

**TV News Coverage of New Jersey:
A snapshot of the evening news on NJTV, WNBC and WPVI**

**Dr. Matthew Hale
Associate Professor and MPA director
Seton Hall University
&
Visiting Research Fellow
Norman Lear Center
University of Southern California
Annenberg School for Communication**

February 7, 2013

**Dr. Matthew Hale
halematt@shu.edu
609-240-2171**

TV News Coverage of New Jersey: A snapshot of the evening news on NJTV, WNBC and WPVI

Executive Summary:

The primary goal of this study is to explore *how much* local TV news coverage is devoted to the people of New Jersey and the issues important to them. In addition, we examine *how* the people and issues of New Jersey are portrayed on local television news and hope to offer some insight that go beyond quantity to the quality of New Jersey news coverage. The primary comparisons are between the highest-rated network stations in New York City (WNBC) and Philadelphia (WPVI) and New Jersey's public television station (NJTV). However, we do discover some interesting differences between coverage in New York and Philadelphia which reflect differences between North and South Jersey.

Using a system called TVEyes (www.tveyes.com) we attempted to capture the weekday evening (6:00 to 6:30pm) news broadcasts that each station (NJTV, WNBC and WPVI) aired from October 1, 2012 to November 6, 2012. This time period was designed to focus our efforts on coverage of the 2012 election season. However, Hurricane Sandy's appearance obviously came to dominate all news coverage starting on October 25th. Hurricane Sandy also made it impossible for TVEyes to capture news on NJTV for the two days following the storm as well as some partial broadcasts on WPVI. In the end, we were able to capture and analyze 1,518 separate "story" segments, which include ads, sports, weather, teasers as well as traditional news stories. In total, we captured about 39 hours of local news or the equivalent of 25 evening broadcasts per station. All stories were coded by two people and any dissents were re-coded by the principle investigator.

Overall, the results show that by every measure NJTV provides significantly more and in most cases qualitatively better news coverage of New Jersey than either network affiliate. Some examples include;

- Eighty-nine (89%) percent of all news stories aired on NJTV centered on New Jersey. In comparison, just 17% of the stories on WNBC and 24% of the stories on WPVI focused on New Jersey.
- WNBC devoted 14% of their stories to places outside the Northeast region, almost as much as they did to New Jersey (17%).
- NJTV spends more time on actual news. WPVI devoted 50% of an average 30 minute newscast to advertising, teasers, sports and weather. For WNBC the figure is 42%, while NJTV on average devoted just 19% of its broadcast to these non-news topics.

- Not counting Hurricane coverage the two top story topics on NJTV were elections and government affairs while crime and sports were the top two topics on both network stations.
- Thirty-five percent (35%) of all the WNBC stories about New Jersey focused on crime and 22% of the New Jersey stories aired by WPVI focused on crime. On NJTV the figure was just 8%.
- A “typical” half hour of news on NJTV includes over 6 times more election coverage than a typical half-hour on WPVI and almost five times more than WNBC.
- Over 6 in 10 NJTV broadcasts started with an election story. Just 1 in 10 WNBC broadcasts led with elections and only 5 out of 100 WPVI broadcasts kicked off with an election story.
- NJTV aired more election focused stories (71) than the two network stations combined (60). Almost 8 out of 10 of NJTV’s election stories were linked to New Jersey, while just 2 out of 10 of the network election stories had a New Jersey connection.
- NJTV is the only station of the three that covered races for the US Congress in a substantive way. Congressional candidates on NJTV were given lengthy and substantive interviews while on WNBC and WPVI congressional candidates were non-existent or begging for a sound-bite.
- About 3 out of 10 of NJTV’s election stories focused on substantive issues. In comparison, only 2 out of 10 of the election stories on WPVI and just 1 out of 10 of WNBC’s election stories were on substantive issues.
- While NJTV was the clear “winner” in terms of content, it just as clearly suffers in comparison to the networks in production values and resources available to capture news. This was especially evident when it came to coverage of Hurricane Sandy.
- In comparison to its network counterparts, NJTV is more likely to aim and frame its stories at politicians, policy makers and business leader and less likely to frame its stories at average citizens.

The findings of this report provide an important and interesting glimpse into how New Jersey is portrayed on local TV news. It is, however, important to remember that it is only a snap shot of a specific time and with a limited number of stations. In addition, all of the findings are influenced by Hurricane Sandy, both in terms of the actual news content and in our ability to capture it. Future research is needed to compare a greater number of stations over a longer period of time before a definitive picture emerges.

