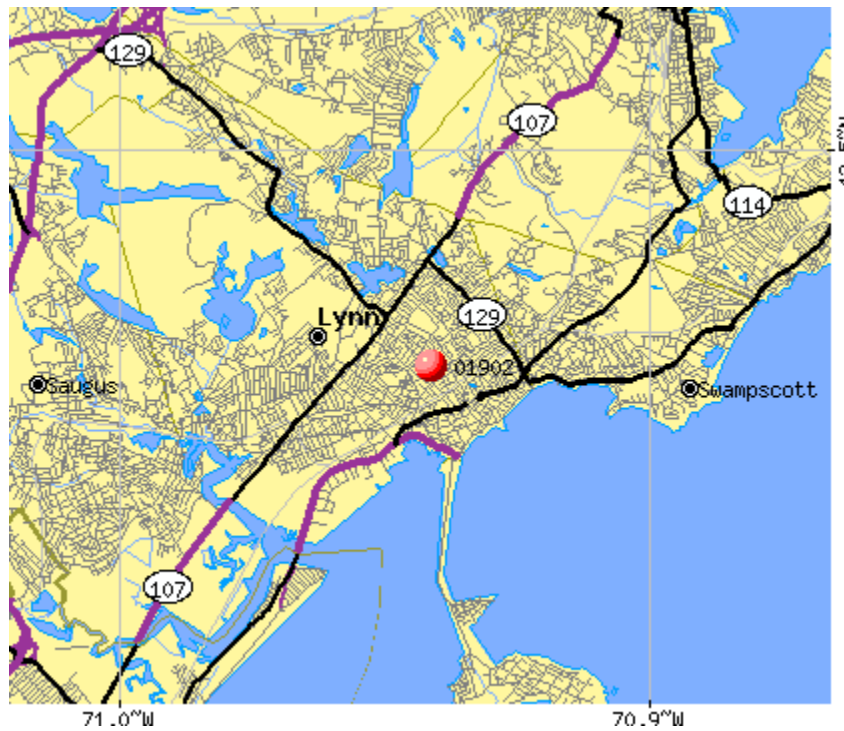


Lynn: A Little City with Big Potential

A Publication of the New Lynn Coalition



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Forward

The City of Lynn, Massachusetts is rich in many ways. It is bordered on the East by the Atlantic Ocean and, thanks to a grant in the early 1900's, has a 22 acre protected space called Lynn Shore Reservation. Lynn also has a 2200 acre forest reserve called Lynn Woods which boasts of ponds, trails, wetlands and other similar natural treasures. Along with other notable sightseeing locations –High Rock Tower in the Highlands, Central Square (a soon to be Cultural District Designated Area), and the Lynn Museum- the City of Lynn is rich in history and diversity.

Lynn, MA is one of the most racially diverse cities in the State of Massachusetts and is certainly the most diverse in the region. A visitor will note the broad spectrum of nationalities seen in the myriad restaurants and shops in the downtown region. It is possible to walk a block and overhear conversations in multiple languages –Khmer, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese to name a few.

Along with its diversity, the City of Lynn delivers services for her residents and these services are often provided by Lynn residents at Lynn based agencies. For example, the services of Operation Bootstrap, an adult education provider, are complimented by the Haitian Immigrants' Resource Center which also provides low/no cost English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes, personal finance classes and computer classes. The Lynn Community Health Center, which has been growing since 1971 provides comprehensive, full spectrum health services for the people of Lynn and also Essex County. My Brother's Table offers up two meals a day to anyone who walks through their doors. Girls Inc. and Greg House provide nationally recognized and accredited after-school care and often develop youth leaders who return to Lynn upon college graduation to work in their community. Lynn Economic Opportunity, an anti poverty agency, has been serving the community of Lynn and beyond since 1965. The City of Lynn has an exceptional career center which works hand in hand with the Northern Essex Workforce Investment Board. These agencies provide training opportunities as well as job market research in employment trends in Essex County.

Along with service agencies, Lynn has many successful community organizing groups and coalitions. Lynn United For Change successfully fights foreclosures all over Lynn. The Essex County Community Organization obtained a grant from the state of Massachusetts to hire a Youth Street Outreach Worker to reach out to troubled youth and help them get off of the streets. Recently the services of the Youth Outreach Worker have been complimented by efforts to provide support for the parents and families of youth involved in gangs. Neighbor to Neighbor has been signing up disenfranchised voters in low-income neighborhoods and getting them involved in the political process. The Highlands Coalition organizes neighborhoods and Mass Senior Action (Lynn Chapter) organizes senior citizens to participate in elections and legislative issues. And there are so many more doing incredible work!

Lynn may be a city rich in history and geography but it is not without its share –somewhat disproportionately- of problems that in many cases are too numerous for all the great organizations to tackle individually. Lynn has a median income significantly below the state and regional median income. It has much higher rates of teenage pregnancy and infant mortality. Lynn has many more families making less than \$10,000 per year and much lower numbers of families earning more than \$100,000 a year than the rest of the region and state. Like other towns, the City of Lynn has been buffeted by the financial crisis, foreclosures (twice that of the State rate), Free Trade and a loss of good manufacturing jobs and deindustrialization. Though these issues on paper are daunting, the solution can be found directly within the diverse and hard working population of Lynn and the organizations and programs run and offered by community organizations and the city.

According to the latest census data, more Lynn residents are employed in healthcare and social assistance than in any other industry. Because Lynn's citizenry tend to be bi-lingual and multi-cultural, when Lynn

residents are employed at these jobs, they provide very specific job skills in language and cultural awareness. Organizations staffed by Lynn residents tend to have very effective outreach and education programs for the growing number of immigrant residents.

It is worth noting that some of the other communities in Essex County depend on Lynn's social service agencies to provide assistance for their residents. If funded, these organizations not only serve as meaningful, decent paying employment, they create pathways to good health, education and personal development. The average weekly wage of a health care and social assistance position in the City of Lynn is \$757. For a single person living in Lynn, this wage is enough to survive on. Once a child is added to the equation –and the high cost of childcare- what could have been a decent income becomes an income that is simply not enough.

As the report points out, Lynn has seen some persistence in manufacturing. Manufacturing jobs in Lynn, including well paid union jobs at GE, pay on average \$1480 per week. Yearly that comes to \$76,960, nearly twice the median income of the city of Lynn and more than the median income for the state. Though manufacturing has seen a negative employment growth in Lynn, in the state of Massachusetts, it has grown. The City of Lynn has one of the only tuition free machinist training programs in the state of Massachusetts, the E-Team Machinist Training Program. That program has graduated over 180 machinists, many of who reside in Lynn and who gain employment in manufacturing at 80% per graduating class. Unfortunately, this program has faced severe funding shortages and is in danger of shutting its doors for good.

Along with a number of excellent adult education providers and the E-team machinist training program, Lynn is the gateway of the North Shore Community College campuses. The Lynn campus is responsible for creating pathways to careers and has a strong relationship with the Lynn Career Center as well as many local businesses. The community college offers accredited classes for updating and maintaining licenses for various fields and runs continuing education evening classes geared toward professionals who are interested in acquiring additional skills.

The information contained in this report is not just about job loss and creation but highlights many social indicators in the City of Lynn to provide a snapshot of the overall health of the community. This paper is by Lynn and for Lynn and takes a holistic approach to understanding the bigger picture around the community.

Key Findings

Demographics

- Lynn residents are younger than those in Essex County by 4 years on average
- Lynn is more racially diverse than Essex County
- Lynn's average family size is larger than Essex County by 1 person

Income Level

- Lynn median income is 2/3 of the state of Massachusetts Median Income
- Lynn's median household income has actually FALLEN by a full 5% in the past 20 years
- Massachusetts statewide median income has INCREASED by 10% during the same period. Salem's has increased by 20% and Marblehead's by 19%.

Higher levels of poverty

- The poverty rate in Lynn is almost twice the state average. Lynn has an especially high concentration of low income households making less than \$10,000 a year in income and benefits.

Lag in Educational attainment

- The City of Lynn lags behind the region and state in educational attainment with close to 23% of the population lacking a high school diploma.

High Foreclosure Rates

- Foreclosure rates are at a much higher and steadier clip than the rest of the county and state.

Health Issues

- Lynn has an infant mortality rate that is almost twice the state average
- Lynn has higher rates of diseases than the other cities in Essex County.

Based on the information contained in this paper it appears that Lynn is facing a severe crisis. We know that there are dedicated officials, agencies and organizations within the city that are committed to making the city a better place to live in. It is clear that many of the problems Lynn faces are caused by policy and economic decisions that are not made in Lynn.

The New Lynn Coalition is comprised of union and community groups in Lynn, MA who have a solid base in the community and have a history of working together to improve conditions for all people in Lynn. The coalition's mission is to organize all sectors of working class people in the region into a unified permanent, political and economic force that includes those in unions as well as unorganized and transcends racial, linguistic, ethnic, citizenship and gender boundaries. Together the organizations within the New Lynn Coalition are identifying goals for regional development which revolve around social and ecological needs and concerns and where there is a renewed sense of the public role in social welfare.

