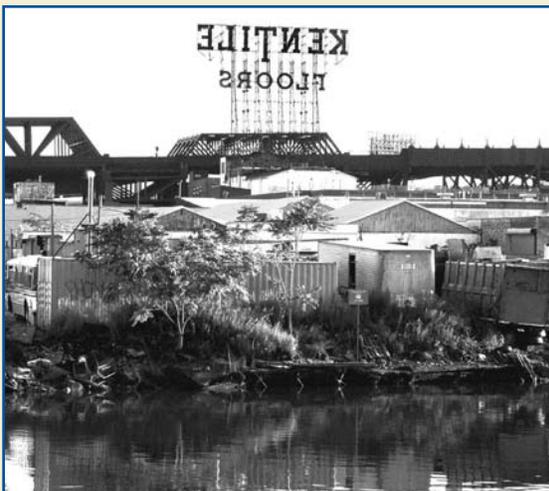
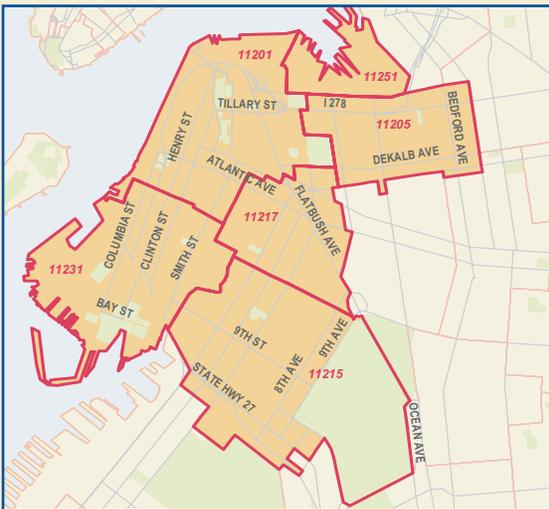


Community Health Profiles

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SECOND EDITION — 2006



TAKE CARE

Northwest Brooklyn

*(Including Brooklyn Heights,
Carroll Gardens, Clinton Hill,
Downtown, Fort Greene,
Park Slope, and Red Hook)*

Community Health Profile, Second Edition: Northwest Brooklyn

New York City is the most diverse city in the U.S. — a fact reflected in the distinct character of each neighborhood. The second edition of the Community Health Profiles uses **Take Care New York** (TCNY), the city’s health policy, to examine preventable causes of illness and death in all of NYC’s 42 neighborhoods. This report updates the 2002 profile (available at nyc.gov/health) by providing more recent and time-trend data, and a greater variety of health statistics. Key health issues in **Northwest Brooklyn** include:

- The heart disease death rate is more than 10% higher in Northwest Brooklyn than in NYC overall (page 6).
- Adults in Northwest Brooklyn are more likely to binge drink than in NYC overall, and white residents and men are more likely to binge drink than other residents in this community (pages 10, 14).
- Although women in Northwest Brooklyn are more likely to get timely Pap tests for cervical cancer than women in NYC overall, they are getting mammograms for breast cancer at a rate well below the TCNY target of 85% (page 11).

Methods: While this report provides important information, it is not intended to be an exhaustive examination of the health of Northwest Brooklyn residents, as not all health problems and their causes could be covered. Only statistically significant findings are discussed in the text. For complete information on methods, see Technical Notes (page 15).

Northwest Brooklyn at a Glance

Population

Total number of people living in Northwest Brooklyn in 2000:

214,700

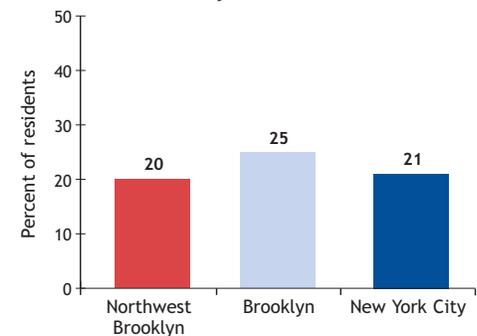
Age

People in Northwest Brooklyn are less likely to be younger than 18 than people in Brooklyn and New York City overall

	Northwest Brooklyn	Brooklyn	NYC
0-17 years	20%	27%	24%
18-24 years	10%	10%	10%
25-44 years	41%	31%	33%
45-64 years	20%	21%	21%
65+ years	9%	11%	12%

Poverty

In Northwest Brooklyn, the percent of residents living below the poverty level is lower than in Brooklyn overall



Education

Northwest Brooklyn residents aged 25 and older are more likely to have a college degree than those in Brooklyn and NYC overall

	Northwest Brooklyn	Brooklyn	NYC
Up to 8th grade	9%	13%	12%
Some high school, no diploma	11%	18%	16%
High school diploma	15%	27%	25%
Some college, no degree	16%	20%	20%
College graduate	49%	22%	27%

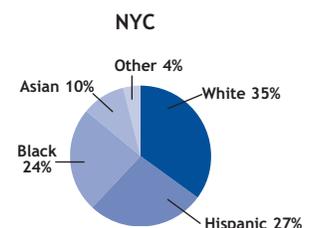
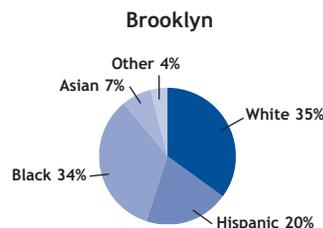
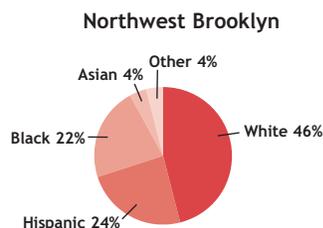
Foreign-born

The percent of Northwest Brooklyn residents born outside the U.S. is lower than in Brooklyn and NYC overall

Area	Percent of residents
Northwest Brooklyn	17%
Brooklyn	38%
NYC	36%

Race / Ethnicity

Northwest Brooklyn has a higher proportion of white residents than Brooklyn and NYC overall



Data Source: U.S. Census 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

Take Care Northwest Brooklyn



In 2004, the Health Department created a citywide health policy called **Take Care New York** (TCNY) to help improve the health of New Yorkers. TCNY identifies 10 key areas that cause significant illness and death but can be improved through intervention by individuals, health care providers, government agencies, and other organizations.

This report examines how well Northwest Brooklyn residents are doing on health indicators for each of the 10 TCNY goals. It examines areas in which the community is a health leader, as well as areas that need improvement. The TCNY report card below shows where Northwest Brooklyn ranks among all 42 New York City neighborhoods. (See Technical Notes for information about how neighborhoods were defined and ranked.)

