



## The Brooklyn District Public Health Office: Who We Are and What We Do

The Health Department's **Brooklyn District Public Health Office** promotes health equity and works to reduce health disparities at the neighborhood level.

### About the District Public Health Offices

The Health Department's District Public Health Offices (DPHOs) were established in 2003. The DPHOs target resources, programs and attention to high-need neighborhoods in the South Bronx, East and Central Harlem, and North and Central Brooklyn. Each DPHO is based in the neighborhood it serves and cultivates relationships with residents, community groups and local leaders to better understand neighborhood concerns and needs, and engage communities in effecting change. DPHO priorities include:

- Developing innovative programs to improve community health;
- Working with community organizations, faith-based organizations, government agencies, local leaders, residents, elected officials and others to promote public health policies; and
- Conducting local research to better understand public health problems.

### Brooklyn DPHO Focus Areas

#### *Nutrition and Physical Activity*

- Implementing *We All Want Healthy Children*, a campaign to educate community-based organizations and residents about unhealthy food marketing to children.
- Working with school staff and parents to strengthen school wellness policies and conduct healthy fundraisers, implement healthy snack policies, organize walking and biking events, and integrate fitness breaks into the classroom.
- Implementing *Shop Healthy Brooklyn*, a program to increase healthy offerings at food retailers.
- Promoting active transportation by collaborating with the NYC Department of Transportation to expand the bike lane network and identify barriers to walking.
- Overseeing the *Office of Minority Health*, which works with faith-based organizations to promote healthy eating, breastfeeding and physical activity.

#### *Maternal and Infant Health*

- Implementing *Healthy Start Brooklyn* (HSB), a multifaceted initiative that provides education and support for mothers and infants on breastfeeding, perinatal depression, development delays and home safety. HSB also operates the *By My Side Support Program*, pairing doulas (trained childbirth assistants) with pregnant women.
- Working with men, local businesses and community- and faith-based organizations to make breastfeeding the default choice for all mothers.

### Contact the Brooklyn DPHO

Call 718-637-5302 or email [dpho@health.nyc.gov](mailto:dpho@health.nyc.gov).