The New Lynn coalition is actively working with others in the City of Lynn to bring about the much needed changes the city needs in order to fully realize it's potential. We are certain that the people of Lynn know what's best for the city and are already active in making the city a great place to live. This document should be read and used as a tool to address the challenges identified in this report. It takes a critical look at the state of the city- but is not a criticism of the hard working city officials and organizations. Change will happen and it is up to us to harness the resources we already have to create a real systemic difference.

We are creating a New Lynn in 4 distinct ways that are integrally connected:

1. Politics
2. Economic Development
3. Research
4. Culture and Education

Carly McClain, New Lynn Organizer

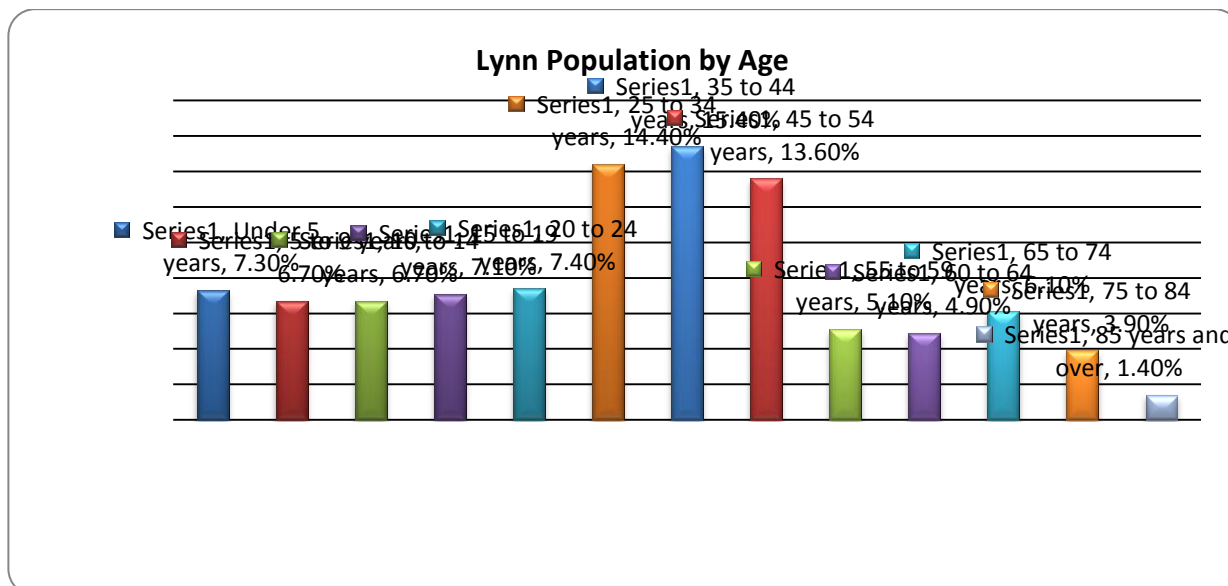
Background

The city of Lynn, Massachusetts is located in Essex County. The city is bordered by Saugus and Lynnfield on the west, Peabody and Salem on the north, Swampscott and the Atlantic Ocean on the east, and Nahant and Revere on the south. Lynn is 9 miles north of Boston.

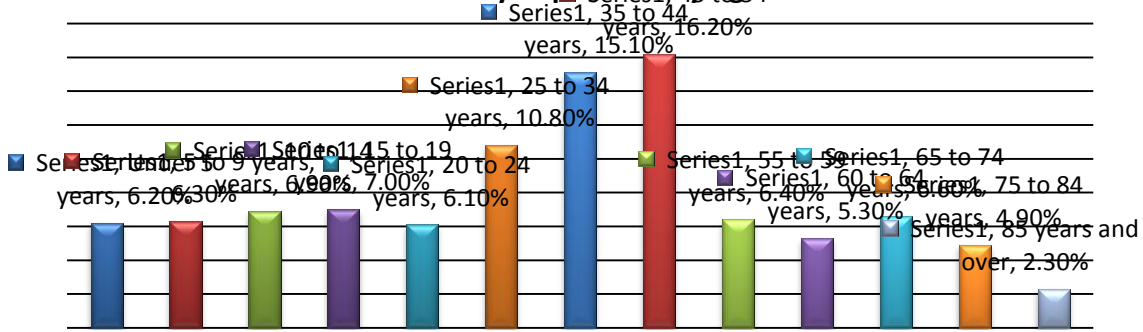
The city of Lynn was settled in 1629. The city was a major producer of leather in the 18th century.¹ Shoe manufacturing became the city’s major industrial base in the 19th century.² During this century Lynn also became a popular vacation and tourist destination with many estates built along the city’s shore.³ In the late 19th century General Electric formed in the city of Lynn. This development provided Lynn with a strong manufacturing base for much of the 20th century. However, along with many other industrial cities in the northeast, Lynn began an industrial decline in second half of the century. By the end of the 20th century General Electric employed 5,000 workers compared to 15,000 in the mid 1970’s.⁴ For the last decade, Lynn has been trying to mount a revival with several development and improvement projects around the city.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey, Lynn has a total population of 87,196. The city has a median age of 35.2, which was lower than the median age of 39.8 in Essex County. Lynn has 49.6% of its population below the age of 35. Only 43.3% of Essex County’s population is below the age of 35. The age range of 35 to 65 makes up 39% of Lynn’s population, and 43% of Essex County’s population. The population over 65 makes up 11.4% of Lynn’s total population, and 13.8% of Essex County’s total population.⁵