Take Care New York report card

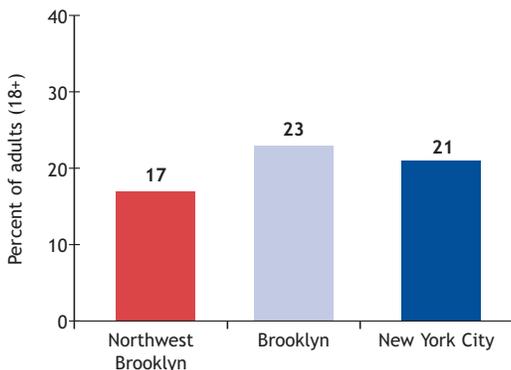
Northwest Brooklyn ranks as average on most indicators when compared to the 41 other NYC neighborhoods

	Below Average (bottom 10)	Average (middle 22)	Above Average (top 10)
Take Care New York Goals			
1 Have a regular doctor		✓	
2 Be tobacco-free		✓	
3 Keep your heart healthy		✓	
4 Know your HIV status		✓	
5 Get help for depression		✓	
6 Live free of alcohol and drugs		✓	
7 Get checked for cancer		✓	
8 Get the immunizations you need	✓		
9 Make your home safe and healthy	✓		
10 Have a healthy baby		✓	

How Residents Rate Their Own Health

Overall health

Less than one fifth of adults in Northwest Brooklyn consider themselves to be in fair or poor health



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

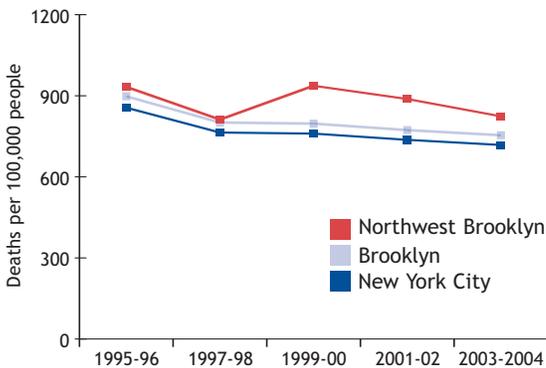
People are good at rating their own health. In general, when asked to rate their general health as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor, those who say “fair” or “poor” are more likely to have health problems than those who report better health.

In Northwest Brooklyn, residents are less likely to report being in fair or poor health (17%) than those in Brooklyn (23%) and in New York City overall (21%).

Overall Death Rates in Northwest Brooklyn

Death rates

In Northwest Brooklyn, death rates are higher than in Brooklyn and NYC overall



Rates are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

The death rate in Northwest Brooklyn has decreased by more than 10% in the past decade, mirroring the rate drop in New York City overall.

In 2003-2004, the average annual death rate in Northwest Brooklyn was nearly 10% higher than in Brooklyn and 15% higher than in New York City overall (824/100,000 vs. 754/100,000 in Brooklyn and 718/100,000 in NYC). Throughout this profile, cause-specific death rates are provided for TCNY goals.

Line graphs. All time-trend data are presented as annual averages with 2 or 3 years of data combined. For example, in this graph, the first point on each line represents the average annual death rate for 1995 and 1996 combined.

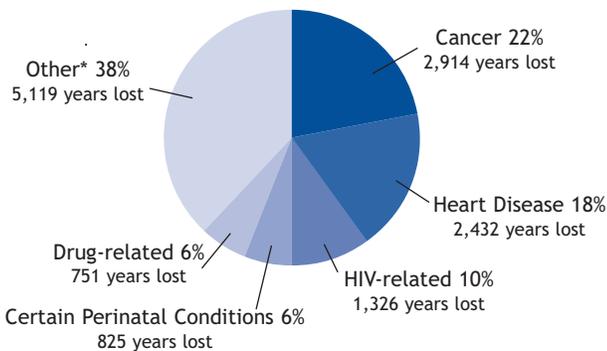
Premature death

People who die before age 75 can be thought of as dying early, or prematurely. If a person dies early, their years of potential life lost (YPLLs) can be calculated by subtracting their age at death from 75 years to get a measure of premature death.

The causes of premature death differ across communities. The primary cause of premature death in Northwest Brooklyn is cancer, as well as in both Brooklyn and New York City overall.

Top 5 causes of years of potential life lost

Cancer causes the most years of potential life lost in Northwest Brooklyn

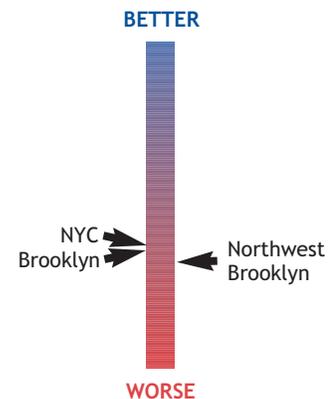


*Other includes Homicide (3%), Accidents (3%), Pneumonia and Influenza (3%), Congenital Conditions (3%), Diabetes (2%), and Other (24%).

Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 2002-04

Death before age 75

The 2003-2004 average annual death rate for people younger than 75 years in Northwest Brooklyn ranks 29th among 42 NYC neighborhoods



Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 2003-04; U.S. Census 2000/NYC Department of City Planning



Take Care New York Goals

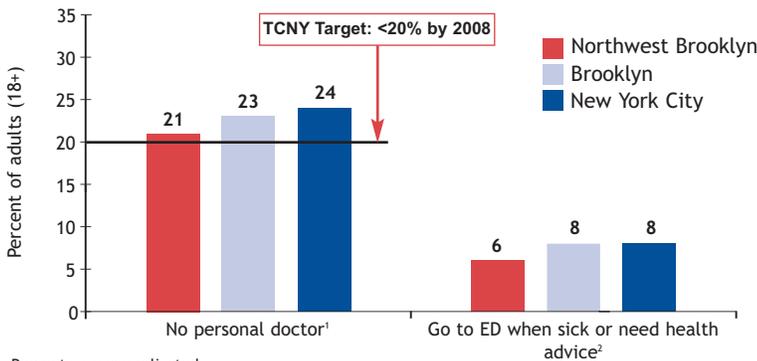
GOAL 1 Have a Regular Doctor or Other Health Care Provider

Access to good medical care helps people prevent illnesses, identify health conditions early, and treat health problems. Some conditions can and should be managed regularly outside the hospital. Higher rates of these avoidable hospitalizations can indicate reduced access to health care in a community.

Having a “medical home”— a personal doctor or other health care provider and a regular place of care other than the emergency department (ED) — is a critical component of good health care access. In Northwest Brooklyn, more than 1 in 5 residents (21%) do not have a regular doctor, compared to the TCNY target of less than 20%. In addition, 6% of Northwest Brooklyn residents go to the ED when they are sick or need health advice.

Access to care

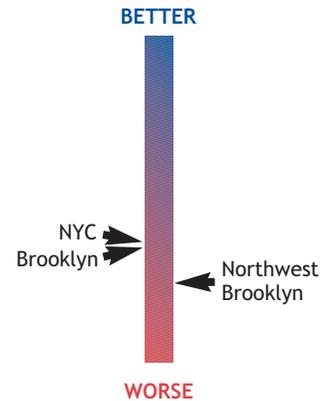
Without a primary provider, people may seek routine health care in the emergency department (ED)



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: ¹NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04, ²NYC Community Health Survey 2003-04

Avoidable hospitalizations

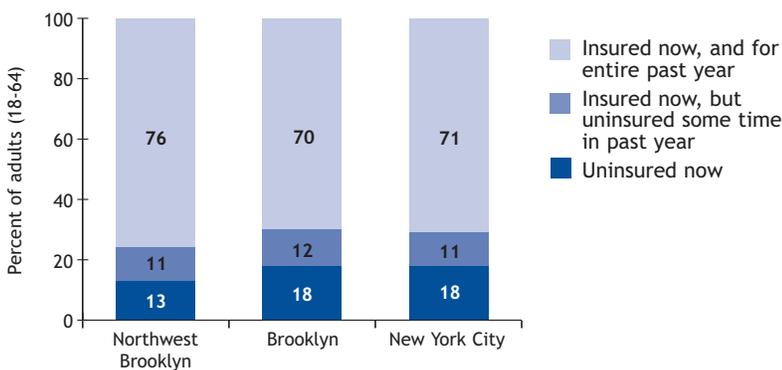
The 2004 avoidable hospitalization rate in Northwest Brooklyn ranks 31st among 42 NYC neighborhoods



Data Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System, 2004; U.S. Census 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

Health insurance

One in 4 adults in Northwest Brooklyn is uninsured or went without health insurance during the past year



Insurance rates are calculated for adults aged 18-64 and age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

Health insurance is important for access to health care. Similar proportions of residents in Northwest Brooklyn (13%), Brooklyn (18%) and New York City overall (18%) are currently uninsured. In addition, another 11% of residents in this community went without health insurance at some time during the past year.

