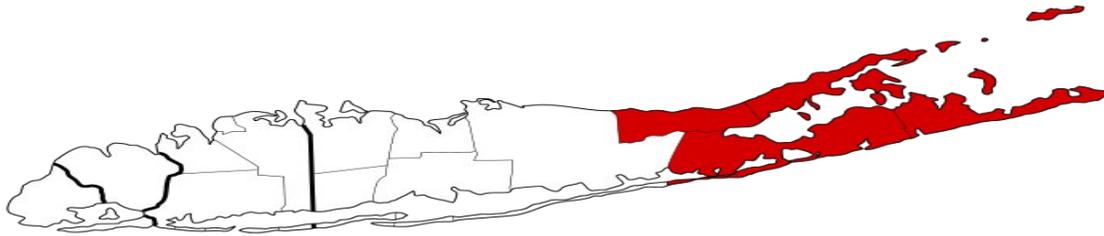


## DRAFT

### East End of Long Island Regional Report for Youth



***Introduction:*** The East End of Long Island represents five Towns (East Hampton, Southampton, Southold, Riverhead and Shelter Island) as well as ten incorporated villages (East Hampton, Southampton, Sag Harbor, Westhampton Beach, West Hampton Dunes, Sagaponack, Quogue, North Haven, Dering Harbor and Greenport.) Also included within the geographic region is the Shinnecock Indian Reservation which is federally recognized as a self-governing body. These intricate layers of government are perceived by some as fragmented and bureaucratic. The East End encompasses an enormous land mass and is surrounded primarily by water.

Many unique aspects of the East End impact the development of youth. The beauty and rural character of the East End has made the region a tourist destination that is also favored by second-homeowners and retirees. There is wide perception that the East End and specifically the South Fork are extremely affluent communities.

Frequently year-round residents are forced to move out of the area because they are priced-out of the housing market. This most impacts high school graduates and returning college students as they cannot find meaningful employment and affordable housing. The “brain drain” that is endemic to Long Island is exacerbated on the East End. While working class families struggle to remain in the area, pockets of poverty are found throughout the East End with Southampton and Riverhead having some of the most economically distressed communities within Long Island. In fact the Suffolk County Planning Department lists six hamlets located within the East End as the most economically distressed (of ten hamlets.)

Working families and the poor also struggle with an additional impediment, the lack of public transportation on the East End. There is one bus (S-92) that runs from Orient Point to Greenport Village through Riverhead Town and to Southampton and Sag Harbor ending in East Hampton at the railroad station before it loops back. The service is often unreliable and the ride from beginning to end is over 3 hours. There are arterial

bus loops that make connections to various hamlet destinations. To many the route is only convenient to those individuals who live near bus lines leaving many unable to avail of its service.

**2010 Census Information:**

The 2010 United States Census reported 29,460 year-round residents under the age of 21 living on the East End. Their respective communities are as follows:

East Hampton Town	4,567 (East Hampton Village 176)
Riverhead Town	7,904
Shelter Island	436
Southampton Town	12,304 (Village 558 & Sag Harbor 423)
Southold Town	4,249 (Greenport Village 484)

**Trends and Projections:**

Existing trends and projections for the future illustrate the following realities that require planning of government and local service providers:

- Increase of senior citizens
- Increase of second-homeowners, many of whom become retirees
- Decrease of school-aged children
- Increase of Latino population
- Decrease of government funding
- Stagnation of household income
- Decrease of childcare subsidies
- Increase of applications for food stamps
- Increase in incidents of domestic violence

**Statement of Need:** The following extrapolation of data supports the need for prevention and intervention programs and services for youth living on the East End of Long Island.

**Economic Indicators:**

1. **Poverty** Economic Distress Indicators measure the percentage of the population below the poverty level as well as the percentage of unemployed adults. In the

hamlet of Riverside 24.59% of its inhabitants are below poverty and 18.39% are unemployed. In Greenport village, 29.15% of its inhabitants are below poverty and 7.39% are unemployed. Riverhead has 11.10% of its inhabitants below poverty and 11.11% are unemployed. Students residing in the following East End school districts qualify for free/reduced lunches: Greenport (90%), Philips Avenue (80%), Bridgehampton (50%), Hampton Bays (36%), Riverhead (37%), Tuckahoe (32%), Southampton (25%), East Hampton (24%) and Springs (24%.)

2. **Employment** 76% of teens aged 16-19 years of age residing on the East End are unemployed. The East End’s resort economy can offer seasonal work but there are very few opportunities for youth to enter the labor force year-round. In addition, there are minimal career-track employment opportunities for high school graduates.
3. **Lack of Insurance** Newsday reported that many residents living on the East End lack health insurance coverage as noted below:

Flanders	38.7%
Greenport	35.1
Shinnecock Hills	30.9
Noyak	22
Riverhead	21.9
Aquebogue	20.7

Seven hamlets on the East End were included within the top fifteen communities on Long Island lacking health insurance.

