

Brooklyn Healthcare Delivery System

Brooklyn Community Health: Neighborhood Profiles Excerpt (2007)

Neighborhood (UHF)	Topic	Key Points
Greenpoint	Summary	A predominantly working-class neighborhood, Greenpoint was known in former times for its shipbuilding and maritime industry. The neighborhood has been rezoned from manufacturing to mixed use and is undergoing major construction of new housing and open spaces. Despite continuing gentrification, nearly one in three families lives below the poverty level; most of these are married couples with children under 18. Forty percent of residents do not have a high school diploma. While Greenpoint does not have one of the largest immigrant populations in Brooklyn, many of its residents do not speak English well; more than 25 percent are linguistically isolated.
	Comparison	Greenpoint residents have similar views of their health as other Brooklynites, and they rate it more favorably than people living in New York City's poorest neighborhoods. While a good percentage report that they received cancer screenings, they did less well in having their cholesterol levels checked and being tested for HIV infection. Compared to other borough residents, a larger percentage say they do not have a personal doctor and did not get a prescription filled because of cost. Greenpoint has the highest percentage of residents who report not seeing a dentist in two years and is tied with Coney Island for the greatest percentage of current smokers. It also has a high rate of binge drinking.
Williamsburg and Bushwick	Summary	This community was once a center of manufacturing, until high energy costs and other factors caused the factories and breweries to close down. Today the neighborhood has a thriving art community and is home to many ethnic groups; 53 percent of its residents are Hispanic -- more than twice that of Brooklyn as a whole. A large proportion of neighborhood residents are economically disadvantaged. Over 35 percent of families live below the poverty line, and 60 percent of these families are headed by single women with children under 18. Half the residents -- the highest percentage in the borough -- do not have a high-school diploma, and only 8 percent have a college education.
	Comparison	Williamsburg/Bushwick has the greatest percentage of residents of any neighborhood in Brooklyn who rate their health as fair or poor and who report that they cannot afford quality health care due to cost and lack of insurance. They also report using the ER more than others. Even so, with the exception of cholesterol screening, residents report taking steps to promote their health through screenings and vaccinations on a par, or better, than other Brooklynites. The high percentage of residents who report that they were recently tested for HIV may reflect the prevalence of infection in this neighborhood, which has the second highest percentage of people living with HIV/AIDS in Brooklyn (NYC DOHMH 2004).
Downtown/Heights and Park Slope	Summary	The Downtown/Heights/Park Slope region of Brooklyn is a neighborhood of contrasts. It has the highest family income in the borough but also significant pockets of poverty. Nearly half the population has a bachelor's degree or higher and more than two-thirds are employed in business, finance, and professional occupations. It has a very high percentage of single mothers with children under 18 living in poverty and a low percentage of impoverished married couples with children under 18. Compared to other neighborhoods, it has the smallest proportion of foreign-born residents, but their contribution to the cultural life of the community is evident.
	Comparison	Residents of Downtown/Heights/Park Slope report having more resources and better access to health care than most Brooklyn residents. They also have a better perception of their health and the best overall record of using disease-prevention services, with the exception of testing for HIV. When compared to the richest neighborhoods in New York City, however, Downtown/Heights/Park Slope residents have less health insurance and lower levels of seeking preventive services that promote or maintain good health. While fewer have medical or emotional complaints, they report highest levels of binge drinking than other Brooklynites.
Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights	Summary	Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights has the second largest population of the 11 UHF neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Largely made up of African- and Caribbean-American families, it is also world headquarters of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic Jewish community (in Crown Heights). While nearly a third of the population is employed in management and professional fields, almost one in three families live below the poverty level. This neighborhood also has the highest percentage of families living below poverty that are headed by single mothers under 18.