Despite these qualifications, it is clear that over the time period captured NJTV, in comparison to two network stations, is an excellent source of news and information about the state and people of New Jersey.

What does a “typical” half-hour of news look like?

Table One shows what it would look like if we condensed all of the news time analyzed into a single 30 minute news broadcast. It is important to note that on both WNBC and WPVI almost half of the 30 minute news broadcast is devoted to sports, weather, advertising and teasers (“*We will be right back after the break with a report on....*”). In contrast NJTV does not do sports, only has a short screen shot with weather temperatures and devotes less time to advertising.

Researchers have long shown that local TV news focuses a great deal of attention on crime and crime related stories (Kaplan & Hale 2010; Lipschultz and Hilt, 2002; Yanich, 2001.) Stories about crime, courts, law enforcement and terrorism dominated both WNBC and WPVI. If we exclude advertising/teasers, sports and weather, WNBC devoted 32% of its actual news hole to these crime stories¹. WPVI spent 25% of its actual news hole on crime. In contrast, NJTV devoted just 2.8% of its actual news stories to crime.

Table One also shows that NJTV’s stories were (on average) slightly longer than the other stations. The average, however, is somewhat misleading. NJTV aired significantly more stories that were really long (greater than 4 minutes) and really short (less than 30 seconds), while the networks were more uniform.

Table One: A Typical Half Hour

topics	All three stations	NJTV	WNBC	WPVI
Hurricane Sandy	5 min 22 secs	4 min 20 secs	5 min 57 secs	5 min 8 secs
Ads/teasers/bumpers	7 min 42 secs	5 min 34 secs	8 min 8 secs	8 min 35 secs
Sports and weather	3 min 36 secs	12 secs	4 min 35 secs	6 min 27 secs
Crime/Courts/Law	3 min 24 secs	41 secs	5 min 29 secs	3 min 41 secs
Economy/jobs/business	1 min 6 secs	2 min 29 secs	15 secs	18 secs
Traffic/Transportation	49 secs	21 secs	1 min 3 secs	58 secs
Government affairs	1 min 16 secs	2 min 52 secs	16 secs	22 secs
Health/Education	1 min 4 secs	1 min 47 secs	30 secs	44 secs
Arts, science, religion	22 secs	46 secs	9 secs	5 secs
Fires and disasters	19 secs	0 secs	19 secs	37 secs
International news	4 secs	0 secs	10 secs	0 secs
Local Interest (awards/openings etc)	48 secs	25 secs	40 secs	1 min 17 secs
Weirdness (2 headed toads)	9 secs	0 secs	15 secs	8 secs
Election coverage	3 min 52 secs	10 min 31 secs	2 min 15secs	1 min 39 secs
Average story length	All three stations	NJTV	WNBC	WPVI
	75 secs	81 secs	73 secs	60 secs

What Leads the News?

Station personnel make choices about what is the most important or “lead” story. By looking at these “lead” story topics we get a sense of each station’s priorities. Table Two reports the percentage of lead stories by topic for each station. Stories about Hurricane Sandy as well as ads, teasers, sports and weather are not included in these figures.

The results show again that crime coverage dominated the lead position on both network stations. In contrast, NJTV was most likely to lead off the news with an election based story. WNBC and WPVI started off their broadcasts with a story about New Jersey a total of 9 times or about 21% of Non-Hurricane related leads. Of these, 3 were crime stories; 2 were about a meningitis outbreak; 2 were about a traffic crash on the New Jersey Turnpike; 1 story was about toxic cleanup operation in New Jersey and 1 story was about New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and covered both his involvement in the election and the New Jersey state budget projections.

Table Two: What Leads the News?

Story Topics	All three stations	NJTV	WNBC	WPVI
Crime/Courts/Law	37%	5%	55%	47%
Economy/jobs/business	3%	5%	0%	5%
Traffic/Transportation	8%	0%	18%	5%
Government affairs	8%	11%	9%	5%
Health/Education	10%	16%	5%	11%
Fires and disasters	2%	0%	0%	5%
Local Interest (awards/openings etc)	5%	0%	0%	16%
Election coverage	27%	63%	14%	5%

What about New Jersey?