**Social and Health Indicators:**

1. **Teen Pregnancy** The Suffolk County average of teen pregnancy is 23.5 per one thousand, the following hamlets exceed the average: Riverhead 47.6% and Greenport 33.9%
2. **Substance Abuse** (Data provided by Southampton Youth Bureau Teen Assessment Project for Riverhead and Southampton Town school districts 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Data provided by North Fork Alliance for Southold Town school districts (excluding Fishers Island) students 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.)

<u>Student Survey Reports</u>	<u>Riverhead</u>	<u>Southampton</u>	<u>Southold</u>
Alcohol use in lifetime	50%	52%	48%
Alcohol use in last month	15%	20%	29%
Binge drinking past month	14%	18%	19%

Marijuana use in lifetime	30%	29%	25%
Marijuana use past month	13%	15%	15%

Analysis of this data reveals that students residing on the East End of Long Island are well above the national average in their use and abuse of alcohol and drugs. Also there is a reported increase of heroin use among young adults on the East End that has prompted Senator Kenneth LaValle and Assemblymen Fred Thiele and Anthony Palumbo to convene a taskforce of elected leaders named H.A.L.T. (Heroin Addiction Leadership Taskforce.)

**Mental Health** (Data provided by Southampton Youth Bureau Teen Assessment Project for Riverhead and Southampton 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.)

Reported depression	42%	37%	no data
Considered/attempted suicide	18%	16%	no data
Self-injury	13%	12%	no data

There are no facilities to address serious mental health needs of youth on the East End and data supports that many youth mental health needs are much higher on the East End compared to national averages. The closest hospital for emergency mental health services is Stony Brook University Medical Center which can exceed 75 miles for many East End residents. Most counseling services have a very long waiting list that prevents youth from receiving the services that they need. In addition to waiting lists and difficulty to access needed services, many providers do not accept insurance and few offer bilingual services.

**Other Indicators:**

1. **Child Abuse** The Department of Social Services reported 628 cases of child abuse in 2012 on the East End (excludes Riverhead as no data provided.)
2. **School Suspensions** Two school districts on the East End reported an inordinately high percentage of students suspended: East Hampton 8% and Westhampton 7%
3. **Juvenile Justice/Gang Involvement** Gang involvement was once a major social problem on the East End however it has abated due to many educational strategies. The most current data reveals that 3% of students in Riverhead are involved with gangs, 4% in Southampton and 5% in Southold.
4. **Criminal Court and Family Court Supervision Probationers (for youth ages 16-21):** 133 reported cases April 2014. Southold Police report that in 2013 a total of 46 juveniles had criminal cases that resulted in 5 arrests that were prosecuted through family court. Riverhead Police report that in 2013 a total of 18 cases were referred to family court and 19 PINS petitions were processed.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Through the Suffolk County Office of Mental Health, establish a centrally located behavioral health clinic (e.g. Flanders) that has mobile capabilities to serve all youth on the East End to address mental health and/or substance abuse needs. This resource would be accessed by parents, school counselors and youth service providers to provide assessment, treatment and counseling services.
2. Through the Suffolk County Department of Labor, develop a centrally located satellite employment center in Riverhead with mobile capabilities to serve East End youth ages 16 to 25 to offer assistance with employment opportunities, trade and computer training, resume writing, job coaches, etc.
3. Enhance existing public transportation opportunities through more service and additional routes.
4. With East End youth service providers, police departments, hospitals and physicians, improve and streamline data reporting and collection to capture more accurate data of needs of youth living on the East End.

### **Illustrative Case Study from Beth Maccagli**

*I provide Parenting skills classes to people who are mandated by CPS. A young woman from Greenport was referred to me and I am located in Riverhead. Since she is mandated to take a parenting program within a certain time frame she had no choice but to sign up for my program, as there were none available to her in Greenport. She was also receiving her Substance abuse treatment in Riverhead for the same reason. Her schedule for me was 45 minutes for 8 – 10 individual sessions one time weekly. She could not schedule me on the same days as her treatment due to timing conflicts, so she came into Riverhead 4 times a week for 4 separate appointments each lasting approximately 45 minutes to an hour. It took this young lady at least 2 hours (plus wait time) to travel (public transportation) to each appointment. She also attended Court several times a month for both CPS and criminal charges. Through Court she was mandated to obtain mental health and physical health evaluations, with appointments made at the Riverhead County Center.*

Report prepared by the Suffolk County Youth Board Coordinating Council's Subcommittee to address needs of youth living on the East End:

1. Phillip Beltz, Town of Southold Special Projects Coordinator (also serves as Youth Bureau Director)
2. Jason Hann, Legislator Jay Schneiderman's Office
3. Nancy Lynott, Town of Southampton Youth Bureau Director
4. Beth Maccagli, Town of Riverhead Youth Counselor Police Department

5. Gwynn Schroeder, Legislator Al Krupski's Office