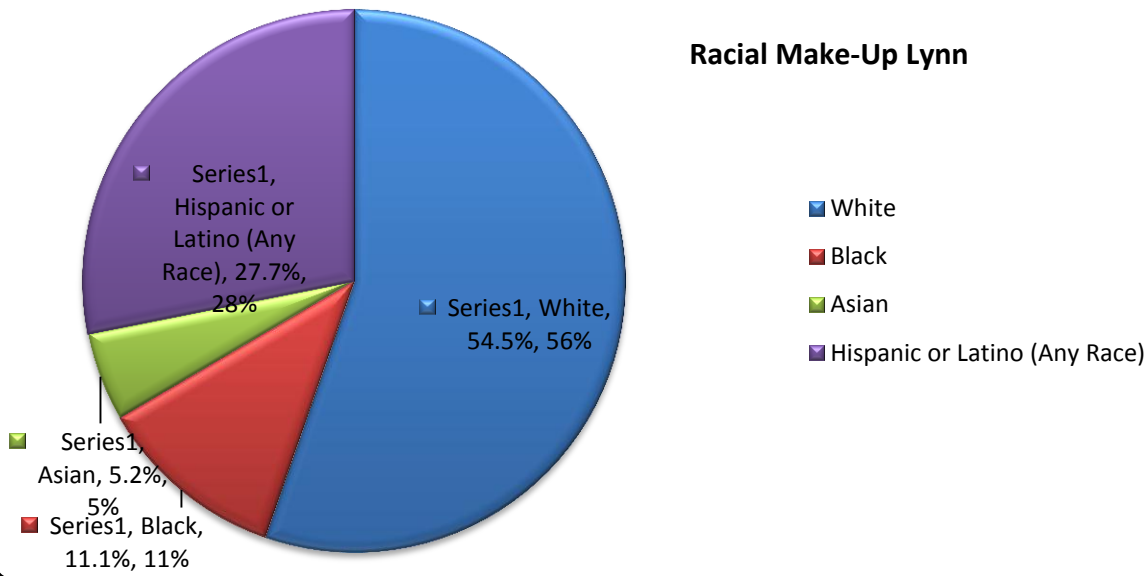


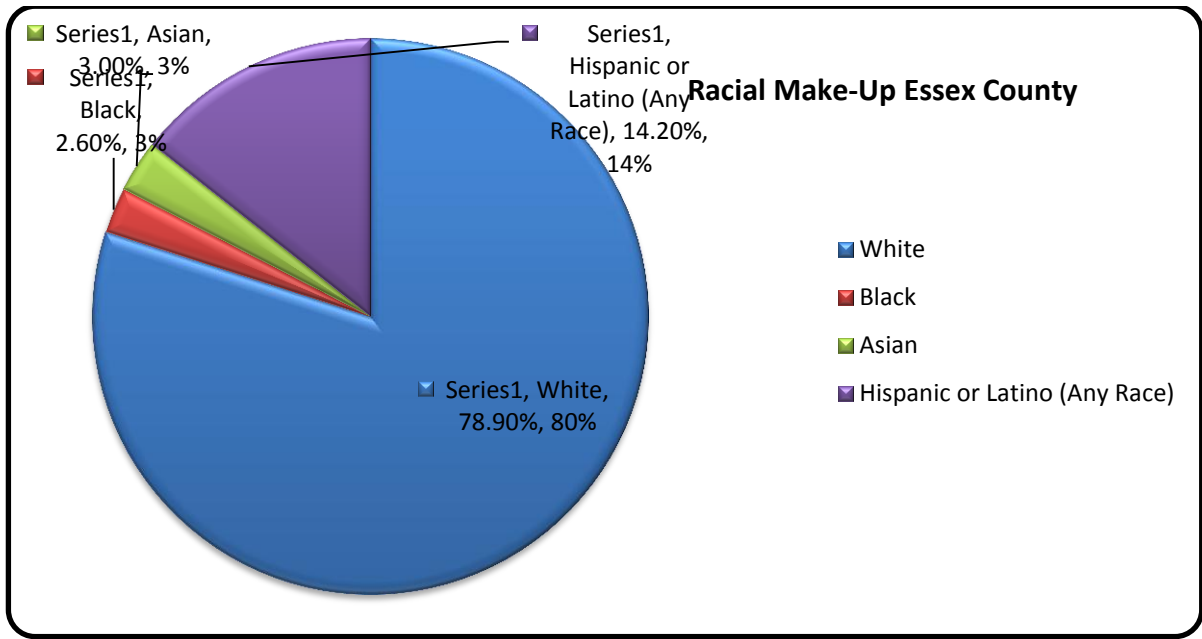
Essex County Population by Age



Lynn is a racially diverse city compared to the surrounding region. Lynn’s population is 54.5% White; 11.1% Black; 5.2% Asian; and 27.7% Hispanic or Latino (of any race). The population of Essex County is 78.9% White; 2.6% Black; 3.0% Asian; and 14.2% Hispanic or Latino (of any race).⁶

Racial Make-Up Lynn



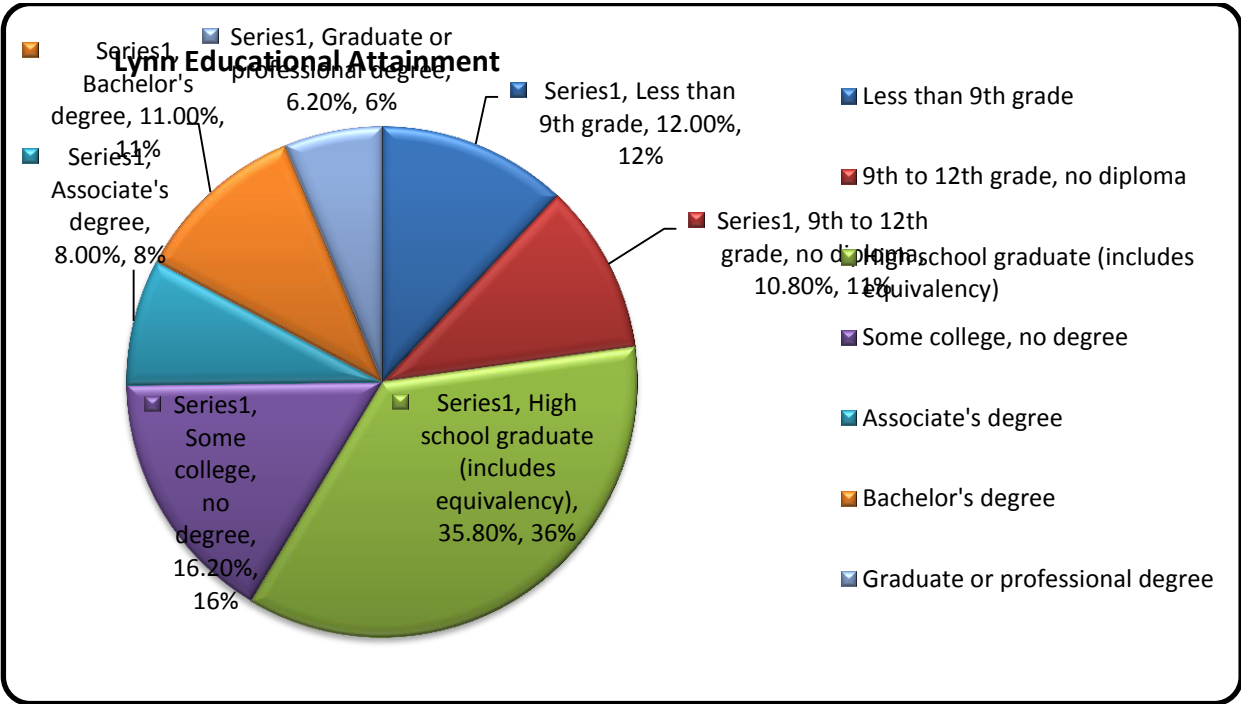


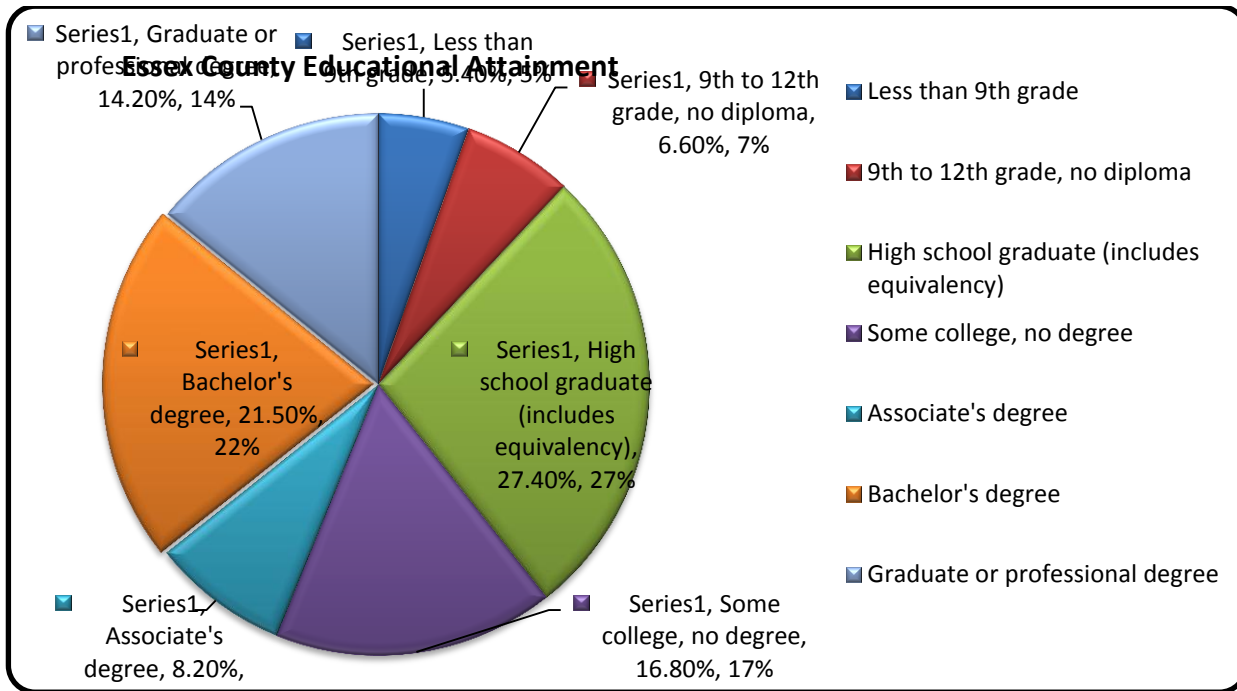
There are 32,388 households in the city of Lynn. Married couples make up 36.4% of those households. Male households with no spouse present make up 7.2% of households. Female households with no spouse present make up 19.3% of households. Non-family households make up 37.1% of total households in the city. There are 276,497 households in Essex County. Married couples make up 49.3% of households. Male households with no spouse present make up 4.4% of households. Female households with no spouse present make up 12.9% of households. Non-family households make up 33.5% of total households in the county.⁷

Households by Type	Lynn	Essex County
Total Households	32,388	276,497
Married Couples Households	36.4%	49.3%
Male Householder, no spouse present	7.2%	4.4%
Female Householder, no spouse present	19.3%	12.9%
Non-Family Households	37.1%	33.5%

Educational Attainment

The city of Lynn lags behind the region in educational attainment. The disparity is especially pronounced at the four year degree and graduate level. Lynn has a population over 25 of 56,504. The portion of the population in Lynn with less than a 9th grade education stands at 12%. The portion of the population in Lynn with some high school education, but no diploma stands at 10.8%. The portion of the population with a high school diploma or GED is 35.8%. The portion of the population with some college education, but no degree is 16.2%. The portion of the population with an associate’s degree stands at 8%. The portion of the population with a bachelor’s degree is 11%. Finally, the portion of the population with a graduate or professional degree in Lynn stands at 6.2%. Essex County has a population of 496,174 over the age of 25. The portion of the population in Essex County with less than a 9th grade education stands at 5.4%. The portion of the population in Essex County with some high school education, but no diploma stands at 6.6%. The portion of the population with a high school diploma or GED is 27.4%. The portion of the population with some college education, but no degree stands at 16.8%. The portion of the population with an associate’s degree is 8.2%. The portion of the population with a bachelor’s degree is 21.5%. Finally, the portion of the population in Essex County with a graduate or professional degree stands at 14.2%.⁸