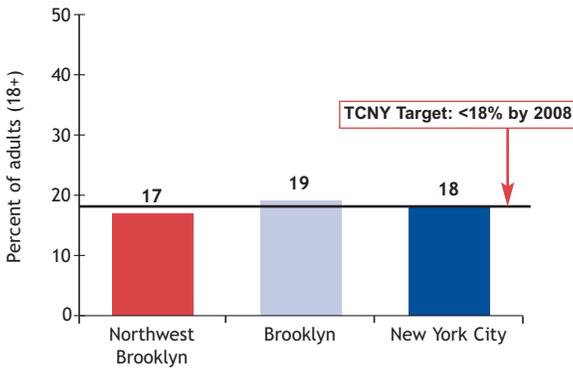


GOAL 2 Be Tobacco-Free

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in New York City and the cause of many illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, emphysema, and lung cancer. Less than one fifth of Northwest Brooklyn residents (17%) currently smoke, meeting the TCNY target of less than 18%. Many methods to quit smoking are available, and more than 7 in 10 smokers in Northwest Brooklyn (76%) are trying to kick the habit.

Residents who smoke

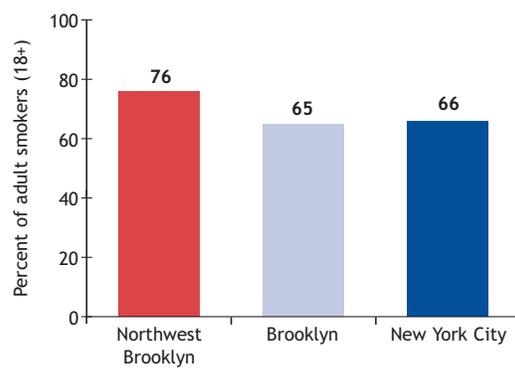
Fewer than 1 in 5 adults in Northwest Brooklyn smokes



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2004

Attempts to quit smoking in the past year

Most smokers are trying to quit



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2004

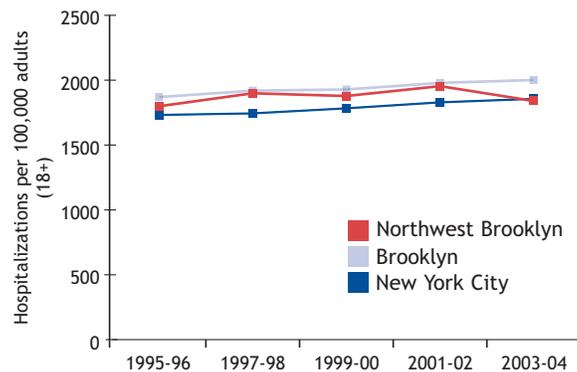


GOAL 3 Keep Your Heart Healthy

Heart disease can cause severe illness and death. Northwest Brooklyn residents had an average annual heart disease hospitalization rate in 2003-2004 that was lower than the Brooklyn rate and similar to the rate in NYC overall (1,840/100,000 vs. 2,001/100,000 in Brooklyn and 1,856/100,000 in NYC). The heart disease death rate in 2003-2004 (334/100,000) was similar to the rate in Brooklyn (326/100,000) but more than 10% higher than the NYC overall rate (297/100,000).

Heart disease hospitalizations

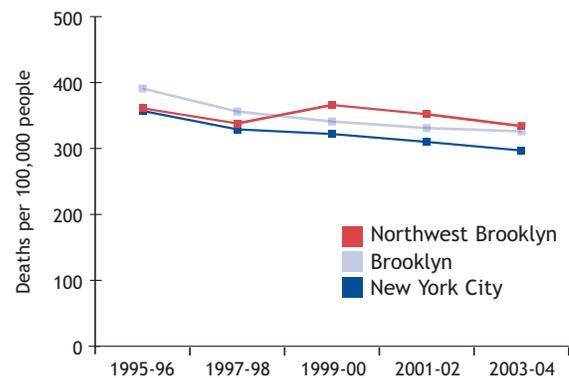
Heart hospitalization rates are similar in Northwest Brooklyn to NYC overall rates



Rates are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

Deaths due to heart disease

The heart disease death rate in Northwest Brooklyn is higher than the NYC overall rate



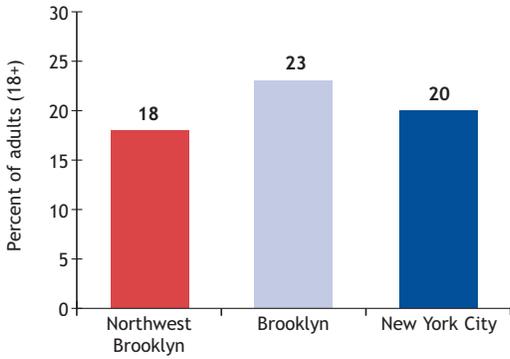
Rates are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

High blood pressure and high cholesterol. Both of these conditions contribute to heart disease. In Northwest Brooklyn, 25% of adults were told by a health care professional that they have high blood pressure (similar to 28% in Brooklyn and 26% in NYC overall), and one quarter (24%) were told that they have high cholesterol (similar to 26% in Brooklyn and NYC overall).

Percents are age-adjusted. Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002

Obesity

Nearly 1 in 5 adults in Northwest Brooklyn is obese



Obesity is defined as a body-mass-index (BMI) of 30 or greater. Percents are age-adjusted.

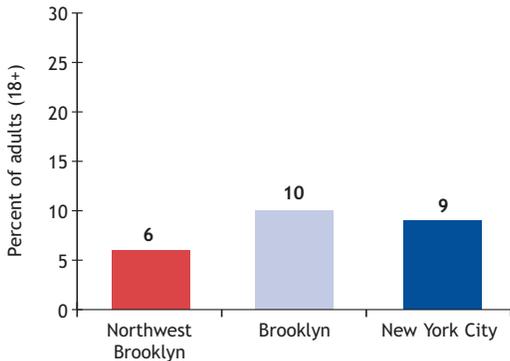
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

In addition to smoking, high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure, other factors that put people at risk for heart disease — lack of physical activity and obesity — can be prevented or controlled.

Obesity can lead to a variety of health problems, including heart disease and diabetes. Rates of obesity are increasing rapidly in New York City and across the U.S., making it a major public health concern. In Northwest Brooklyn, adults are less likely to be obese than those in Brooklyn overall (18% vs. 23%).

Diabetes

Adults in Northwest Brooklyn are less likely to have diabetes than in Brooklyn and NYC overall



Percents are age-adjusted.