We coded each story segment for the primary state location or focus on the story. If a single story segment focused on multiple states we coded that state that went first in the segment as the primary state focus of the story. Advertising, teasers, sports and weather are not included in Table Three.

As expected each station focused on its primary market. NJTV devoted 89% of its story segments to New Jersey. In general, it is believed that New Jersey residents make up about a third of viewers on both WNBC and WPVI. While neither WNBC nor WPVI devoted a third of their news stories to New Jersey, WPVI gave more coverage to New Jersey (24%) than WNBC gave to New Jersey (17%). There appear to be two primary reasons for this difference. First, Philadelphia was less affected by Hurricane Sandy than New York City. As a result WPVI focused more of its Hurricane Sandy coverage on New Jersey than New York did. Second, the New Jersey meningitis outbreak took place in southern New Jersey so it received more coverage on WPVI than on WNBC.

Table Three: What about New Jersey?

Primary state Focus	All stations (n= 965)*	NJTV (n=388)*	WNBC (n=316)*	WPVI (n=261)*
<i>New Jersey</i>	48%	89%	17%	24%
<i>New York</i>	22%	.5%	66%	1.1%
<i>Philadelphia/PA</i>	17%	.3%	0%	62%
<i>Connecticut</i>	.9%	.3%	3%	0%
<i>Delaware</i>	2.4%	.3%	0%	8%
<i>Other states/regions</i>	8%	5%	14%	4%

**NJTV airs a nightly DOW Jones stock ticker and the other stations occasionally aired a similar stock ticker. These segments do not have a specific state focus these are excluded in these totals.*

What about Jersey? Them vs. Us

The previous tables show a different mix of overall story topics between NJTV and the two network stations. When we focus exclusively on stories about New Jersey we see that these differences remain fairly consistent. Table Four compares the story topics on the 117 New Jersey focused stories aired by WNBC and WPVI with the story topics on the 346 New Jersey focused stories aired on NJTV. Advertising, teaser, sports and weather are once again excluded.

In short, the network obsession with crime seemed to cross the border into New Jersey. Thirty-five percent of the New Jersey focused stories aired by WNBC and 22% of the New Jersey focused stories aired by WPVI centered on crime. Just 8% of NJTV's New Jersey focused stories were about crime.

Table Four: Them vs. Us

Story topics	WNBC & WPVI (n=117)	WNBC alone (n=54)	WPVI alone (n=63)	NJTV alone (n=346)
Hurricane Sandy	27%	28%	27%	17%
Crime/Courts/Law/Terror	28%	35%	22%	8%
Economy/jobs/business	3%	2%	3%	18%
Traffic/Transportation	7%	2%	11%	5%
Government affairs	3%	2%	5%	15%
Health/Education	12%	9%	14%	13%
Arts, science, religion	0%	0%	0%	3%
Fires and disasters	5%	7%	3%	0%
Local Interest (awards/openings etc)	5%	4%	6%	6%
Weirdness (2 headed toads)	0%	0%	0%	.6%
Election coverage	9%	11%	8%	16%

What about Elections?

This study was originally designed to examine 2012 election coverage. As with many things, Hurricane Sandy made this a bit of a challenge. Sandy wiped out virtually all election coverage the week before the 2012 election, a time that is normally associated with the highest amount of election coverage. While the ultimate affects of Sandy on election news coverage are speculative, we were able to find a number of other interesting station differences in election coverage. Some examples follow.

WNBC and WPVI completely ignored state and local elections. In contrast, NJTV provided coverage the local mayoral race in Perth Amboy and even a special election in New Jersey's 4th Assembly district. Neither WNBC nor WPVI gave significant coverage to U.S. congressional candidates. WPVI aired one substantive story about Pennsylvania's 8th congressional district and without Sandy may have aired similar stories about other districts. It is also possible WPVI aired similar congressional stories during its other news broadcasts. NJTV in contrast aired extensive and substantive interviews with congressional candidates in New Jersey's 1st, 4th, 5th, 9th and 12th districts.

NJTV also aired more coverage of Ballot Question 1; New Jersey's higher education bond initiative. NJTV aired 8 stories on Ballot Question 1. WNBC aired just one story on it as part of election overview piece and none aired on WPVI. It is interesting to note that NJTV's coverage of the ballot question was overwhelmingly positive. Of the eight stories on Ballot Question 1 only one featured an opponent of it. The other seven stories were blatantly in favor of it passing.

