Health is rooted in the circumstances of our daily lives and the environments in which we are born, grow, play, work, love and age. Understanding how community conditions affect our physical and mental health is the first step toward building a healthier New York City.
UPPER WEST SIDE TOTAL POPULATION

215,329

POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

67% White*
15% Hispanic
8% Asian*
7% Black*
2% Other*

POPULATION BY AGE

0 - 17 18-24 25-44 45-64 65+
15% 6% 35% 27% 18%

PERCENT WHO REPORTED THEIR OWN HEALTH AS “EXCELLENT,” “VERY GOOD” OR “GOOD”

89%

HAVE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

22% ARE FOREIGN BORN

8% LIFE EXPECTANCY

83.8 YEARS

* Non-Hispanic
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
New York City is a city of neighborhoods. Their diversity, rich history and people are what make this city so special.

But longstanding and rising income inequality, combined with a history of racial residential segregation, has led to startling health inequities between neighborhoods. Poor health outcomes tend to cluster in places that people of color call home and where many residents live in poverty. Life expectancy in Brownsville, for example, is 11 years shorter than in the Financial District. And this is not because residents of Brownsville are dying of unusual diseases, but because they are dying of the same diseases – mostly heart disease and cancer – at younger ages and at higher rates.

This is unfair and avoidable. A person’s health should not be determined by his or her ZIP code.

Reducing health inequities requires policymakers, health professionals, researchers and community groups to advocate and work together for systemic change. In One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City (OneNYC), Mayor Bill de Blasio has outlined a vision to transform this city, and every neighborhood, guided by the principles of growth, equity, sustainability and resiliency.

Our communities are not simply made up of individual behaviors, but are dynamic places where individuals interact with each other, with their immediate environments and with the policies that shape those environments. The Community Health Profiles include indicators that reflect a broad set of conditions that impact health.

Our hope is that you will use the data and information in these Community Health Profiles to advocate for your neighborhoods.
Navigating this document

This profile covers all of Manhattan Community District 7, which includes Lincoln Square, Manhattan Valley and Upper West Side, but the name is shortened to just Upper West Side. This is one of 59 community districts in New York City (NYC).

Community districts are ranked on each indicator. The highest rank (#1) corresponds to the largest value for a given measure. Sometimes a high rank indicates a positive measure of health (e.g., ranking first in flu vaccination). Other times, it indicates a negative measure of health (e.g., ranking first in the premature death rate).

The following color coding system is used throughout this document:

- **Upper West Side**
- **Best-Performing Community District**
- **Manhattan**
- **New York City**

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Housing quality
Poorly maintained housing is associated with negative health outcomes, including asthma and other respiratory illnesses, injuries and poor mental health. The percentage of Upper West Side homes with maintenance defects is similar to the city average.

Air pollution
Although NYC air quality is improving, air pollution, such as fine particles (PM$_{2.5}$), can cause health problems, particularly among the very young, seniors and those with preexisting health conditions. In the Upper West Side, levels of PM$_{2.5}$, the most harmful air pollutant, are 10.3 micrograms per cubic meter, compared with 10.7 in Manhattan and 8.6 citywide.

Retail environment
Tobacco retailers are less prevalent in the Upper West Side than in the city overall. There are 188 square feet of supermarket space per 100 people, similar to the city average.
Adult educational attainment

In the Upper West Side, 79% of adults have college degrees, and only 6% of adults have not completed high school.

Income

Living in poverty limits healthy lifestyle choices and makes it difficult to access health care and resources that can promote health and prevent illness. Unemployment and unaffordable housing are also closely associated with poverty and poor health. About one in fourteen Upper West Side adults ages 16 and older is unemployed, and two-fifths of residents spend more than 30% of their monthly gross income on rent.
Children and adolescents

The littlest New Yorkers all deserve the same opportunities for health. In the Upper West Side, the rate of preterm births, a key driver of infant death, is lower than the city rate, and the teen birth rate is less than half the city average.