Transportation

Lynn is located within the Greater Boston transportation system. Principal highways include state routes 107 and 129. Commuter rail service is available to North Station in Boston from Lynn. There is bus service in the city to neighboring communities and Boston. Lynn is located near Beverly Municipal Airport, and Logan international Airport is easily accessible from the city by the Blue Line.⁹ Research by a UMass Lowell student in the Regional Economic and Social Development program has revealed that areas in South Lynn have uniquely low percentages of public transit use that can be explained by the lack of public transportation in the region. Census tract 25009206200 in South Lynn had only one bus line on its border. A higher percentage of workers in this census tract carpooled than any other census tract in the Inner Core Metro Boston area. This suggests a strong demand for public transportation, and a lack of access and efficiency in the area.¹⁰

People who live in the city of Lynn tend to drive alone to work. The median travel time is 26.9 minutes. The portion of workers driving alone to work is 71.2%. The portion of workers carpooling is 11.4%. The portion of Lynn's working population taking public transportation to work is 9.6%. The portion of workers walking is 4.4%, and the portion using other means of transportation is 1.8%. Finally, 1.6% of people in Lynn work at home.¹¹

Health

The city of Lynn has a younger population than Massachusetts as a whole, but has worse health indicators in a number of categories. The infant mortality rate in Lynn is 7.7 per 1,000 births compared to 4.9 per 1,000 births for Massachusetts. The percentage of births in Lynn with low birth weights stands at 8.7 compared to 7.9 for Massachusetts. Births to adolescent mothers in Lynn stands at 11.4% compared to 6.4% for Massachusetts. Mothers in Lynn not receiving prenatal care in the first trimester stands at 28.8% compared to 18% for Massachusetts. Mothers in Lynn receiving publicly funded prenatal care stands at 66.4% compared to 35.6% for Massachusetts.¹²

Child Health Indicators

	Lynn	MA
Infant Mortality Rate	7.7 rate	4.9 rate
Low Birth Weight (less than 2500 grams)	8.70%	7.90%
Births to adolescent mothers	11.40%	6.40%
Mothers not receiving prenatal care in first trimester	28.80%	18%
Mothers receiving publicly funded prenatal care	66.40%	35.60%

Persons in Lynn with HIV/AIDS stands at a crude rate (rate per determined population) of 376.4 per 100,000 compared to Massachusetts at 261.6 per 100,000. The number of people with tuberculosis in Lynn stands at a crude rate of 8.7 per 100,000 compared to 3.5 per 100,000 for Massachusetts. The age-adjusted crude rate of cancer deaths in Lynn stands at 223.7 per 100,000 compared to 178.9 per 100,000 in Massachusetts. Deaths from lung cancer in Lynn stand at a crude age-adjusted rate of 65.6 per 100,000 compared to 50.8 for Massachusetts. Deaths from breast cancer in Lynn stand at a crude age-adjusted rate of 20.6 per 100,000 compared to 20.1 for Massachusetts. The number of deaths in Lynn from cardiovascular disease stands at a crude age-adjusted rate of 220.5 per 100,000 compared to 214.4 for Massachusetts.¹³

Infectious and Chronic Disease Indicators

Infectious Disease	Lynn crude rate	MA crude rate
Person's with HIV/AIDS	376.4	261.6
Tuberculosis	8.7	3.5

Chronic Disease	Lynn Age Adjusted Rate	MA Age Adjusted Rate
Total Cancer Deaths	223.7	178.9
Lung Cancer Deaths	65.6	50.8
Breast Cancer Deaths	20.6	20.1
Cardiovascular disease deaths	220.5	214.4

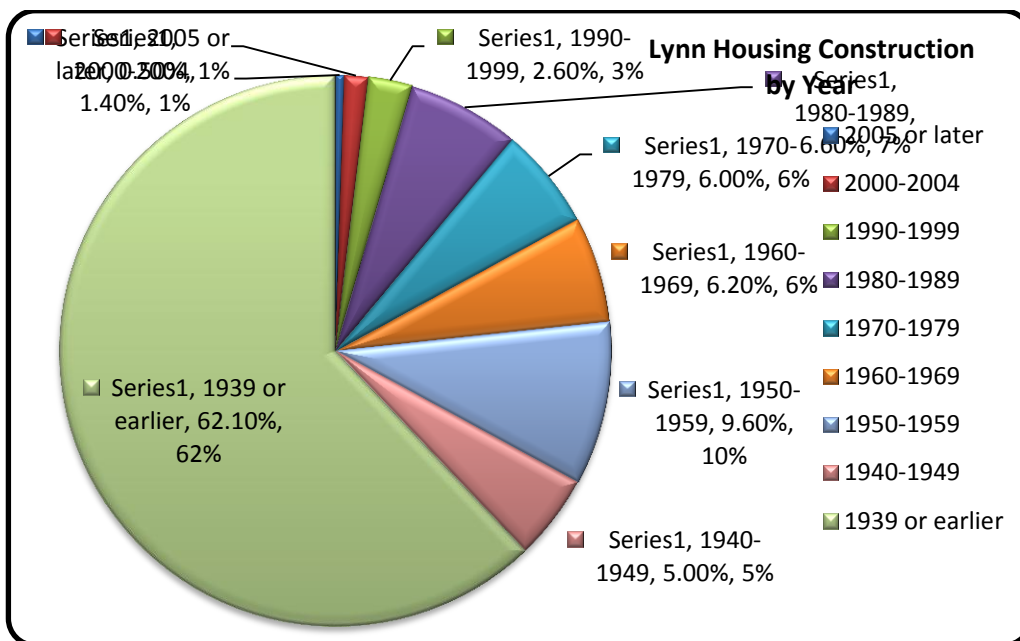
The crude rate of people in Lynn admitted into a Department of Health funded treatment program stands at 2,681.5 compared to 1,636.5 for Massachusetts. The Lynn crude rate of injection drug users admitted to a Department of Health funded treatment program stands at 1114.1 compared to 504.3 for Massachusetts. The Lynn crude rate of alcohol and other drug related hospital discharges stands at 633.5 compared to 362 for Massachusetts.¹⁴

Substance Abuse Indicators

Substance Abuse Indicators	Lynn crude rate	MA crude rate
Admissions to DPH funded treatment programs	2681.5	1636.5
Injection drug user admissions to DPH funded treatment program	1114.1	504.3
Alcohol and other drug related hospital discharges	633.5	362

Housing

The average household size in Lynn is 2.7. There were 32,388 occupied housing units in Lynn and 3,141 vacant units according to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey. The majority of houses in Lynn were built before 1939. There has been little home construction in Lynn over the last 20 years.¹⁵

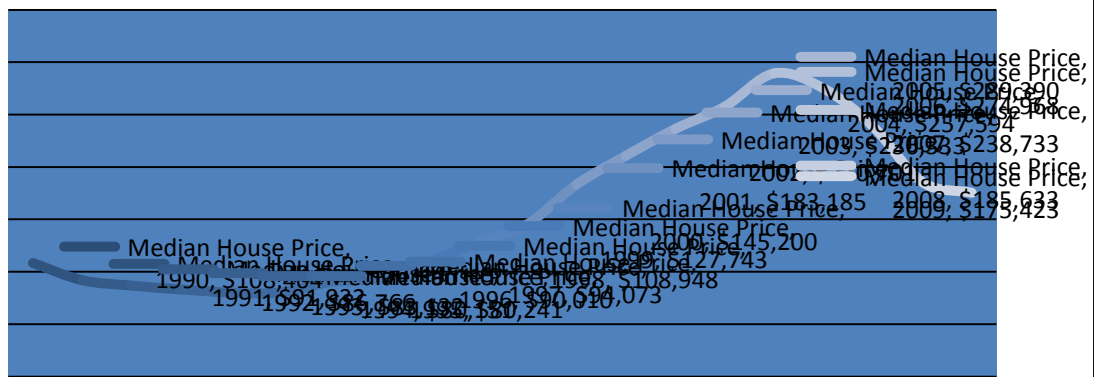


The city of Lynn experienced a sharp rise in housing prices beginning in the late 1990's. The rise in house prices coincided with a sharp rise in the issuance of sub-prime mortgages in the city. Housing prices in

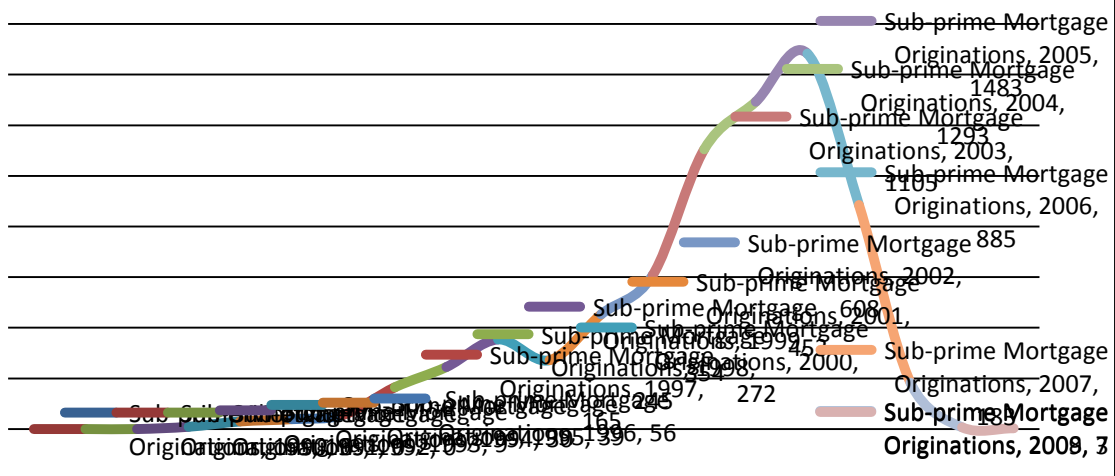
Lynn began to fall in 2006. When housing prices started to decline, the number of foreclosures increased rapidly. In 2008, Lynn had one of the highest foreclosure rates in all of Massachusetts.