Brooklyn Healthcare Delivery System

Brooklyn Community Health: Neighborhood Profiles Excerpt (2007)

Neighborhood (UHF)	Topic	Key Points
	Comparison	Compared to the rest of Brooklyn, far more Bedford Stuyvesant/Crown Heights residents report that they do not have health insurance and rely on the ER instead of seeing a regular doctor or health provider. Fewer residents report taking preventive measures such as teeth cleanings, Pap tests, and having their cholesterol levels checked. This section of Brooklyn has the highest percentage of elderly residents who have not been immunized against pneumonia. It also has one of the highest levels of testing for HIV, which may indicate that HIV/AIDS is a major concern for this community. It has the highest rates of reported HIV diagnoses and people living with HIV/AIDS in Brooklyn (NYC DOHMH 2004).
East New York	Summary	East New York, located on the eastern edge of central Brooklyn, has a rich history as a manufacturing center. Its large Hispanic population reflects the post-World War II era, when many families immigrated from Puerto Rico to work in its then-thriving factories. Today, East New Yorkers are predominantly Black and Hispanic, with many from the Caribbean and Dominican Republic. It is one of Brooklyn's poorest neighborhoods. Nearly a third of families live below poverty, and single mothers head close to 60 percent of these households. East New York compares with Williamsburg-Bushwick in having the lowest family incomes for families with children under 18. More than 40 percent of residents do not have a high school diploma and a comparatively small percent have a college education.
East New York	Comparison	Residents of East New York have a similar view of their health as residents of New York City's five poorest neighborhoods. Many report having recently experienced poor physical health and emotional distress. East New York ranks second among Brooklyn neighborhoods for residents who report not having a personal health provider and has a mixed record for the use of preventive health measures. While a higher percentage of residents went for Pap smears and mammograms in the past year, fewer over the age of 50 have had a colon exam. This neighborhood also has the third highest percentage of residents over 65 who are not immunized against pneumonia. East New York has the highest level of testing for HIV in the borough and the third highest percentage of people with HIV/AIDS in Brooklyn (NYC DOHMH 2004).
Sunset Park	Summary	Sunset Park developed as a thriving community of Irish, Polish, and Norwegian residents, many of whom worked in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and on Brooklyn's waterfront. The area declined economically after World War II, following the closing of the Navy Yard and the loss of many longshoreman jobs. A second wave of immigrants arrived from Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and China. Today Sunset Park has the highest percentage of Asian residents and the second largest Hispanic population in Brooklyn. A quarter of its families live below the poverty line. Similar to Greenpoint, married couples with children under 18 make up the highest percentage of families living in poverty. Nearly half of its residents are foreign-born, and many have a limited command of English. The percentage of residents who are linguistically isolated is more than twice that of Brooklyn and the rest of the city.
	Comparison	Sunset Park has the highest percentage of residents who report they are without health insurance or a personal doctor, and the second highest percentage without the means to pay for a prescription. Residents give their health low ratings -- more so even than the people living in New York City's five poorest neighborhoods. Despite this, the residents of Sunset Park appear to have had fewer bouts of recent illness or emotional distress, compared to others. The neighborhood also has one of the lowest rates of binge drinking in the borough and city. And except for getting tested for cervical cancer, residents report doing as well or better than most Brooklynites to promote their health through health screenings.
Borough Park	Summary	Borough Park is the most populous Brooklyn neighborhood and has one of the largest Orthodox Jewish communities in the United States. Though not a wealthy neighborhood, neither is it economically disadvantaged. Relatively few families living in poverty are headed by single women with children; however, over 50 percent of families living in poverty are headed by married couples with children (the highest percentage in the borough). Borough Park has a very diverse immigrant population, the third largest in Brooklyn. Its residents hail from Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Israel, China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, as well as from Mexico and the Caribbean. Nearly 40 percent of the borough's South Asian and Israeli populations live in Borough Park. Almost a quarter of its households are linguistically isolated.
	Comparison	Residents of Borough Park report slightly better access to health care than the majority of Brooklyn residents, and a greater percentage have health insurance and a personal doctor. With the exception of HIV testing, Borough Park residents use health screenings and other preventive health services roughly on a par with the rest of the borough.

Brooklyn Healthcare Delivery System

Brooklyn Community Health: Neighborhood Profiles Excerpt (2007)

