

# Health Disparities in New York City



New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

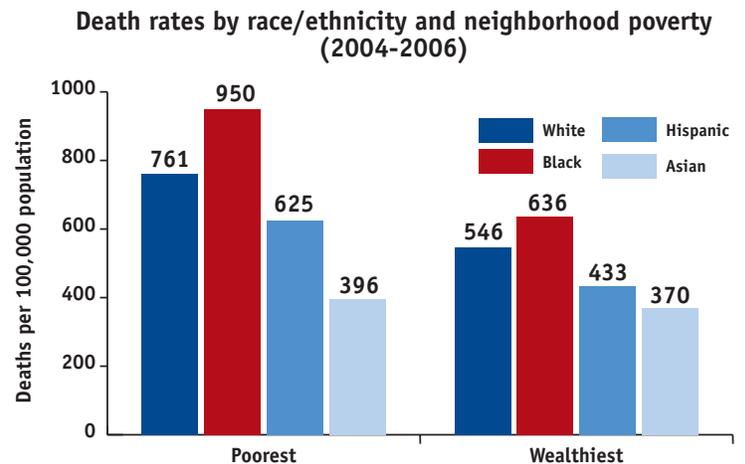
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## WHAT ARE HEALTH DISPARITIES?

Health disparities are defined as the differences in health between groups of people because of social inequalities, such as a poor neighborhood environment, poor quality of health care, or other social factors. Health problems can be related to people's race/ethnicity, where they live, or how much money they have.

### In both rich and poor neighborhoods, black New Yorkers have higher death rates than all other New Yorkers

In New York City, people living in poor neighborhoods have higher death rates than those living in wealthier neighborhoods. However, black New Yorkers have the highest rate in every neighborhood. In poor neighborhoods, the black death rate is 25% higher than the white death rate; in wealthy neighborhoods, the gap is 16%.



Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 2004-2006 combined.

## WHO CAN REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES?

Preventing the negative impact of poverty is important to reduce health disparities, and all New Yorkers have a role to play. City agencies, health professionals, academic/research institutions, policy-makers, community organizations, businesses, and individuals together can reduce the impact of social conditions on health.

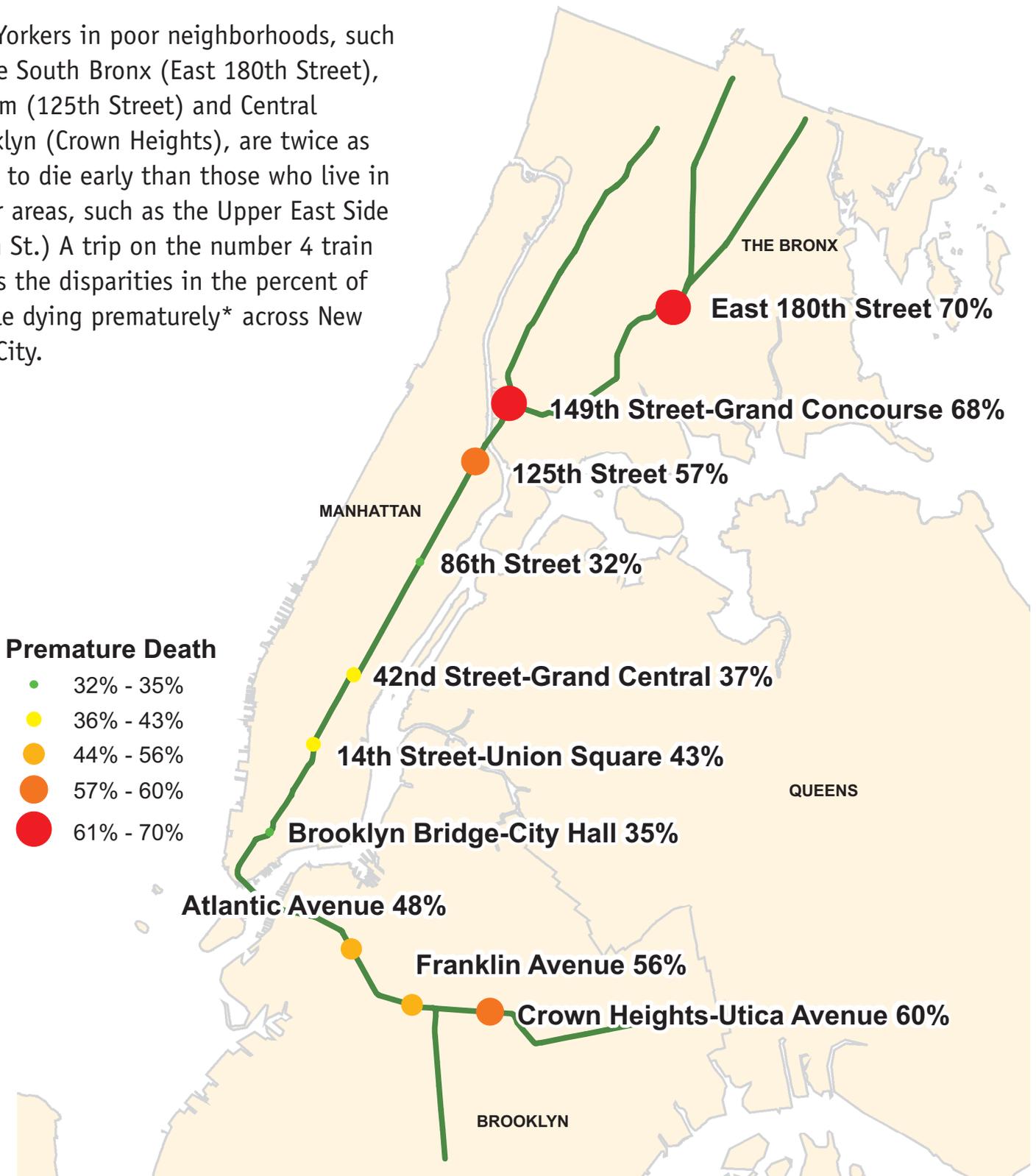
### *Reducing Health Disparities in New York City*

is a new electronic publication series that examines health disparities in NYC and promotes community- and policy-based recommendations to address this problem. To read the full first report in this series – *Health Disparities in Life Expectancy and Death* – visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health).

# HEALTH DISPARITIES ALONG THE 4/5 SUBWAY:

## Residents of the poorest NYC neighborhoods die earlier than other New Yorkers

New Yorkers in poor neighborhoods, such as the South Bronx (East 180th Street), Harlem (125th Street) and Central Brooklyn (Crown Heights), are twice as likely to die early than those who live in richer areas, such as the Upper East Side (86th St.) A trip on the number 4 train shows the disparities in the percent of people dying prematurely\* across New York City.



\*Premature death is defined as dying before 75 years of age.

Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 2004-2006 combined