New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut all had elections for the US Senate. NJTV and WPVI aired significantly more US senate coverage (24% of total election coverage for each station) than WNBC (5%), suggesting the WNBC underperformed in its coverage of Senate races in Connecticut and New Jersey. It should be noted that WPVI gave about the same amount of time to the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Senate races, while the vast majority of NJTV's senate race coverage was on New Jersey's Menendez/Kyrillos race.

All three stations devoted the most election stories to the Presidential race. Just over 3 in 10 NJTV election stories focused on the Presidential race; 4 out of 10 WPVI election stories and almost 6 in 10 WNBC election stories focused on the Obama/Romney race. Stories about presidential and vice-presidential debates were the most common across all three stations.

Finally, we looked at the state focus of election stories. It is important to point out that it is possible to have a story focus on the Presidential race but concentrate on an individual state. For example, a story about a New Jersey shop owner who created an anti-Obama window display would be coded as presidential focus and New Jersey based. The results show that 79% of NJTV election stories were connected to New Jersey, while 24% of WPVI's election stories and just 15% of WNBC's election stories were New Jersey centric.

These results are fairly consistent with previous research about election coverage by local TV news stations (see Franklin-Fowler, E. et.al 2007; Hale 2007). The possible exception is the amount of time

devoted to providing basic logistical voting information (e.g. voting procedures and polling locations) is significantly higher than previous research suggests. This is most likely because Hurricane Sandy altered voting procedures throughout the coverage area. WNBC and WPVI, in fact, each devoted about 30% of their election stories to this type of basic voter information. In contrast, NJTV devoted just 10% of its election stories to these types of stories.

Table Five: What about Elections?

Election focus	All stations (n=131)	NJTV (n=71)	WNBC (n=39)	WPVI (n=21)
President	43%	34%	59%	43%
US senate	18%	24%	5%	24%
US Congress	8%	13%	3%	5%
State and Local	5%	9%	0%	0%
Ballot Measure	7%	11%	3%	0%
Voter information	19%	10%	31%	29%
New Jersey “centric” election stories	51%	79%	15%	24%
New York “centric” election stories	9%	0%	31%	0%
Philadelphia “centric” election stories	9%	0%	0%	57%
Other “centric” election stories	31%	21%	54%	19%

How did stations cover elections?

The results also show some interesting differences in how each station covered elections. All of the stations devoted at least a third of their election coverage to the “horserace” and strategy of the various campaigns. On WPVI, a whopping 48% of all election stories focused on the strategic games of politics. The focus on horserace coverage is consistent with previous research.

All three stations covered campaign debates. On the network stations debate coverage was primarily about the presidential debates, although WPVI did cover (and sponsor) a debate in Pennsylvania’s US Senate race. Similarly, NJTV covered debates in the New Jersey senate race. While it may have been possible to include much of this debate coverage in the “horserace” category, we chose to create a separate debate category. This was because most debate coverage included both discussions of issue differences between candidates and horserace coverage of the mechanics and tactics of the debate.

The key difference in how each station covered elections is that NJTV aired more issue centered stories (30%) than either WNBC (10%) or WPVI (19%). The primary reason for this was NJTV’s extensive issue based interviews with US Congressional candidates as well as extensive and issue based interviews with elected officials and decision makers about the Presidential race. As noted earlier, all three stations perhaps aired more stories about the logistics of voting than they might normally do in a non-Hurricane year. This was particularly apparent on WNBC. Table Six contains these results

Table Six: How did stations cover elections?

Type of story	All stations (n=131)	NJTV (n=71)	WNBC (n=39)	WPVI (n=21)
Horserace	37%	35%	33%	48%
Debates	15%	14%	21%	5%
Issues	22%	30%	10%	19%
Voter Info/Ballot measures	27%	21%	36%	29%

What Else? Impressions and Observations

The results of the snapshot show fairly conclusively that NJTV does an outstanding job of covering New Jersey. NJTV focused significantly more attention on New Jersey than either WNBC or WPVI. More importantly, however, this study shows that NJTV covers a different set of issues than its network counterparts. Instead of obsessing about crime, traffic and sports, NJTV (perhaps) obsesses on the New Jersey economy, government affairs and elections. While this study can't definitively speak to how NJTV compares to all other TV outlets in the region; it can and does show that in comparison to the top-rate stations in New York and Philadelphia, NJTV provides New Jersey viewers with superior coverage of New Jersey.