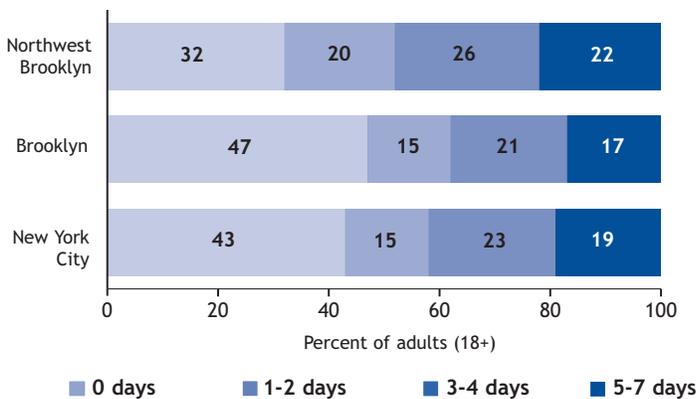
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

The increasing prevalence of obesity in the U.S. has contributed to an epidemic of diabetes. About 95% of diabetes cases are type 2 diabetes, which is strongly associated with obesity. Uncontrolled diabetes can worsen the harmful effects of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and other risk factors for heart disease.

In Northwest Brooklyn, adults are less likely to have diabetes than those in Brooklyn and NYC overall (6% vs. 10% in Brooklyn and 9% in NYC).

Days per week of recreational exercise

Exercise habits in Northwest Brooklyn are more healthy compared to Brooklyn and New York City overall



Survey Question: On average, how many days per week do you exercise for at least 30 minutes? Percents are age-adjusted.

Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2003

Physical activity helps people maintain a healthy weight and strengthens the cardiovascular system. Northwest Brooklyn residents are more likely to report doing physical activity on at least one day a week (68%) than adults in Brooklyn (53%) and NYC overall (57%). Nearly half of residents in this community (48%) report exercising at least 3 days a week.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Recommendations

Adults should do either 20 minutes of vigorous exercise 3 times per week or 30 minutes of moderate exercise 5 times per week.



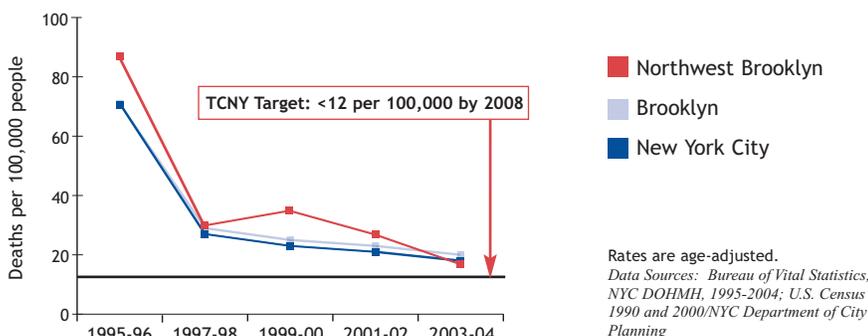
GOAL 4 Know Your HIV Status

Wide disparities exist in HIV across New York City communities. The rate of HIV diagnoses in Northwest Brooklyn is slightly lower than in Brooklyn and NYC overall. However, the rate of people living with HIV/AIDS in this community is higher than the rate in Brooklyn and similar to the NYC overall rate.

The death rate due to HIV disease has dropped by 80% during the past decade in this community. In 2003-2004, the average annual HIV-related death rate in Northwest Brooklyn was similar to the rates in Brooklyn and NYC overall (17/100,000 vs. 20/100,000 in Brooklyn and 18/100,000 in NYC).

Death rate due to HIV

HIV-related death rates in Northwest Brooklyn have dropped dramatically in the past decade



HIV/AIDS in 2004

Total HIV diagnoses per 100,000 people* (13+)

Northwest Brooklyn	45
Brooklyn	50
New York City	55

% HIV diagnosed concurrently with AIDS** (13+)

Northwest Brooklyn	20%
Brooklyn	31%
New York City	29%

People living with HIV/AIDS per 100,000 people* (13+)

Northwest Brooklyn	1,439
Brooklyn	1,183
New York City	1,419

*Rates are age-adjusted.
**Within 31 days of HIV diagnosis – crude percents
Data Source and Analysis: HIV Epidemiology Program, NYC DOHMH, 2004

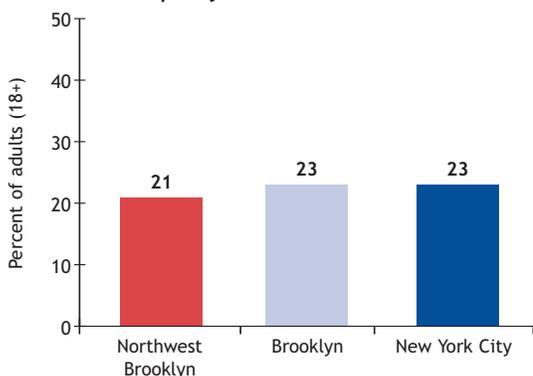
HIV/AIDS testing and prevention

Everyone should know their HIV status. However, an estimated one quarter of New Yorkers living with HIV do not know they are infected, delaying treatment and increasing the risk that they will transmit the disease to others. Only 1 in 5 Northwest Brooklyn residents has been tested for HIV in the past year. In addition, one fifth of positive HIV test results (20%) are “late” diagnoses (HIV has already progressed to AIDS) in this community.

The most common way people get HIV is through sexual contact, and having multiple sex partners increases the risk of HIV. Condoms offer protection from HIV when engaging in sexual activities. Only 2 in 5 (40%) Northwest Brooklyn adults who had more than 1 sex partner in the past year reported using a condom at their last sexual encounter.

HIV testing

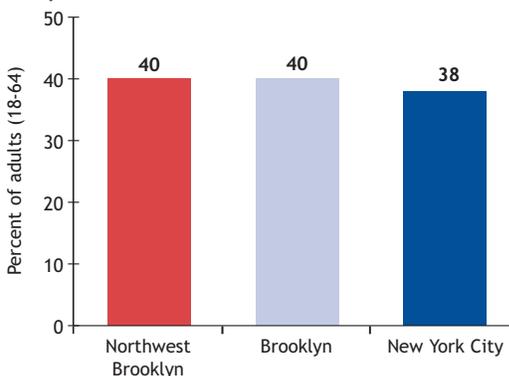
Only 1 in 5 Northwest Brooklyn adults has had an HIV test in the past year



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2003

Condom use at last sexual encounter

Less than half of Northwest Brooklyn adults with multiple sex partners used a condom



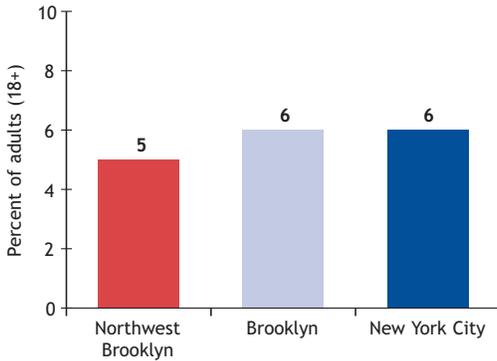
Analysis limited to adults aged 18-64 who reported having >1 sex partner in the past year, excluding women who reported having sex only with women.
Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04



GOAL 5 Get Help for Depression

Psychological distress

One in 20 adults in Northwest Brooklyn suffers from serious psychological distress



Serious psychological distress can be identified in individuals using Kessler's K6 scale, a validated measure consisting of 6 simple questions about mood. Percents are age-adjusted.