### Preterm births
(percent of all live births)

- **Upper West Side** (RANKS 52nd) - 7.1
- **Midtown** (RANKS 59th) - 5.7
- **Manhattan** - 8.1
- **NYC** - 9.0

### Teen births
(per 1,000 girls ages 15-19)

- **Upper West Side** (RANKS 48th) - 9.5
- **Financial District** (RANKS 59th) - 1.1*
- **Manhattan** - 16.0
- **NYC** - 23.6

### Elementary school absenteeism
(percent of students missing 20 or more school days)

- **Upper West Side** (RANKS 43rd) - 13
- **Financial District** (RANKS 39th) - 4
- **Manhattan** - 18
- **NYC** - 20

*Interpret estimate with caution due to small number of events

### Incarceration

**Jail incarceration** (per 100,000 adults ages 16 and older)

- **Queens Village** (RANKS 59th) - 5*
- **Upper West Side** (RANKS 39th) - 46

*Interpret estimate with caution due to small number of events

### Violence

**Non-fatal assault hospitalizations** (per 100,000 population)

- **Upper West Side** (RANKS 50th) - 21
- **Rego Park and Forest Hills** (RANKS 59th) - 11
- **Manhattan** - 51
- **NYC** - 64

People who are incarcerated have higher rates of mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction and other health conditions.

Non-fatal assault hospitalizations capture the consequences of community violence.
Self-reported health
People are good at rating their own health. When asked to rate their overall health on a scale of one to five (excellent, very good, good, fair or poor), 89% of Upper West Side residents rate their health as “excellent,” “very good” or “good.”

Percent who self-reported their own health as “excellent,” “very good” or “good”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Upper West Side</th>
<th>Upper East Side</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>New York City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upper West Side (RANKS 5th)  Upper East Side (RANKS 1st)  Manhattan  New York City

Smoking, diet and physical activity
Smoking, poor quality diet and physical inactivity are risk factors for high blood pressure, diabetes and other problems. Adults in the Upper West Side smoke and eat fruits and vegetables at rates similar to those of residents of Manhattan and the city as a whole. However, adults in the Upper West Side are less likely to consume sugary drinks and are more likely to get physical activity than adults citywide.

One in eight Upper West Side adults consumes at least one sugary beverage per day, the second-lowest percentage in the city.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Upper West Side</th>
<th>Best-performing community district</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>NYC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current smokers</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10% East Flatbush (RANKS 57th)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 or more 12 oz sugary drink per day</td>
<td>12% (RANKS 58th)</td>
<td>12% Stuyvesant Town and Turtle Bay (RANKS 59th)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one serving of fruits or vegetables per day</td>
<td>91% (RANKS 15th)</td>
<td>95% Bayside and Little Neck (RANKS 1st)</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any physical activity in the last 30 days</td>
<td>87% (RANKS 4th)</td>
<td>90% Clinton and Chelsea &amp; Midtown (RANKS 1st)</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Interpret estimate with caution due to small sample size

NYC DOHMH, Community Health Survey, 2011-2013
Obesity and diabetes

Obesity can lead to serious health problems such as diabetes and heart disease. At 12%, the rate of obesity in the Upper West Side is similar to the rate in Stuyvesant Town and Turtle Bay. The diabetes rate in the Upper West Side is 4%, compared with 10% in NYC overall.

Exercise is one way to maintain a healthy weight. Federal guidelines say that children should get 60 minutes of exercise per day, adults should get 150 minutes per week, and older adults should get 150 minutes per week as their physical abilities allow, with a focus on exercises to improve balance.

Substance use

Drug- and/or alcohol-related hospitalizations reflect acute and chronic consequences of substance misuse. In the Upper West Side, such hospitalization rates are lower than the rates in Manhattan and NYC.
Access to health care

A lack of quality health care can lead to negative health outcomes and more intensive treatment, such as avoidable hospitalizations. Fewer adults in the Upper West Side have no health insurance or go without prenatal care than adults citywide.

Prior to 2014, 20% of adults in NYC had no health insurance; however, with implementation of the Affordable Care Act, this percentage decreased to 14% citywide in 2014. A similar decrease is expected in the Upper West Side.

HPV infection causes cancers that can be prevented by the HPV vaccine. Boys and girls should receive the vaccine at 11 to 12 years of age, prior to HPV exposure and when the vaccine is most effective.