Neighborhood (UHF)	Topic	Key Points
Flatbush and East Flatbush	Summary	Flatbush/East Flatbush is predominantly a working class community with income levels comparable to Brooklyn as a whole. It has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents in the borough -- more than 50 percent. More than 80 percent emigrated from the non-Hispanic regions of the Caribbean. Given that most came from English-speaking countries, this neighborhood has a far lower percentage of residents who are linguistically isolated, compared to Sunset Park, Borough Park, Coney Island-Sheepshead Bay, and Greenpoint. While the number of families living in poverty -- roughly 1 in 5 -- is similar to the neighboring community of Borough Park, the composition is different. Over 55 percent of impoverished families living in Flatbush/East Flatbush are headed by single mothers with children under 18. The neighborhood is among the top four in the borough for population under the age of 18, residents without health insurance, and individuals who use the ER when sick.
	Comparison	Although a slightly greater percentage of Flatbush/East Flatbush residents report that they do not have health insurance, they give their health a better rating than do other Brooklyn residents. Their use of preventive services is on a par with other Brooklynites, with these exceptions: this neighborhood equals Canarsie/Flatlands in having the lowest percentage of female residents who have had a mammogram in the past year, and the second lowest percentage of elderly residents who have been vaccinated against pneumonia. This neighborhood has the fourth highest percentage of persons with HIV/AIDS in Brooklyn (NYC DOHMH 2004) but also has a good record of seeking HIV testing. Flatbush/East Flatbush residents report the lowest level of binge drinking and the second lowest percentage of smokers in the borough.
Canarsie and Flatlands	Summary	One of the five original Dutch towns of Kings County, Canarsie/Flatlands is a neighborhood graced by many parks. With half its residents employed in service or sales, and a third in higher-wage business and professional sectors, this working-class community has a median family income approximately 9 percent above the borough's. It has the lowest percentage of families living below poverty; however, single mothers head 45 percent of these families. At one time a predominantly Italian and Jewish community, the community is now far more culturally diverse. The percentage of foreign-born residents is the same as the borough's, and most are from the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean.
Canarsie and Flatlands	Comparison	Compared to the rest of Brooklyn, residents of Canarsie/Flatlands give their health a higher rating and report being better able to afford medical care and prescription drugs. Residents do as well or better than other Brooklynites in seeking preventive health services, except for breast cancer screening; Canarsie/Flatlands (along with Flatbush/East Flatbush) has the lowest percentage of residents getting mammograms. Elderly residents report the highest levels of vaccination against pneumonia in the borough and city. Canarsie/Flatlands also has the lowest level of smoking and, with Borough Park, the second lowest level of binge drinking.
Bensonhurst and Bay Ridge	Summary	Known for its large, Italian-American community, Bensonhurst/Bay Ridge has become increasingly multicultural with the arrival of new immigrants from Asia, the former Soviet Union, and the Middle East. This diversity can be seen in the restaurants and small businesses that line the main thoroughfare along 86th Street. Today, 41 percent of the neighborhood's residents are foreign born. Almost 20 percent of residents are linguistically isolated. After Canarsie/Flatlands, this neighborhood has the lowest percentage of families living below poverty. However, like Borough Park, families living in poverty in Bensonhurst/Bay Ridge tend to be headed by married couples with children, rather than by single mothers.
	Comparison	Bensonhurst/Bay Ridge has the greatest percentage of residents who report having health insurance and a health provider. Even so, they have a mixed record of seeking preventive health care. For a neighborhood with one of the largest elderly populations, more than half report not having a pneumonia shot. Female residents have the best record of breast cancer screening in the borough but the third poorest for getting a Pap test to detect cervical cancer. The neighborhood has among the lowest levels of testing for colon cancer, and with Borough Park, testing for HIV is the lowest in the borough and city.
Coney Island and Sheepshead Bay	Summary	Coney Island/Sheepshead Bay is a residential community with many restaurants and tourist attractions near the shore. It is characterized by recent waves of immigration from Europe and the former Soviet Union, China, the Middle East, and South Asia. Nearly half its residents are foreign-born, and roughly a quarter of them are linguistically isolated -- the third highest level in Brooklyn. Family incomes are on a par with the rest of the borough, and a lower percentage of families live in poverty compared to Brooklyn as a whole.

Brooklyn Healthcare Delivery System

Brooklyn Community Health: Neighborhood Profiles Excerpt (2007)

Neighborhood (UHF)	Topic	Key Points
	Comparison	Coney Island/Sheepshead Bay residents report having levels of health insurance and care by a personal doctor similar to Brooklyn as a whole, yet they tend to seek fewer preventive health measures. This neighborhood has the highest percentage of residents who report not getting regular Pap tests or blood pressure screenings; the second highest not getting HIV testing, and the third highest not seeking colonoscopies and mammograms. In a neighborhood with the largest concentration of elderly residents in Brooklyn, over 60 percent of those over 65 say they are not immunized against pneumonia. Close to a quarter of the resident are smokers, and binge drinking levels are the third highest in Brooklyn.