Lynn had a median house price of \$108,948 in 1998. Within four years the median house price in Lynn had nearly doubled. Median house prices continued to climb for another three years before peaking in 2005 at \$289,390. The median house price fell to \$175,473 in 2009. Subprime mortgages began to appear in larger numbers in the late 1990's in Lynn. The number of subprime mortgage originations fluctuated for a few years and suddenly spiked in the mid 2000's. In 2005 there were 1,483 subprime mortgage originations in Lynn, which accounted for 21% of total mortgage originations that year. Foreclosures in Lynn fell from the late 1990's through the early 2000's. There were only 4 foreclosures in Lynn in 2003. There was a modest increase in foreclosures in the mid 2000's. Foreclosures in Lynn spiked in the late 2000's. In 2008 there were 473 foreclosures in Lynn.¹⁶

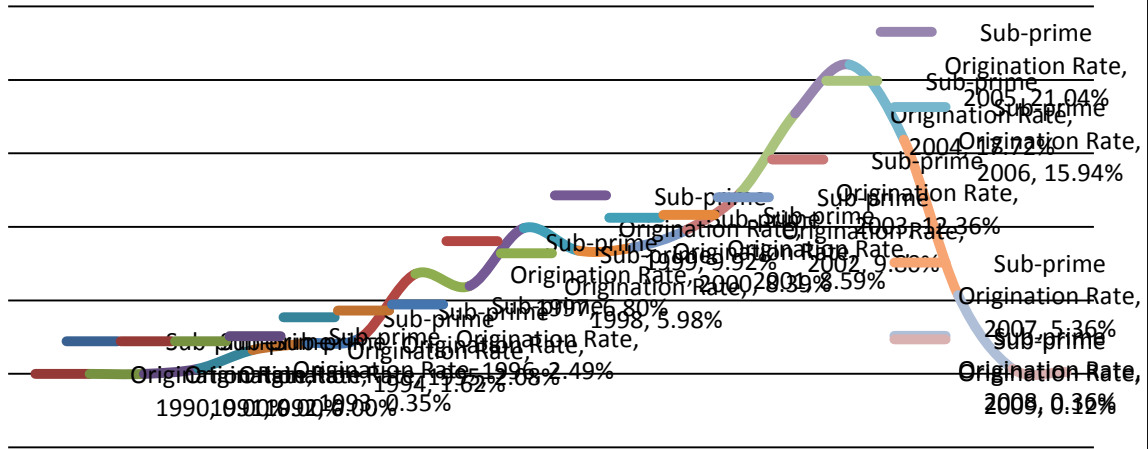
Median House Price in Lynn 1990-2009



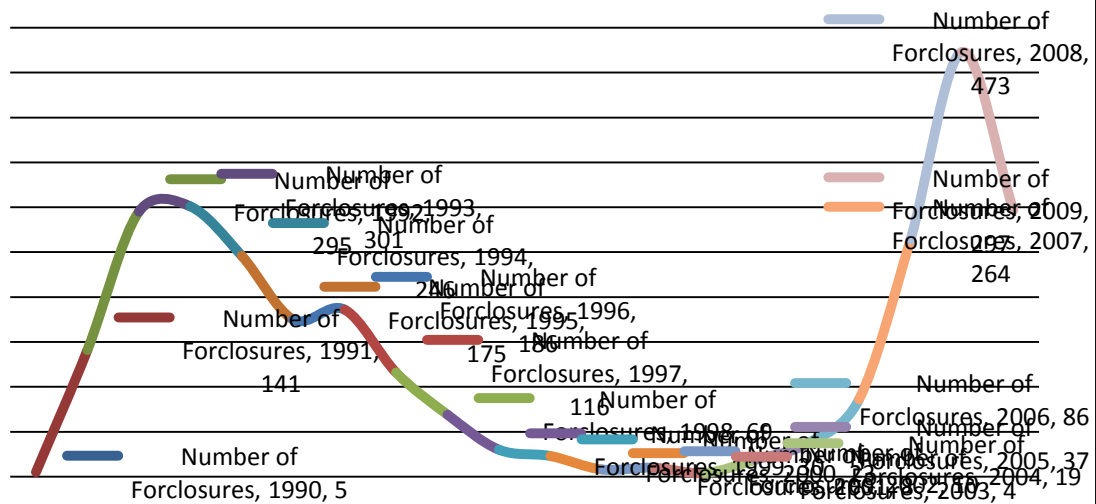
Sub-prime Mortgage Originations in Lynn 1990-2009



Sub-prime Origination Rate in Lynn 1990-2009



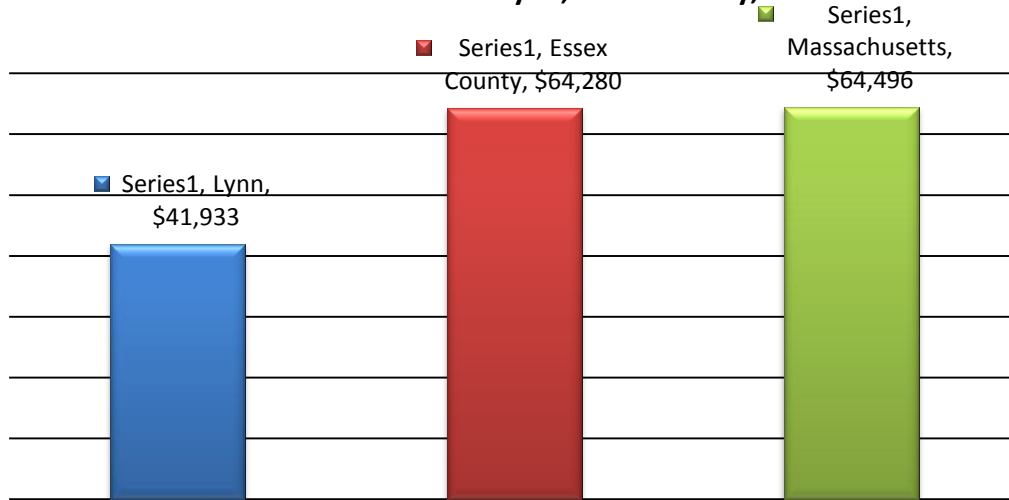
Number of Forclosures in Lynn 1990-2009



Income

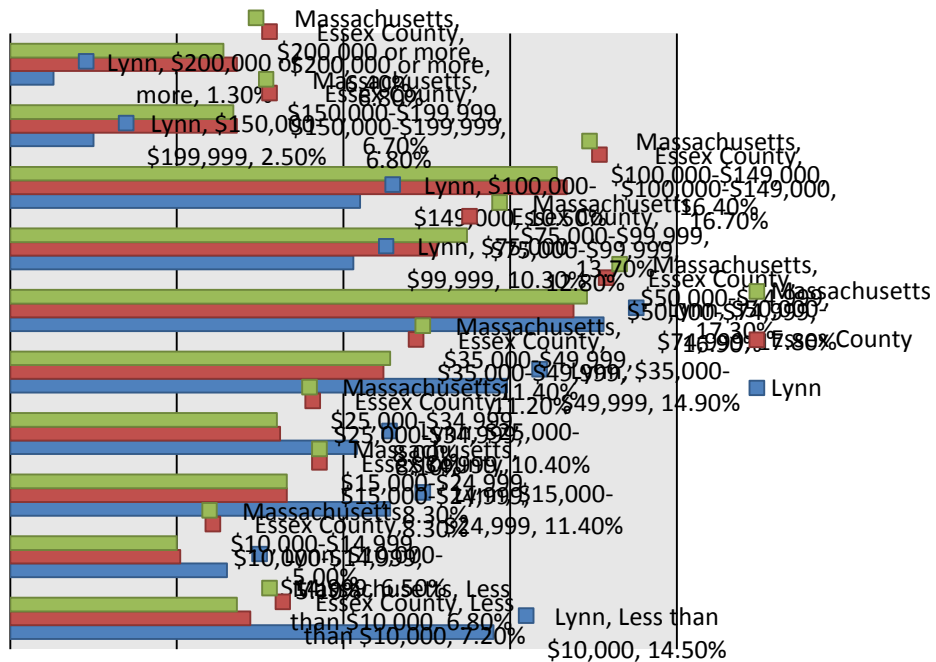
According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey, Lynn has a median income significantly below the region and state. The median household income in Lynn is \$41,933 compared to \$64,280 for Essex County and \$64,496 for Massachusetts.¹⁷