Prevention and screening

Teenaged girls from the Upper West Side are less likely to receive the full human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series than girls from the city as a whole. Upper West Side adults are as likely to get tested for HIV as other NYC adults and rank fifth-highest in getting flu vaccinations.
New HIV diagnoses
Some people with HIV do not know that they are infected. Getting diagnosed is the first step in the treatment and care of HIV. The Upper West Side ranks thirty-seventh in the rate of new HIV diagnoses.

New HIV diagnoses (per 100,000 population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Upper West Side</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>NYC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis rate</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People diagnosed with HIV who enter care and start antiviral medications live longer, healthier lives and are less likely to transmit HIV.

Stroke
High blood pressure is the leading risk factor for stroke and the most important to control. The Upper West Side rate of stroke hospitalizations is one of the lowest in the city.

Hospitalizations due to stroke (per 100,000 adults)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Upper West Side</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>NYC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Variations in hospitalization rates may reflect differences in rates of illness, access to health care and other social and cultural factors. The rate of adult psychiatric hospitalizations in the Upper West Side is lower than the Manhattan and NYC rates.

Mental health

Psychiatric hospitalizations (per 100,000 adults)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Upper West Side</th>
<th>Financial District</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>NYC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Child asthma**

Many hospitalizations for asthma among children could be prevented by addressing housing-related exposures to asthma triggers, including cockroaches, mice and secondhand smoke. Good medical management can prevent asthma symptoms. The rate of asthma hospitalizations among children ages 5 to 14 in the Upper West Side is lower than the Manhattan and citywide rates.

**Adult hospitalizations for asthma**

The rate of avoidable adult asthma hospitalizations in the Upper West Side is lower than the Manhattan and NYC rates.

**Adult hospitalizations for diabetes**

The rate of avoidable adult diabetes hospitalizations in the Upper West Side is half the city rate.
Leading causes of death
The top causes of death for residents of the Upper West Side, as for most New Yorkers, are heart disease and cancer. The death rate due to diabetes is half the citywide rate.

Infant mortality and premature death
The rate of infant mortality in the Upper West Side is less than half the NYC rate. Disparities in premature death (death before the age of 65) persist among neighborhoods. The rate of premature death in the Upper West Side is greater than in the Financial District.
NOTES

Technical notes

Neighborhood Definitions and Rankings
The 59 Community Districts (CDs) were established citywide by local law in 1975. For a complete listing of all CDs and their boundaries, go to nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/neigh_info/nhmap.shtml. The CDs correspond to New York City (NYC) Community Boards, which are local representative bodies. The names of neighborhoods within CDs are not officially designated. The names used in this document are not an exhaustive list of all known neighborhood names within this area. CDs were ranked on every indicator. If two CDs had the same value, they were considered to be tied and given the same rank.

For American Community Survey (ACS) and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Community Health Survey (CHS) indicators, data were available by Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs), which are aggregated Census tracts designed to approximate CDs. For Housing and Vacancy Survey (HVS), data were available by sub-borough areas. The U.S. Census Bureau combined four pairs of CDs in creating these PUMA or sub-borough areas to improve sampling and protect the confidentiality of respondents. These pairs are Mott Haven/Melrose (BX 01) and Hunts Point/Longwood (BX 02) in the Bronx, Morrisania/Crotona (BX 03) and Belmont/East Tremont (BX 06) in the Bronx, the Financial District (MN 01) and Greenwich Village/Soho (MN 02) in Manhattan and Clinton/Chelsea (MN 04) and Midtown (MN 05) in Manhattan. For these four areas, the same estimate was applied to both CDs that comprised the PUMA or sub-borough area for data from ACS, CHS and HVS.

Analyses
For most 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. Only robust findings found to be statistically significant are discussed in the text. In addition, most estimates were evaluated for statistical stability using the relative standard error (RSE). Those estimates with an RSE greater than 30% are flagged as follows: “Interpret estimate with caution due to small number of events or small sample size.”

Where noted, estimates in this report were age standardized to the Year 2000 Standard Population.

Data Sources

U.S. Census/American Community Survey (ACS): The U.S. Census calculates intercensal population estimates which were used for overall population, age, race and ethnicity indicators. The ACS is an ongoing national survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Indicators include limited English proficiency, foreign born percentage, adult educational attainment, poverty, unemployment and rent burden. Three-year estimates (2011-2013) are used to improve reliability of the data.