With this noted, there are a number of impressions we gathered while actually watching and coding the news programs that might prove useful and helpful to NJTV and other local TV stations moving forward. While these are often anecdotal impressions and would require additional analysis to quantify, they perhaps help paint a more complete picture of NJTV.

Next Storm? Get better jackets and gear: As we watched the storm coverage; we felt bad for the NJTV reporters. They came dressed in whatever rain and winter gear they had at home. In contrast, the WNBC and WPVI reporters had matching logo-emblazoned storm gear. During one storm segment a NJTV reporter or cameraman actually appeared to wipe the camera lens clear of rain while continuing to report the story. In another segment the reporter seemed to be answering questions from the anchor on a cell phone and then responding to the camera. WNBC and WPVI reporters all had ear pieces and direct links. This may seem trivial at first glance. However, it did distract from the reporting NJTV reporters and anchors did during the storm. It is not realistic to expect that NJTV will ever have the revenues to completely match the networks. However, these examples point to a need to do whatever is possible to increase production values on NJTV.

Side-by-Side Arguments: One of the true strengths of NJTV is the lengthy and substantive interviews aired on a wide range of topics. We noticed, however, that one "side" often appears alone and then a few days later the other side appears. It might be interesting to continue the same practice of lengthy interviews but after both sides have had their say NJTV might create a produced piece using the interviews and differences of opinions side-by-side. This might help viewers compare both arguments. As researchers we could do that but normal viewers can't go back.

Not all self promotion is bad: WPVI is an amazing and often shameless self-promoter. For example, during the storm, they ran a telethon inside their studio and covered it during the news broadcast. WPVI brought live feed trucks to places without power and (with cameras rolling) allowed resident to recharge cell phones from WPVI's portable generators. WPVI is also almost manic in promoting its web site; twitter feed and local blogs. WPVI also sends cameras to local schools, churches, hospitals and nonprofits that are having award programs or local service days. The point is not that NJTV become as shameless in self-promotion as WPVI. In fact, it is possible this point only becomes clear by watching news programs back-to-back. Even so NJTV might consider airing at least some connections between NJTV and its reporters to local community events.

Inside Trenton Baseball: Once again a true strength of NJTV is its interviews with politicians and policy makers. However, at times we felt that the average viewer might not catch references made in an interview to a newspaper story or legislative report. This is not a suggestion to stop doing interviews but to be aware of the fact that most people know little about what is going on in Trenton and perhaps need some more explanation and context from reporters.

Business is Business, but is it real? As noted, above NJTV provides significantly more coverage of business and the economy than either WNBC or WPVI. In general, stories about business and the economy are valuable to viewers. We did, however, feel that business/economy coverage was framed perhaps too positively and too favorably. As one coder asked; *"it seems like New Jersey is booming, is it?"* While the answer to that is debatable, the question points to a sense that perhaps a subtle pro-business frame on NJTV.

Us & We vs. You & Them: During and right after the storm we noticed a subtle but telling distinction in the use of pronouns. The NJTV anchor and reporters routinely used "us" and "we" to describe what was happening. They said for example, *"We need to do X to be safe" or "This has been difficult for us."* This did not seem to be the case for WNBC or WPVI staff. Who more often seemed to use phrases like *"You need to do X to be safe" or "This has been really difficult for them."* As one coder put it, *"NJTV reporters seem to be talking over the back yard fence with me sometimes"*. Obviously, this is only our impressions and while additional research would be needed to quantify this impression, it speaks volumes about the contribution NJTV is making to New Jersey.

Notes on Methodology and References:

Data Capture Issues:

The content for this study was captured using a system called TVEyes (see www.TVEyes.com), originally developed to capture product placement references in entertainment TV programming. As such the system only captures news programs in 10 minute increments. These are then stitched together to fully capture the 30 minute news program. While the system generally works quite well it did fail to capture content from WPVI on October 1st and for approximately 6 minutes of the beginning of the October 2nd broadcast.

Hurricane Sandy also prevented the system from capturing any content on NJTV on October 30th and 31st.

Story Segments:

While a traditional news story is fairly self-explanatory, a few points of clarification are important. A normal news story is introduced by the anchor who then either delivers the story in its entirety or transfers it to a reporter. The report often then sends it back to the anchor for comment. For timing purposes we include both the anchor's introduction and ending comments when counting seconds in each story segment.