Median Household Income Lynn, Essex County, MA

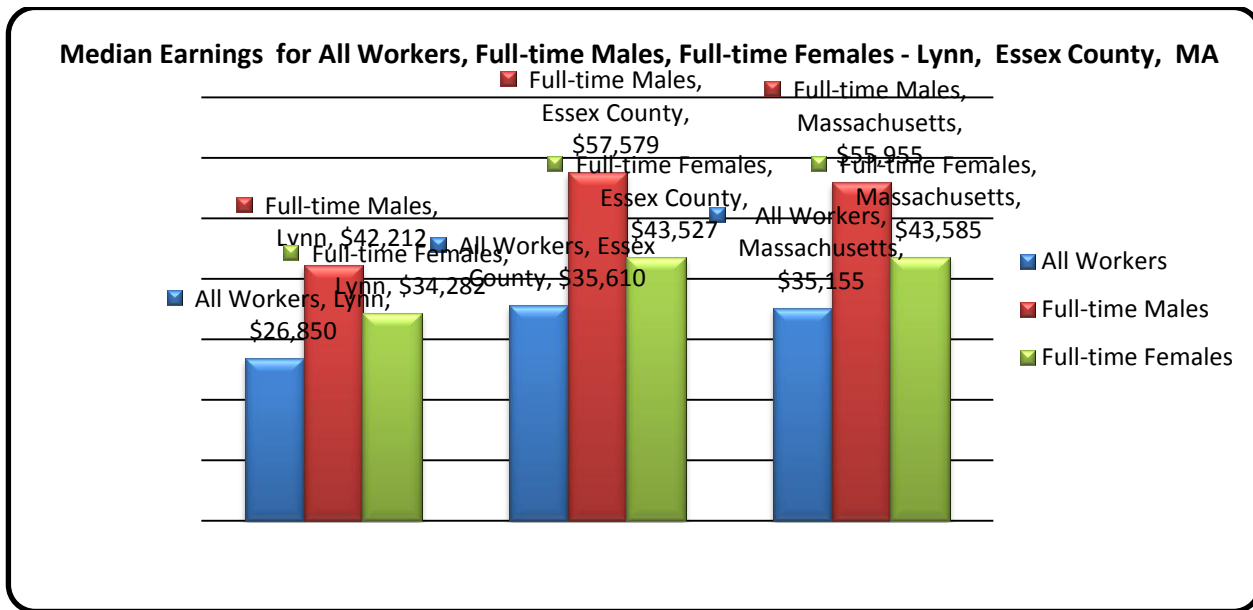


The income distribution in Lynn differs from the region and state mainly at the high income and low income levels. Lynn has an especially high concentration of very low income households making less than \$10,000 a year in income and benefits. Lynn does not differ as greatly from the region and state at the middle income and benefit levels. Lynn falls behind the region and state at the upper income and benefit levels.¹⁸

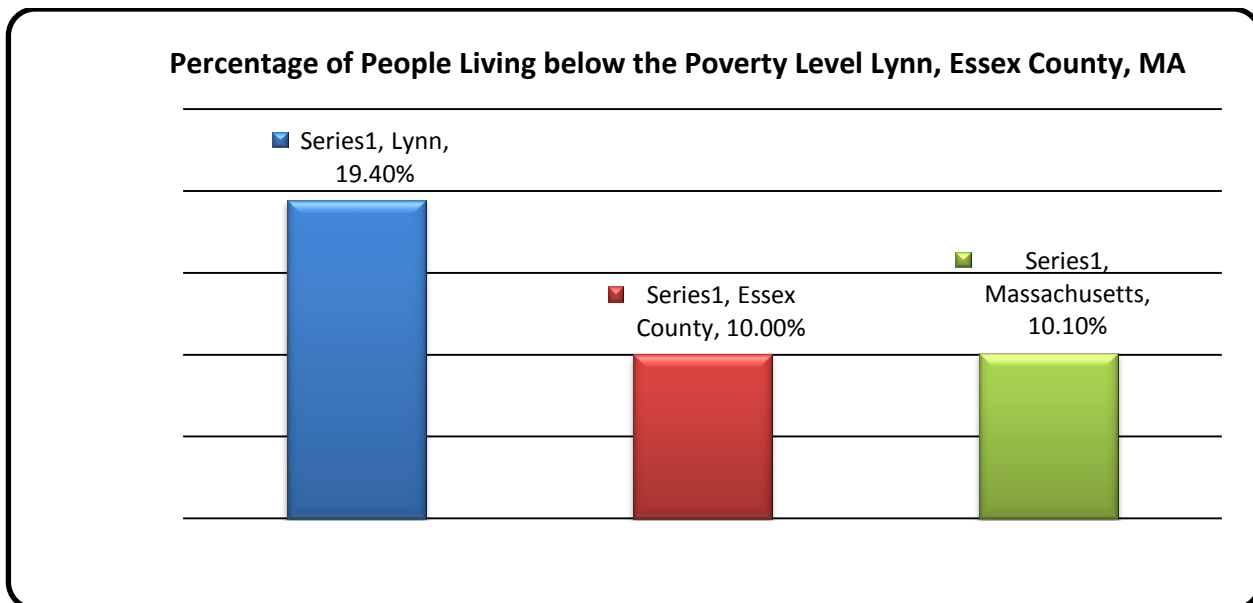
Percentage of Households by Income and Benefits- Lynn, Essex County, MA



Median earnings for all workers, full-time male workers, and full-time female workers living in Lynn are all below the regional and state levels. All workers living in Lynn had median earnings of \$26,850. Male full-time workers living in Lynn had median earnings of \$42,212. Female full-time workers living in Lynn had median earnings of \$34,282.¹⁹



The level of poverty for all residents of Lynn is nearly double the levels in Essex County and Massachusetts. The percentage of people in Lynn living below the poverty level is 19.4. The percentage of people living below the poverty level in Essex County and Massachusetts is 10.0 and 10.1 respectively.²⁰



Economic Trends

The most current information on jobs in Lynn comes from June of 2010. In broad terms the largest industries in Lynn include: health care; manufacturing; education; retail trade; and finance and insurance. The five largest industries reflected in the Massachusetts Labor and Workforce Development ES-202 data are diverse.²¹

Rank	Top 5 Industry Sectors in Lynn June 2010	Jobs	Average Weekly Wages (2010)
1	Health Care and Social Assistance	5,493	\$757
2	Manufacturing	4,527	\$1,480
3	Educational Services	2,789	\$968
4	Retail Trade	2,074	\$550
5	Finance and Insurance	1,148	\$1,275

From 2001 to 2009 Lynn lost 2,712 jobs. The losses were across a number of industries, but most concentrated in the manufacturing industry, construction industry, retail trade, and public administration. The losses in manufacturing accounted for more than half of the job losses during this period. There were a few industries that gained jobs during this period. Finance and insurance and professional and technical services accounted for 85% of all job gains.²²

Industry	Employment Growth in Lynn 2001-2009	Average Weekly Wages
Construction	-424	\$995
Manufacturing	-1385	\$1,595
Utilities	-36	\$1,239
Wholesale Trade	-87	\$1,097
Retail Trade	-247	\$549
Transportation and Warehousing	12	\$904

Information	-180	\$1,115
Finance and Insurance	248	\$1,391
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	-36	\$738
Professional and Technical Services	207	\$1,361
Management of Companies and Enterprises	-133	\$701
Administrative and Waste Services	-69	\$614
Health Care and Social Assistance	23	\$771
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	-72	\$360
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	40	\$429
Public Administration	-257	\$961
Accommodation and Food Services	-162	\$297

The middle of last decade was a period of job growth in the United States. Massachusetts experienced an employment expansion from 2003 to the middle of 2008. However, the North Shore and Lynn in particular did not share in the expansion of employment. In fact, Lynn lost ground during this period. The city saw a decline of 1,379 jobs. A shift-share analysis comparing trends in Lynn to the United States reveals the comparative strengths of the city during this period. If the city of Lynn had performed as well as the United States from 2003 to 2008, there would have been an increase of 2,843 jobs. The actual change in employment was down 1,379, this is a negative shift of 4,222. Although, there was an overall underperformance in job growth for Lynn, there were some sectors that performed comparatively better than the nation. Finance and Insurance and Professional and Technical Services were two industries in Lynn that outperformed the country as a whole. There were also a number of industry sub-sectors that performed comparatively well, even if the overall industry experienced a negative shift. These 4 digit NAICS industries are a sample of detailed industries available at the city level. The ES-202 data at the city level do not cover all 4 digit industries. However, this list provides a sense of which industries in Lynn performed best in recent years compared to the nation.²³