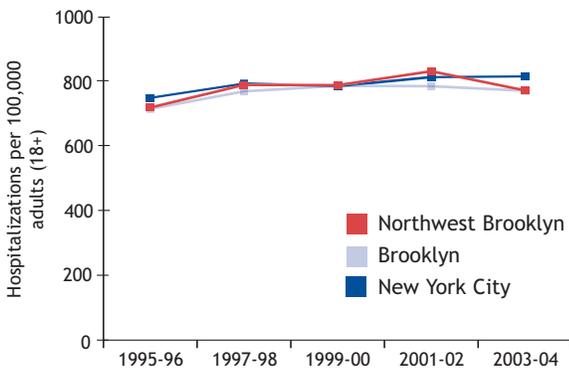
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03

Depression is a serious but treatable health condition that frequently goes undiagnosed. Serious psychological distress is associated with depression and other mental illnesses.

In Northwest Brooklyn, 5% of residents experience serious psychological distress.

Mental illness

Hospitalizations for mental illness are lower in Northwest Brooklyn than in NYC overall



Rates are age-adjusted.

Data Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

Hospitalization rates are one way to look at serious mental illness in a neighborhood. The mental illness hospitalization rate in Northwest Brooklyn has remained fairly steady during the past decade.

In 2003-2004, the community's average annual rate of mental illness hospitalizations (770/100,000) was similar to the Brooklyn rate (769/100,000) and slightly lower than the rate in New York City overall (813/100,000).

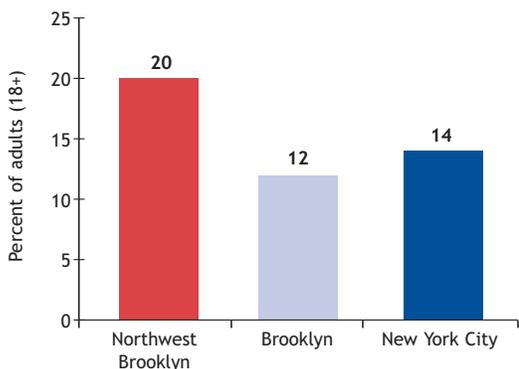
Understanding hospitalizations and access to health care. Hospitalization data are useful in understanding the burden that certain conditions place on the health care system, but not necessarily in measuring the exact extent of illness in a community. Variations in hospitalization rates may reflect not only differences in rates of illness, but also differences in access to health care. For example, the kinds of health institutions available to residents differ by community, as might the ability of residents to pay for those resources. If a community has a specialized residential institution for a certain type of disease, such as mental illness or stroke, people from outside that neighborhood may come to reside at this institution for care, resulting in an increase in reported hospitalizations for that disease in the community.



GOAL 6 Live Free of Dependence on Alcohol and Drugs

Binge drinking

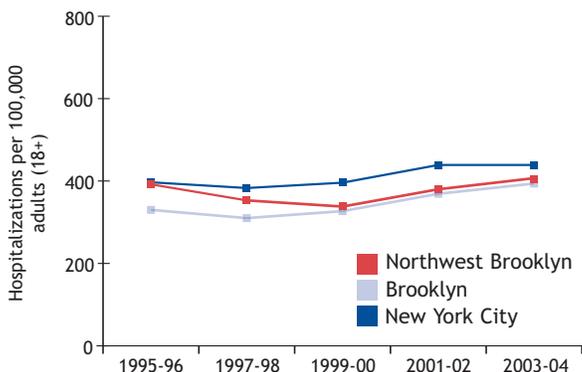
Adults in Northwest Brooklyn are more likely to have engaged in binge drinking in the past month



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

Alcohol-related hospitalizations

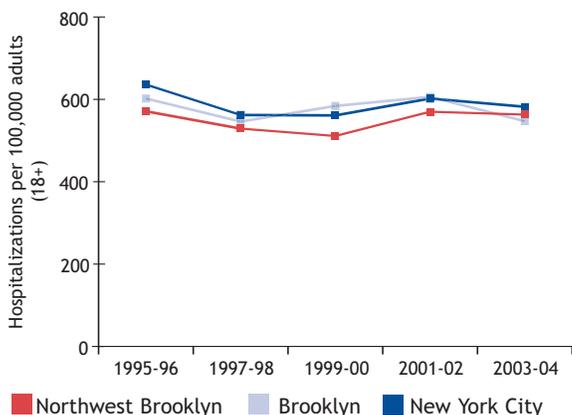
The alcohol-related hospitalization rate in Northwest Brooklyn is less than the NYC rate



Rates are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

Drug-related hospitalizations

The drug-related hospitalization rate in Northwest Brooklyn is less than the NYC rate



Rates are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

The abuse of alcohol and drugs can lead to many preventable injuries, illnesses, and deaths, including injury in motor-vehicle crashes, liver disease, and violence.

Estimates of binge drinking represent the risk of immediate alcohol-related problems, such as alcohol-poisoning, injury and violence. In Northwest Brooklyn, adults are more likely than those in Brooklyn and NYC overall to report engaging in at least one episode of binge drinking (defined as consuming 5 or more drinks on one occasion) in the past month.

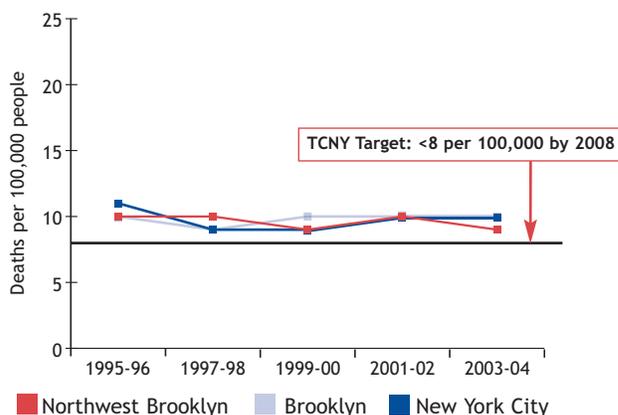
Alcohol-related hospitalizations reflect both acute and chronic (e.g., liver disease) consequences of alcohol abuse. In 2003-2004, the average annual alcohol-related hospitalization rate in Northwest Brooklyn was similar to the Brooklyn rate and lower than in New York City overall (407/100,000 vs. 394/100,000 in Brooklyn and 439/100,000 in NYC).

The drug-related hospitalization rate in 2003-2004 was similar (563/100,000) the rates in both Brooklyn (547/100,000) and New York City overall (595/100,000).

The 2003-2004 death rate due to drugs in Northwest Brooklyn was also similar to the rate in both Brooklyn and NYC overall (9/100,000 vs. 10/100,000 in Brooklyn and NYC).