NYC DOHMH Community Health Survey (CHS): The CHS is an annual random-digit-dial telephone survey of approximately 9,000 adults in NYC. Indicators include self-reported health, smoking, average daily sugary drink consumption, fruit and vegetable consumption, physical activity, obesity, diabetes, insurance coverage, went without needed care, flu vaccination and HIV testing. A combined-year dataset (2011-2013) was used to increase statistical power, allowing for more stable analyses at the Community District level. Community District level estimates were imputed based on participant’s ZIP code, age, race and ethnicity, sex and borough of residence. All indicators are age-adjusted; however crude estimates and rankings are available online in the complete dataset.

NYC DOHMH Vital Statistics: The Bureau of Vital Statistics analyzes data that it collects from hundreds of thousands of birth and death certificates issued in NYC each year by the Bureau of Vital Records. Indicators include preterm births, teen births, prenatal care, leading causes of death, infant mortality, premature mortality, avoidable deaths and life expectancy. For some indicators, data sources were combined across three, five or ten years to increase statistical stability and average annual rates are presented. For this reason, these statistics may differ from the presentation in the “Summary of Vital Statistics” reports from the Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH. All rates are shown as crude rates, except leading causes of death and premature mortality rates, which are age-adjusted.

New York State (NYS) Department of Health Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS): SPARCS is a statewide comprehensive all payer data reporting system established in 1979 currently collecting patient level detail on patient characteristics, diagnoses and treatments, services and charges for each hospital inpatient stay and outpatient visit (ambulatory surgery, emergency department and outpatient services); and each ambulatory
surgery and outpatient services visit to a hospital extension clinic and diagnostic and treatment center licensed to provide ambulatory surgery services. Indicators include non-fatal assault hospitalizations, alcohol-related hospitalizations, drug-related hospitalizations, child asthma hospitalizations, avoidable adult asthma hospitalizations, avoidable adult diabetes hospitalizations, psychiatric hospitalizations and stroke hospitalizations. Hospitalization data are defined according to International Classification of Disease Clinical Modification, Version 9 (ICD-9-CM) codes. Most of these hospitalization indicators show 2012 data, updated in December 2014. For child asthma hospitalizations and non-fatal assault hospitalizations, data sources were combined across two and three years respectively to increase statistical stability and average annual rates are presented.

All indicators are age-adjusted, except child asthma hospitalizations, which is age-specific.

**NYC Housing and Vacancy Survey (HVS):** HVS data from 2011 were used to estimate the percent of renter-occupied homes with at least one maintenance issue (defect). Data were obtained from the NYC Housing Preservation and Development Report: Housing New York City 2011.

**NYC Community Air Survey (NYCCAS):** 2013 annual averages of micrograms of fine particulate matter per cubic meter were calculated from air samples collected at specific NYCCAS monitoring sites and were incorporated into a statistical model that predicted pollutant concentrations.

**NYC Department of Consumer Affairs:** 2014 tobacco retail density data were analyzed by the NYC DOHMH Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Tobacco Control.

**NYC Department of Agriculture and Markets:** Based on data from 2014, the supermarket square footage rate was analyzed by the NYC Department of City Planning and the NYC DOHMH Bureau of Epidemiology Services.

**NYC Department of Education:** Elementary school absenteeism data for the 2013-14 school year were analyzed from FITNESSGRAM data by the NYC DOHMH Bureau of Epidemiology Services.

**NYC Department of Corrections:** The average daily population of incarcerated persons in NYC jails ages 16 and older by CD of last known residence. Based on NYC Department of Corrections (DOC) bi-weekly in-custody files from July 1 to Oct 9, 2014.

**NYC DOHMH Citywide Immunization Registry:** 2014 HPV vaccination data were analyzed by the NYC DOHMH Bureau of Immunization.

**NYC DOHMH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Registry:** New HIV diagnosis data for 2013 were analyzed by the NYC DOHMH Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control.

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Contact Information:
For reports on the other 58 Community Districts, please visit nyc.gov and search “Community Health Profiles” or email: profiles@health.nyc.gov

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