and services to improve the environment for children and families living there. To achieve this saturation, Bridges hopes to reach at least 65% of families with young children 0–5 living in the neighborhood and cultivate an environment where children are healthy, safe, and ready to succeed in school.



Serving Northwood since January 2011.

Bridges at Northwood offers activities to reach the goals of the Bridges initiative, such as outreach, parent support and navigation. Examples of some of these activities include the following:

- Child development through parent-child activities to promote early literacy, social, and motor skills for kindergarten readiness: "Raise Me Up" activities, "Animal Encounters via the Palm Beach County Zoo, "Let's Read Together, Infant massage.
- Individual and group parent support and education: Triple P, workshops on healthy relationships, domestic violence, prenatal care & health during pregnancy, and children's health and development
- Developmental screenings using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) for children ages 0–5
- Navigation services - connecting families with needed resources and helpful opportunities: FL ACCESS community partner (help with food, Medicaid, and cash assistance applications), Family Resource Library, Car seat safety check/ installations, Holiday gift give away, and Business Center (allows members use of a computer, fax, copy, & notary)
- Community engagement: "Father's Day Event," Annual Back to School Bash, fitness activities and events, Zumba and aerobic exercise classes, "Bridges Family Fun Day."



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Bridges is a program of

Children's Services Council

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Healthy. Safe. Strong.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Monday–Friday: 8:30am–7pm
Evening events, activities, and appointments
available when scheduled between 5:30pm–7pm
Saturdays: 10:00am–2:00pm
Office hours may vary
based on scheduled community events.