In many cases, multiple reporters cover a single "story" from different perspectives. In general, if a story stays on a single subject with multiple reporters we would not start and stop the clock when a new reporter is introduced. For an example, a story about how President Obama spent his day before a debate might be covered by one reporter then move to another reporter talking about preparation at the debate site. This one be counted as a single Presidential election debate focused story. The exception to the basic rule was made for stories about Hurricane Sandy, which often moved from one location (e.g. New Jersey) to another location (e.g. New York City). This was an attempt capture Hurricane coverage with a finer level of detail.

Sports and weather coverage as well as advertising and teaser were not segmented at all. So stories about a basketball game are not separated from stories about a football game.

Story Topics:

Based on previous research (Kaplan & Hale 2010) we identified 31 separate news topics commonly aired on local news. A story is coded as fitting in a specific topic if the majority of the story focuses on it. If a story focuses on multiple topics in an equal way preference was given to the topic that appeared first in the story.

For the purposes of this report, the 31 specific topics were grouped together into 16 larger topics based on commonalities. The figures reported throughout this study are exclusively from these larger topics. In some cases, (e.g. Hurricane Sandy) does not have any sub or specific topics under it. In other cases

(crime) a number of related subtopics are included. A listing of both specific and larger topic areas is below and additional information is available from the author upon request.

- 1) Hurricane Sandy**
- 2) Advertising**
- 3) Teasers/Intro music**
- 4) Sports**
- 5) Weather**
- 6) Crime**
 - a. Crime (e.g. muggings, shootings, robbery. etc)
 - b. Courts (e.g. law suits and judicial proceedings)
 - c. Law Enforcement (e.g. police activity related to previous crime or investigations)
 - d. Terrorism (e.g. threats of attacks)
- 7) Economy**
 - a. Economy and business (e.g. jobs numbers, business activities)
 - b. Land use (e.g. zoning, planning, redevelopment, real estate)
 - c. Agriculture (e.g. farming)
 - d. Consumer protection (e.g. product recalls, scam alerts)
- 8) Traffic**
 - a. Traffic (congestion, road conditions)
 - b. Transportations (subway, bus services)
- 9) Government affairs**
 - a. Government affairs (actions taken by a government on a policy issues)
 - b. Taxes (changes to tax policy or rates)
 - c. Environment (environmental policy issues, global warming)
 - d. Energy (gas supplies)
 - e. Housing (public housing)
- 10) Health and Education**
 - a. Health (medical threats issues, hospital services, health care issues)
 - b. Race/gender/culture (gay rights, cultural issues, race issues)
 - c. Education (schools, education policy)
- 11) Arts and Sciences**
 - a. Arts (museum programs, openings)
 - b. Science and technology (NASA, technology advancements)
 - c. Religion (church related issues)
- 12) Fires and disasters**
- 13) International News** (e.g. events taking place outside the United states)
- 14) Local Interest** (e.g. nonprofit activities in local areas, local deaths, partnerships)
- 15) News of the Weird** (e.g. Crocodiles in Long Island, Huge Lobsters)
- 16) Elections**

References:

Franklin-Fowler, E., Goldstein, K., Hale, M & Kaplan, M (2007) Does local news measure up? *Stanford Law and Policy Review*. 18(377) 410-431

Hale, M., (2007) What's local about local television news? An analysis of local television news coverage of the 2004 elections in Philadelphia. *Commonwealth*. 13 (45-78)

Kaplan, M., & Hale, M., (2010) *Local TV News in the Los Angeles Media Market: Are Stations Serving the Public Interest?* The Norman Lear Center & Annenberg School for Communication Research Report.

Lipschultz, J.F. and Hilt, M.L. (2002) *Crime and Local Television News*, Earlbaum Associates

Yanich, D. (2001) Location, Location, Location: Urban & Suburban Crime on Local TV News. *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Vol 23, number 3-4.

¹ It is important to note that On October 17th a terrorist bomb plot in New York was revealed. This dominated the news on WNBC that day and included follow up stories on subsequent days, it was covered by both WPVI and NJTV but less extensively. The sub-category of *Terrorism* is included in the larger *Crime* category. As a result, it is likely that, absent this obviously news-worthy and local event, the *Crime* category figures here and throughout the report would be somewhat lower. Since how much lower they would be would require significant speculation the original figures are retained throughout.