Drug-related deaths

Drug-related death rates are similar in Northwest Brooklyn, Brooklyn and NYC overall



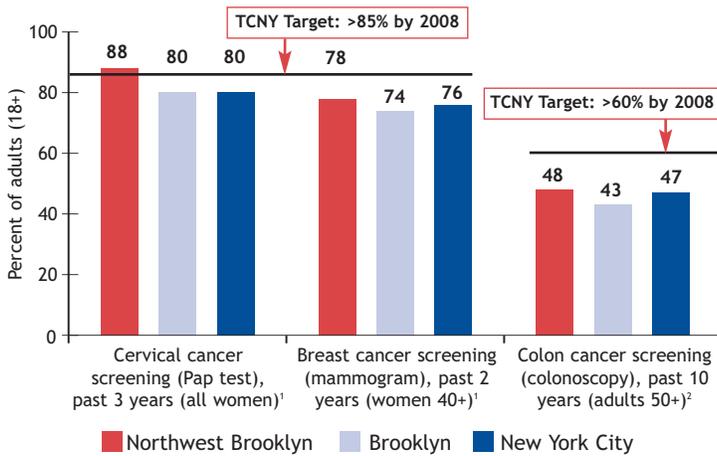
Rates are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning



GOAL 7 Get Checked for Cancer

Cancer screenings

Cancer screening is an important part of routine preventive health care



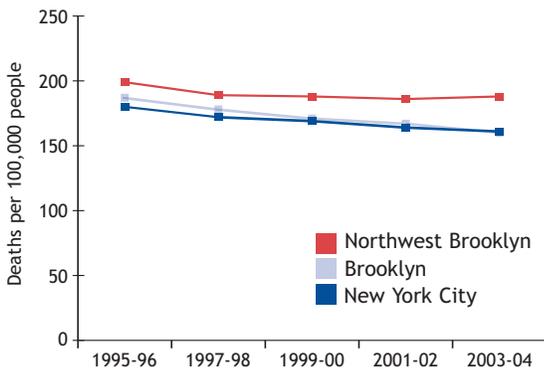
Percents are age-adjusted.
 Data Sources: ¹NYC Community Health Survey 2002 & 2004; ²NYC Community Health Survey 2003-04

Cancer screening can save lives by preventing disease, catching cancer in its early stages and providing opportunities for treatment. TCNY has set specific screening targets for cervical, breast, and colon cancers.

Women in Northwest Brooklyn are more likely to get timely Pap tests for cervical cancer than women in Brooklyn and NYC overall, but mammogram screening for breast cancer is still below the TCNY target. The percent of Northwest Brooklyn adults aged 50 and older who had a colonoscopy in the past 10 years has more than doubled between 2002 and 2004. Although the size of this increase cannot be precisely estimated because of small sample size, colonoscopy screening has clearly improved in this community but remains well below the TCNY target.

Cancer deaths

The death rate due to cancer is higher in Northwest Brooklyn



Rates are age-adjusted.
 Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

The death rate due to cancer has remained fairly steady in Northwest Brooklyn during the past decade. The 2003-2004 average annual cancer death rate was more than 15% higher than both the Brooklyn and NYC overall rates (188/100,000 vs. 160/100,000 in Brooklyn and 161/100,000 in NYC).

Preventing cancer and related deaths. Individuals can reduce their risk of the most common cancers. Never smoking or quitting the habit greatly reduces the risk of lung and other cancers. High colon and breast cancer death rates highlight the importance of getting recommended screenings so treatment can begin early.

The highest cancer-related death rates among men in Northwest Brooklyn are due to lung, prostate, and colon cancers. Among women, colon, breast, and lung cancers are the top 3 causes of cancer-related death.

Highest cancer death rates in Northwest Brooklyn (2003-2004)					
MEN			WOMEN		
Type of Cancer	DEATHS / 100,000 PEOPLE		Type of Cancer	DEATHS / 100,000 PEOPLE	
	Northwest Brooklyn	NYC		Northwest Brooklyn	NYC
Lung, trachea, bronchus	52	51	Colorectal	28	17
Prostate	35	25	Breast	26	26
Colorectal	31	23	Lung, trachea, bronchus	23	28
Blood-related	18	18	Pancreas	12	9
Liver	15	10	Uterus	11	5

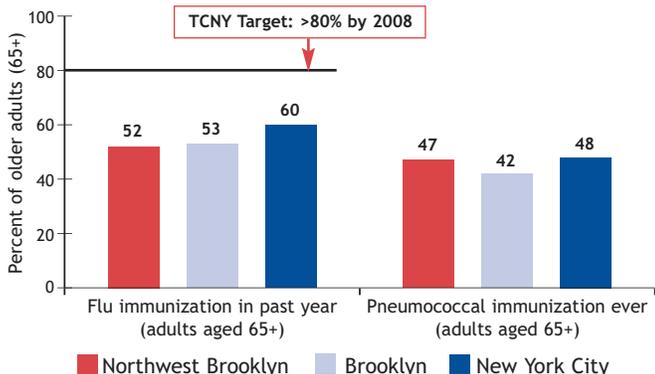
Rates are age-adjusted. Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 2003-2004; U.S. Census 2000/NYC Department of City Planning



GOAL 8 Get the Immunizations You Need

Immunizations

Flu shot rates among older adults fall below the TCNY target and pneumococcal (pneumonia) immunizations are even lower



Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

Immunizations are not just for kids. Of all the deaths that could have been prevented by vaccination, 99% occur in adults. **Take Care New York** has set a target that more than 80% of adults aged 65 and older will get an annual flu (influenza) shot by 2008. The Northwest Brooklyn flu immunization rate among older adults falls short of the TCNY target by 35%.

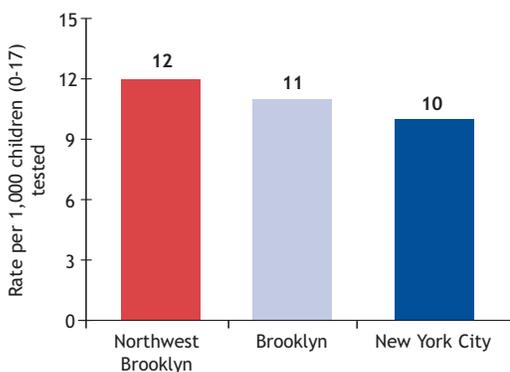
Immunization rates for pneumonia are lower than those for flu across NYC. Less than half of older adults in Northwest Brooklyn (47%) have ever received the pneumococcal vaccine, which protects against one common cause of pneumonia.



GOAL 9 Make Your Home Safe and Healthy

Childhood lead poisoning

Lead poisoning among young children continues to be a problem



Lead poisoning is defined as a blood lead level ≥ 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

Data Source and Analysis: Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, NYC DOHMH, 2004

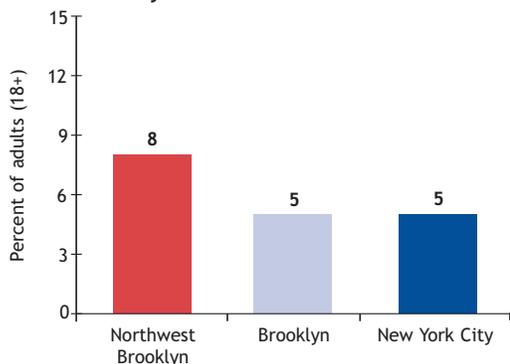
Childhood lead poisoning is a health problem that may be associated with decreased intelligence, learning and behavioral problems, and delayed growth and development. While the number of lead-poisoned children (0-17 years old) in New York City has declined dramatically over the past decade, the Health Department aims to eliminate lead poisoning by preventing children's exposure to lead-based paint and other sources of lead.

In 2004, 98 children in Northwest Brooklyn (12/1,000) were newly identified with lead poisoning (defined as a blood lead level greater than or equal to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$).

Asthma in Adults and Children

Asthma

Asthma is more common among in Northwest Brooklyn than in Brooklyn and NYC overall



Percents are age-adjusted.

Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

Conditions, or "triggers," in the home environment, such as the presence of second-hand smoke or dust, can cause asthma attacks. Some housing conditions associated with asthma triggers, such as rodent or roach infestation, are more common in some neighborhoods than others.