Industries in Lynn that Outperformed National Trends

Industry	2008 Employment	Shift	Average Weekly Wages (2008)
Depository Credit Intermediation	1,070	797	\$1,799
Home Health Care Services	848	418	\$542
Civic and Social Organizations	225	66	\$326
Bakeries and Tortilla Manufacturing	102	63	\$401
Accounting and Bookkeeping Services	98	45	\$378
Activities Related to Real Estate	138	34	\$974
Architectural and Engineering Services	180	32	\$1,132
Auto Parts, Accessories, and Tire Stores	94	22	\$545
Dry-cleaning and Laundry Services	57	15	\$318
Other Miscellaneous Store Retailers	49	13	\$392
Residential Buildings Construction	61	13	\$666
Other Amusement and Recreation Industries	61	12	\$326
Building Foundation and Exterior Contractors	44	10	\$604
Florists	34	9	\$311
Consumer Goods Rental	50	9	\$527
Electronic Markets and Agents/Brokers	23	7	\$333
Offices of Physicians	661	6	\$970
Taxi and Limousine Services	29	3	\$359
Specialty Food Stores	21	2	\$1,023
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	68	1	\$692

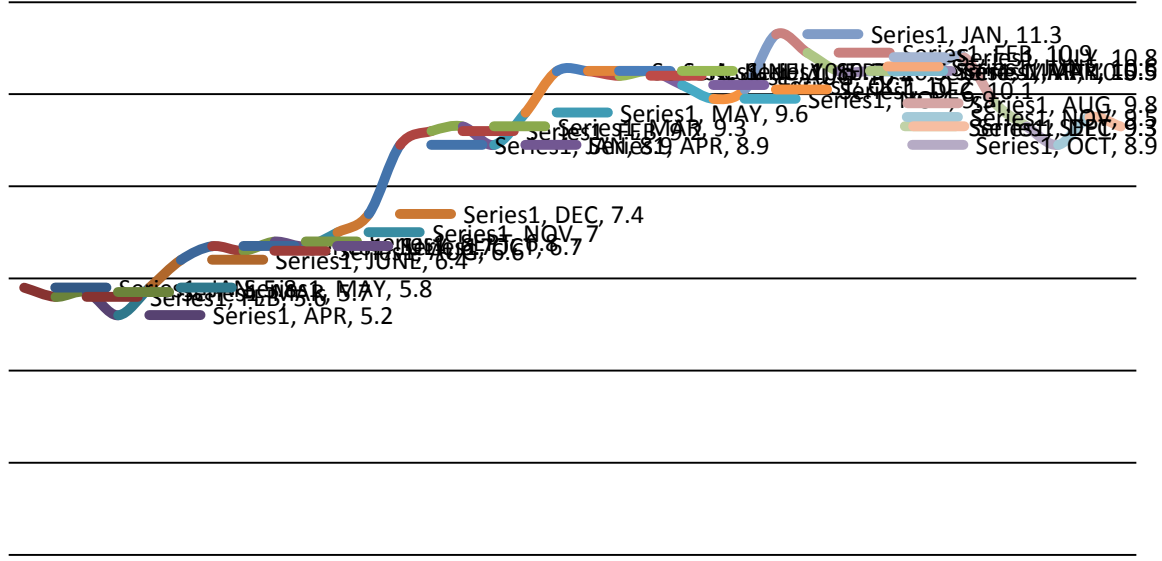
Another way to identify a region's strengths is to calculate the location quotients of the industries in the region. This reveals how concentrated a particular industry is in a region compared to a larger reference area. A location quotient above 1 indicates that the industry is more concentrated in the region than the reference area. When industries in Lynn are compared to industries in the United States there are four major industry categories that are more concentrated in Lynn than the nation as a whole in 2008. These industries included manufacturing at 2.06, health care and social assistance at 1.55, finance and insurance 1.03, and utilities at 1.01. Within the sub-categories of industries in Lynn there were several location quotients indicating higher concentrations in Lynn than the United States. Again, this list does not account for every 4 digit NAICS industry in Lynn, but gives an idea of which industries were more concentrated in Lynn than the overall United States.²⁴

Lynn Industry Location Quotients

Industry	2008 Employment	Location Quotient	Average Weekly Wages (2008)
Civic and Social Organizations	225	4.7	\$326
Home Health Care Services	848	4.5	\$542
Individual and Family Services	763	3.4	\$541
Depository Credit Intermediation	1,070	2.7	\$1,799
Beer, Wine, and Liquor Stores	61	2.3	\$410
Taxi and Limousine Services	29	2.2	\$359
Death Care Services	53	2.1	\$605
Florists	34	2.0	\$311
Bakeries and Tortilla Manufacturing	102	1.9	\$401
Motor Vehicle/Part Merchant Wholesalers	127	1.7	\$671
Machine Shops and Threaded Products	125	1.7	\$1,064
Health and Personal Care Stores	313	1.6	\$523
Offices of Physicians	661	1.6	\$970
Direct Selling Establishments	63	1.6	\$643
Offices of Dentists	226	1.4	\$816
Outpatient Care Centers	170	1.3	\$788
Grocery Stores	582	1.2	\$372
Nursing Care Facilities	359	1.2	\$614
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	68	1.2	\$692

The 2008 recession and financial crisis have had a substantial impact on employment in Lynn. Between June 2008 and January 2010 unemployment in the city of Lynn increased from 6.4% to 11.3%. Since unemployment peaked in January 2010 there was a decline in the unemployment rate to 9.3% in December 2010. Throughout the recession the health care and social assistance sector continued to grow in Lynn. Manufacturing in Lynn lost jobs at an accelerated rate throughout the recession. Construction lost a large share of employment between June 2008 and January 2010, but recovered some of the losses by June of 2010.²⁵

Lynn Unemployment Rate January 2008-December 2010



Industry	June 2008 Employment	June 2010 Employment	Employment Change
Construction	560	487	-73
Manufacturing	5,151	4,527	-624
Utilities	120	125	5
Wholesale Trade	566	566	0
Retail Trade	1,998	2,074	76
Information	239	259	20
Finance and Insurance	1,228	1,148	-80
Professional and Technical Services	651	585	-66
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,960	5,493	533
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	197	89	-108

Accommodations and Food Services	1,109	1,178	69
Transportation and Warehousing	499	440	-59
Administrative and Waste Services	752	676	-76
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	303	293	-10

The North Shore Workforce Investment Board has identified four industries as critical to the North Shore economy. These industries include construction, manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and finance and insurance. The employment trends in Lynn from 2001 to 2010 in these critical industries reflected the trends on the North Shore generally. Between June 2001 and June 2010 the North Shore saw an employment decline in the construction and manufacturing industries, and saw employment growth in the health care and social assistance and finance and insurance industries. The construction industry on the North Shore experienced an employment decline of 828. During the same time period, Lynn experienced an employment decline of 445 in the construction industry. From 2001 to 2010, the North Shore had an employment decline of 7,697 in the manufacturing industry. The manufacturing industry in Lynn had an employment decline of 1,666. The North Shore saw an employment gain of 6,215 in the health care and social assistance industry. While Lynn also gained in this industry the increase in employment was only 237, which is about 4% of the regional employment gain. The North Shore had an employment gain of 148 in the finance and insurance industry during this period. Lynn actually had a larger employment increase in this industry than the North Shore with a net-gain of 259. Depository credit intermediation was the force behind Lynn's strength in the finance and insurance sector.²⁶

Industry	North Shore 2001-2010 Employment Net-Gain	Average Weekly Wages (2010)	Lynn 2001-2010 Employment Net-Gain	Average Weekly Wages (2010)
Construction	-828	\$1,063	-445	\$965
Manufacturing	-7,697	\$1,401	-1,666	\$1,480
Health Care and Social Assistance	6,215	\$903	237	\$757
Finance and Insurance	148	\$1,274	259	\$1,275
*Depository Credit Intermediation (Banking)	324	\$1,029	246	\$1,364

When comparing the most recent employment numbers in Lynn to those within the North Shore workforce investment area the extent to which Lynn is participating in the regional economy becomes clearer. There are seven general sectors in which Lynn has a higher employment concentration than the North Shore. The industries with higher employment concentrations in Lynn include: manufacturing; utilities; transportations and warehousing; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; educational services; and health care and social assistance. There are nine general sectors in which employment in Lynn is less concentrated than the North Shore. The industries with lower employment concentrations in Lynn include: construction; wholesale trade; retail trade; information; professional and technical services; administrative and waste services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; and other services.²⁷