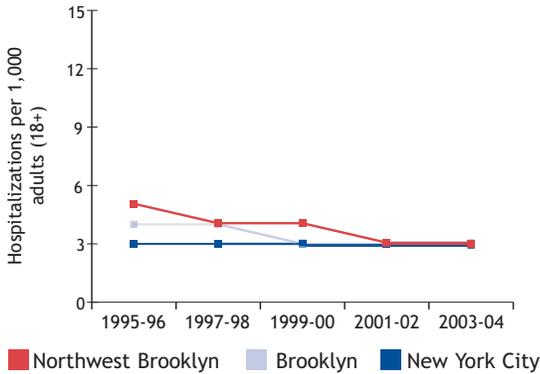
Adults in Northwest Brooklyn are more likely to report having asthma (8%) than adults in Brooklyn and New York City overall (5%).

Neighborhood asthma hospitalization rates depend in part on the percent of residents who have asthma. However, good medical management of asthma can prevent many asthma-related hospitalizations, and patients can work with health care providers to better control their asthma. Thus, the asthma hospitalization rate can also indicate poor access to health care.

Asthma hospitalization rates for both adults and children (0-17 years old) in Northwest Brooklyn have decreased in the past 10 years. The 2003-2004 average annual hospitalization rate due to adult asthma in this community was similar to rates in Brooklyn and NYC overall. Rates among children are slightly lower in Northwest Brooklyn than in NYC overall.

Adult asthma hospitalizations

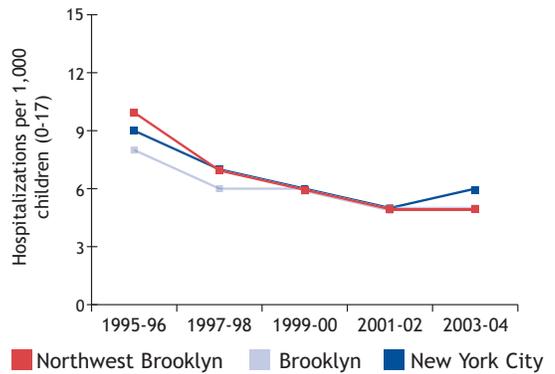
Asthma hospitalization rates are similar in Northwest Brooklyn, Brooklyn and NYC overall



Rates are age-adjusted.
Data Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

Child asthma hospitalizations

The child asthma hospitalization rate has decreased by half in Northwest Brooklyn



Data Sources: New York State Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

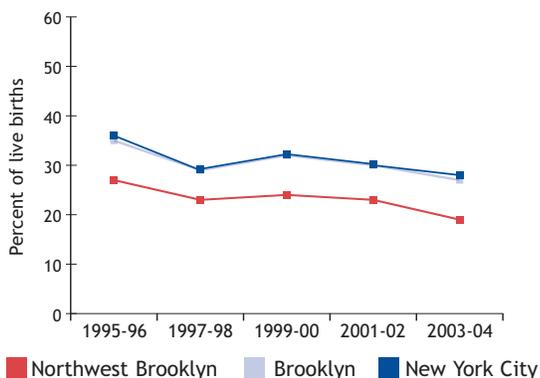
TAKE CARE NEW YORK Goal 10 Have a Healthy Baby

The health of babies depends on the health of mothers. Good health care for pregnant women includes high quality prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of pregnancy. The average annual percent of women who received late or no prenatal care has declined by 30% in Northwest Brooklyn in the past decade. In 2003-2004, the percent (19%) was lower than in Brooklyn (27%) and NYC overall (28%).

Teenage mothers and their babies face a number of risks. Pregnant teens are more likely to be poor and not complete high school than other teens, and they are more likely to have babies born with low birthweight than older women. The birth rate to teenage mothers has decreased over the past 10 years by half in Northwest Brooklyn. The average teen birth rate in 2003-2004 in this community (58/1,000) was lower than in Brooklyn (73/1,000) and NYC overall (75/1,000).

Prenatal care

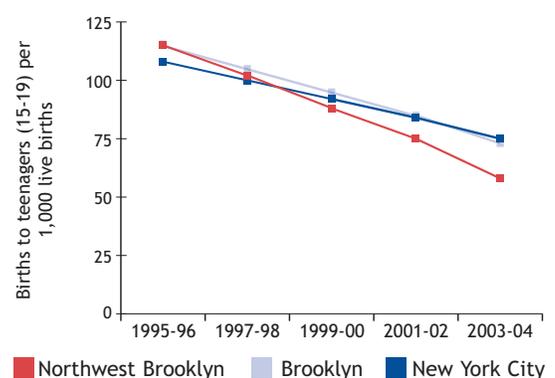
Mothers in Northwest Brooklyn are less likely to receive late or no prenatal care



Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004

Teenage mothers

The birth rate to teenage mothers (15-19 years) is lower in Northwest Brooklyn

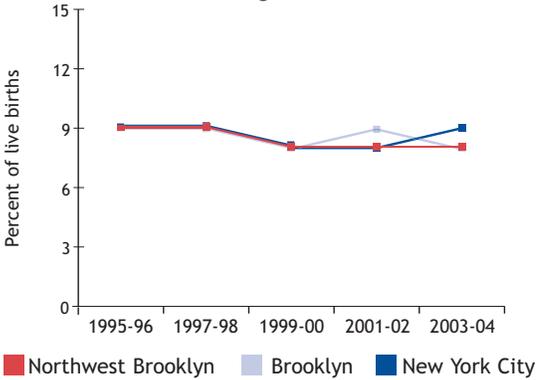


Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004

Babies born with low birthweight tend to have more health problems than others. In 2003-2004, the average percent of babies born with low birthweight in Northwest Brooklyn was 8% — the same as Brooklyn (8%) and similar to NYC overall (9%). Infant mortality (the death of babies in the first year of life) has declined in the past 10 years in Northwest Brooklyn and in NYC overall. The 2002-2004 rate in Northwest Brooklyn was 6/1,000, similar to Brooklyn and NYC overall, but still higher than the TCNY target.

Low birthweight

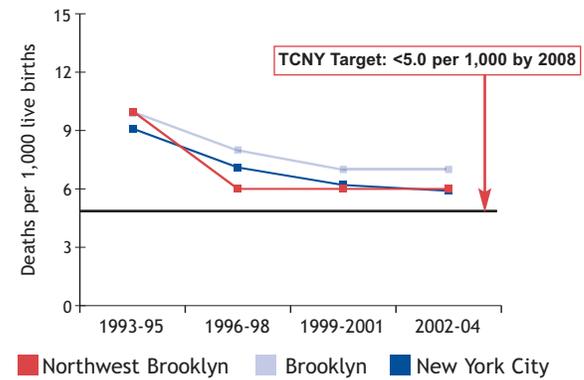
Fewer than 1 in 10 in Northwest Brooklyn babies is born with low birthweight



Low birthweight is defined as <2,500 grams (5.5 pounds).
Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004

Infant mortality rate (IMR)

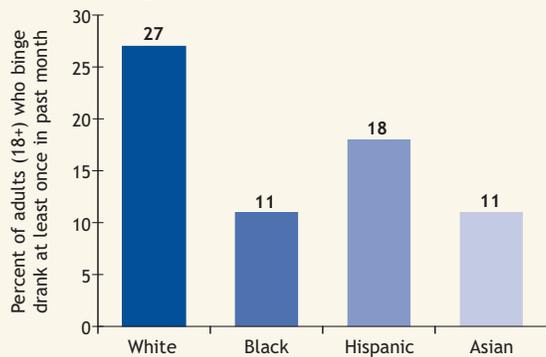
The IMR in NYC is still higher than the TCNY target



Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1993-2004

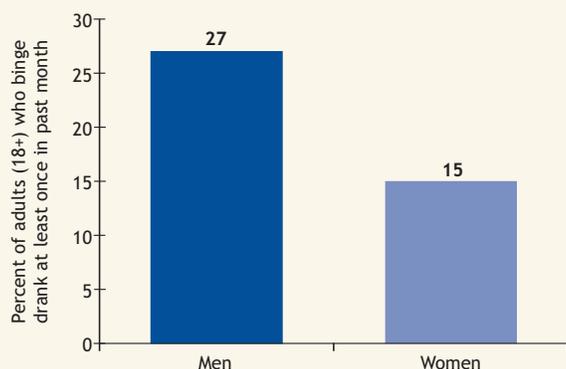
Neighborhood Health Highlight: Binge Drinking

White residents in Northwest Brooklyn are most likely to binge drink



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

Men are more likely to binge drink than women in Northwest Brooklyn



Percents are age-adjusted.
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

Every New York City neighborhood has different health concerns. Here we highlight binge drinking in Northwest Brooklyn.

Binge drinking is defined as the consumption of 5 or more drinks on one occasion, and it can be used to measure the misuse of alcohol in a community. Northwest Brooklyn residents are more likely to have engaged in binge drinking in the past month than residents in New York City overall (see page 10).

White residents are most likely to binge drink, with more than twice as many whites engaging in binge drinking in the past month as blacks in Northwest Brooklyn (27% vs. 11%).

Additionally, men are more likely to binge drink than women. In Northwest Brooklyn, binge drinking is nearly twice as common among men as among women (27% vs. 15%).

TAKING ACTION

Abuse of alcohol can lead to alcohol dependence. When drinking causes trouble in relationships, school or work, social activities, or thinking or feeling, then drinking has become a problem. **Drinking problems should be discussed with a health care professional.**

For more information, call 311.

Technical notes

Analyses

All analyses were conducted by the Bureau of Epidemiology Services, NYC DOHMH, unless otherwise indicated. All estimates in this report were age standardized to the Year 2000 Standard Population, except for age-specific data and mother-child health indicators. All CHS analyses were done in SUDAAN to account for complex survey design and were weighted to the New York City population according to the U.S. Census 2000.

Data sources

NYS DOH hospitalization data: Includes hospitalizations of NYC residents that occurred anywhere in New York State. Patient zip code was used to classify hospitalizations into 42 neighborhoods. Data from 1995-2003 updated in April 2005; 2004 data updated in July 2005.

Vital Statistics data: Includes births and deaths of NYC residents that occurred within New York City. Data were combined across years to increase statistical stability and average annual rates are presented. In addition, infant mortality rates (IMR) were calculated as 3-year annual averages, and this statistic and others may differ from the presentation in "Summary of Vital Statistics" reports from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH.

Community Health Survey data: The NYC Community Health Survey (CHS) is an annual random-digit-dial telephone survey of approximately 10,000 adults in New York City. This profile uses the following datasets from this survey: NYC CHS 2002, NYC CHS 2003, NYC CHS 2004, NYC CHS 2002-03-04, NYC CHS 2002-03, NYC CHS 2002 & 2004, and NYC CHS 2003-04. The combined-year datasets increase statistical power, allowing for more stable analyses at the neighborhood level.

Neighborhood Definitions

The 42 NYC neighborhoods are based on the United Hospital Fund definitions of neighborhood, which are specified by zip code. For a complete listing of all 42 neighborhoods and their zip codes, go to nyc.gov/health. The zip codes included in analyses of Northwest Brooklyn are 11201, 11205, 11215, 11217, and 11231. Please note that some neighborhoods were combined for statistical purposes in the CHS 2002, CHS 2003 and CHS 2004 datasets to make a total of 33 (2002) or 34 (2003, 2004) neighborhoods.

Avoidable Hospitalizations

Data based on Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (called "avoidable hospitalizations" in this report) were calculated using the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) classification of inpatient hospitalization data. Conditions in the overall measure include: Diabetes Short-term Complications Admission Rate, Diabetes Long-term Complications Admission Rate, Pediatric Asthma Admission Rate, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Admission Rate, Pediatric Gastroenteritis Admission Rate, Hypertension Admission Rate, Congestive Heart Failure Admission Rate, Dehydration Admission Rate, Bacterial Pneumonia Admission Rate, Urinary Tract Infection Admission Rate, Angina without Procedure Admission Rate, Uncontrolled Diabetes Admission Rate, Adult Asthma Admission Rate, and Rate of Lower-extremity Amputation among Patients with Diabetes.

Significance Testing

For all data, 95% confidence limits were calculated for neighborhood, borough, and NYC estimates. If these ranges did not overlap, a significant difference was inferred. This is a conservative measure of statistical difference. This methodology also was used to examine differences between years in neighborhood trend data. *Only robust findings found to be statistically significant are discussed in the text.* In addition, all NYC CHS estimates were evaluated for statistical stability using the relative standard error (RSE). Those estimates with an RSE > .30 are flagged in graphs, "Estimate is unstable due to small sample size and should be interpreted with caution."

TCNY report card

The neighborhood was classified according to where it ranked in comparison to the other 41 NYC neighborhoods with Above Average = rankings 1-10, Average = rankings 11-32, and Below Average = rankings 33-42 where 1 = the best neighborhood score. Rankings were computed by combining (or in some cases, using only one indicator) standardized measures (z-scores) of the following health indicators for each TCNY goal: TCNY#1 - primary care provider, insurance, ED visits; TCNY#2 - current smokers; TCNY#3 - diabetes, obesity, exercise, heart disease hospitalizations, heart disease mortality; TCNY#4 - HIV testing, AIDS mortality; TCNY#5 - serious psychological distress, mental illness hospitalizations; TCNY#6 - binge drinking, alcohol-related hospitalizations, drug-related hospitalizations, drug-related mortality; TCNY#7 - cervical cancer screening, breast cancer screening, colon cancer screening, cancer mortality; TCNY#8 - flu immunization; TCNY#9 - child lead poisoning, adult asthma rates; TCNY#10 - prenatal care, teenage mothers, low birthweight, infant mortality.

Cover Photograph: Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn. Photo by Daniel Krieger. Maps by Susan Resnick.

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Community Health Profile for Northwest Brooklyn

This report is an updated, expanded second edition of the 2002 Community Health Profile for Northwest Brooklyn.

NEW IN THE SECOND EDITION:

- Take Care New York report card
- Time-trend data on births, hospitalizations, and deaths
- More neighborhood-specific health statistics
- Robust estimates from data through 2004

First and second edition reports on all 42 New York City neighborhoods are available from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene online or by mail.

Web: nyc.gov/health
Click on "My Community's Health"

Email: profiles@health.nyc.gov

Mail:

Community Health Profiles
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Division of Epidemiology
125 Worth Street, Room 315, CN-6
New York, NY 10013

**For more information about health issues
in this report,
please call 311.**

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New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Division of Epidemiology, Bureau of Epidemiology Services, 125 Worth Street, CN-6, New York, NY 10013

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene

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