Industry	North Shore	Lynn	North Shore Average Weekly Wages	Lynn Average Weekly Wages
Construction	3.71%	2.15%	\$1,063	\$965
Manufacturing	9.75%	19.94%	\$1,401	\$1,480
Utilities	0.46%	0.55%	\$1,568	\$1,159
Wholesale Trade	3.51%	2.49%	\$1,459	\$1,172
Retail Trade	15.21%	9.14%	\$522	\$550
Transportation and Warehousing	1.91%	1.94%	\$998	\$952
Information	2.04%	1.14%	\$976	\$1,125
Finance and Insurance	3.42%	5.06%	\$1,274	\$1,275
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1.16%	1.29%	\$909	\$697
Professional and Technical Services	4.65%	2.58%	\$1,338	\$1,283
Administrative and Waste Services	4.07%	2.98%	\$619	\$604
Educational Services	9.23%	12.29%	\$993	\$968
Health Care and Social Assistance	18.66%	24.20%	\$903	\$757
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2.45%	0.39%	\$427	\$354
Accommodation and Food Services	9.86%	5.19%	\$323	\$288

The Crittenton Women’s Union, a Massachusetts based think-tank and advocacy group has developed an economic independence calculator to determine living pay around the state. According to the economic independence calculator a single adult with no children in Lynn would need to earn at least \$28,361 a year to be financially independent. The level of income required for a single adult with an infant child to be financially independent is \$47,622. The level of income required for a single adult with a school age child is \$45,514. A household in Lynn with two adults and no children would require a yearly income of \$36,751. A household in Lynn with two adults and an infant child would require a yearly income of at least \$56,404. The level of income required for a household with two adults and a school age child in Lynn is \$54,231.²⁸

	One Adult		Two Adults	
	Yearly	Weekly	Yearly	Weekly
No Children	\$28,361	\$545	\$36,751	\$706
1 Infant Child	\$47,622	\$915	\$56,404	\$1,084
1 School Age Child	\$45,514	\$875	\$54,231	\$1,042

In the second quarter of 2010 the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development conducted a survey to identify job vacancy rates in Massachusetts. In the northeast region of the state there were six occupational groups with “high” levels of job vacancies. These occupational groups included management; computer and mathematical; architecture and engineering; life, physical, and social services; health care practitioner and technical; and health care support.²⁹

Occupational Group	# of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate	Hiring Demand Index	Descriptor
Totals	7,850	2.0%	1.00	–
Management	568	2.3%	2.22	high
Business & Financial Operations	302	1.5%	0.86	avg
Computer & Mathematical	567	3.2%	1.70	high
Architecture & Engineering	393	2.7%	2.13	high
Life, Physical, & Social Services	324	5.0%	3.20	high
Community & Social Services	107	1.3%	0.77	low
Legal	*	0.4%	0.24	low
Education, Training & Library	330	1.1%	0.72	low
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	80	1.6%	0.80	avg
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	629	2.3%	1.48	high
Healthcare Support	449	3.3%	1.22	high
Protective Service	126	1.4%	0.90	avg
Food Preparation & Serving Related	954	2.4%	0.51	low
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	140	1.4%	0.67	low
Personal Care & Service	205	1.7%	0.55	low
Sales & Related	1,144	2.8%	1.01	avg
Office & Administrative Support	644	0.9%	0.45	low
Construction & Extraction	124	0.8%	0.43	low
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	172	1.1%	0.72	low
Production	374	1.2%	0.62	low
Transportation & Material Moving	200	1.0%	0.37	low

Based on the second quarter 2010 survey the Executive office of Labor and Workforce Development developed a report on the expectations of business hiring in the third quarter of 2010. The industries in northeast Massachusetts with the most likelihood of hiring in the near future included transportation and warehousing; information; wholesale trade; and accommodation and food services.³⁰

Industry Name	Increase	Same	Decrease	Not Sure	Net Hiring Outlook
Total, All Industries	18%	70%	4%	8%	14%
Utilities	5%	85%	0%	10%	5%
Construction	21%	64%	4%	11%	17%
Manufacturing	17%	67%	5%	11%	12%
Wholesale Trade	24%	66%	2%	7%	22%
Retail Trade	27%	54%	5%	14%	21%
Transportation & Warehousing	41%	41%	6%	12%	35%
Information	28%	60%	0%	12%	28%
Finance & Insurance	6%	88%	0%	6%	6%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	12%	76%	6%	6%	6%
Professional & Technical Services	19%	75%	3%	3%	17%
Management	19%	69%	4%	8%	15%
Administrative & Support & Waste Services	20%	70%	3%	7%	17%
Educational Services	4%	81%	13%	1%	-9%
Healthcare	13%	79%	2%	6%	11%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	19%	69%	12%	0%	8%
Accommodation & Food Services	24%	70%	2%	4%	22%
Other Services	21%	71%	5%	3%	16%
Public Administration	0%	91%	4%	4%	-4%

Prospects: What We Can Do

The conditions summarized in this report paint a difficult picture for those of us committed to Lynn. It serves no purpose to ignore the hardships we face, just as we described Lynn's strengths and resources in the Forward to this report. And we understand that the roots of the problems Lynn face are often far from our town, in the economic policies driven by large corporations that don't pay taxes and a government that thinks free trade, deregulation and privatization are somehow worth the devastation they have brought working people.

The New Lynn Coalition is committed to help build Lynn in several concrete ways in the here and now, working with our elected officials at all levels, other employees of the city and the school system, and all those who share our hopes for our city.

To build momentum to help change Lynn for the better, we need to increase civic engagement at many levels. The Highlands Coalition is circulating a petition to return a voting polling place at the Ford School, which makes it harder for residents in that neighborhood to get involved. The North Shore Labor Council and others in New Lynn are expanding its rolls for voting and other civic activities by going door to door and recruiting members for Working America, the three million strong community affiliate of the national AFL-CIO. Several hundred have already joined. While New Lynn itself is non-partisan, Neighbor to Neighbor and the Labor Council both endorse candidates for public office.

You cannot address any other problems in a city without decent-paying jobs. The Essex County Community Organization (ECCO) and IUE-CWA Local 201 have collaborated with the Greater Boston Machine Tool Association to produce the "E-Team" machinist training program. The E-Team has produced some 300 skilled machinists while other machinist training classes have been shut down, and has been credited with filling the shortage of machinists in the industry with eager workers who are on a path to good jobs with a living wage and benefits. The North Shore Labor Council and Neighbor to Neighbor are working with LHAND, the Laborers Union and National Grid to train workers to weatherize houses and small business in Lynn. This weatherization pilot program intends to provide living wage jobs in a growing and productive industry for many years. ECCO has brought funds to Lynn for youth summer jobs and several New Lynn partners are working with the SPIN center to explore an aquaponics prototype which may become a cooperatively owned workers project. (The prototype can be viewed in the window of the SPIN center on Union St., and has yielded its first harvest!) New Lynn looks forward to development of the Waterfront Masterplan developed by the city of Lynn in a way that benefits all Lynn residents with accessible spaces and living wage, union jobs. New Lynn partners in the labor movement have to improve already existing work by organizing for a voice on the job as Lynn residents have in the last year joined unions or won their first contract at Union Hospital (SEIU 1199), Bridgewell (SEIU 509) and Budget Rent-A-Car (IUE-CWA Local 201). Lynn United for Change has brought legal aid to homeowners facing foreclosure--and protests to the streets when the banks don't want to cooperate--to save homes for Lynn residents and the neighborhoods they live in. The Lynn Workers Center, a product of the North Shore Labor Council, will provide basic information in workers' rights on the job at Operation Bootstrap.

Lynn's history and diverse culture are among our strengths. We are preceded by giants of Lynn who changed the world, from the greatest abolitionist Frederick Douglas, the pioneering women's rights activist Abbey Kelley, and the leader of the greatest labor movement in US history up to that point (the great shoe strike of 1860), Alonzo Draper. Understanding that, the Highlands Coalition worked with Mass Humanities and the Lynn Museum to produce an extraordinary reading of the powerful July 4, 1852 speech of the famous Lynn abolitionist Frederick Douglas at High Rock Tower this year. Lynners read portions of the speech in English, Spanish, Khmer and Haitian Creole. Neighbor to Neighbor screened "South of the Border", a film that looked at countries seeking alternative roads to national development in South America. From the Walnut St Cafe to Lynn Arts, the city is becoming a thriving multicultural center.

Understanding the economy around us is essential to understanding how to change it. The New Lynn Coalition itself screened "The Inside Job" at the Lynn Arts Theater and offered trainings on the roots of the financial crisis that has devastated our town. And little will be accomplished without research and study of the challenges we face. This paper itself is a product of a partnership between New Lynn and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. To understand the market in aquaponics, New Lynn participated in a study project with the COOP center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, visited the Mondragon cooperatives in the Basque country of Spain, and benefited from a detailed study of the business plans and prospects of two aquaponics projects in Milwaukee by an MIT student working as our partner.

Political Action, Economic Development, Culture and Education, and Research are the four legs of the work of our coalition, with all our various partners among other community organizations, elected officials, businesses, and social agencies. We are committed to the city for the long haul--because we love the city, its people, its history, and its prospects.

Work with us to build a New Lynn.

Jeff Crosby

Partners in the New Lynn Coalition include:

North Shore Labor Council
Lynn Neighbor to Neighbor
Highland Coalition
Essex County Community Organization
SEIU 1199
IUE CWA Local 201
Mass Senior Action (Lynn Chapter)
Haitian Elders
Lynn United for Change

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