

# NYC WELL-BEING INDEX AND CHANGES OVER TIME

Dear Reader,

The NYC Well-Being Index and Changes Over Time report examines measures in community well-being as well as the changes in well-being since the original 2015 report. The current report highlights both the top five Neighborhood Tabulation Areas (NTAs) with the largest growth change and the largest decline change since 2015. NYC constitutes 188 NTAs, which is the smallest unit of analysis that reliably captures the unique differences among these many neighborhoods. This report provides indicators on the following seven domains: economic security, health, education, housing, personal and community safety, core infrastructure and safety and community vitality.

These measures help us understand areas where communities have improved as well as where further improvement is needed. We look forward to having these data inspire efforts already underway that are having a demonstrable impact or those that need improvement in neighborhoods throughout the City.

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) Capstone team that initiated this report: Eva Weismann (Advisor) for providing the students with the guidance and team members Alaina Leggette, Eric Pesner, Tatiana Piskula, Fang Yu, Jessica Zhang, Xue Mo Zhang and You Ran Zhu.

From the CIDI staff, Eileen Johns, Nebahat Noyan, Jacob Berman, Erin Eastwood and Andy Martin and intern Julia Brauchle provided the due diligence in conceptualization, data design and quality assurance. Nebahat Noyan also designed the report to create a user-friendly representation of this wealth of information by each NTA.

We would like to extend our appreciation for the guidance and support of Dr. Raul Perea-Henze, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, and the Mayor of New York City Bill de Blasio, who has made equity and well-being paramount goals for all neighborhoods.

Thank You,

Maryanne Schretzman  
Executive Director  
Center for Innovation Through Data Intelligence (CIDI)

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# HOW TO READ MAPS

## UNDERSTANDING STANDARD DEVIATIONS

The statistical term standard deviation (SD) is used throughout this report. A SD conveys the spread of a distribution in a dataset. A larger SD signifies more variability from the mean, and a smaller SD signifies less variability.

For example, the mean English Learning Aptitude (ELA) State Proficiency Rate in New York is 51.7%. The NTA **Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill** has an ELA State Test Proficiency rate of 87.2% and the NTA **Ocean Parkway South** has an ELA State Test Proficiency rate of 52.0%. Each NTA's distance from the mean determines its SD. As a result, **Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill** has a SD of greater than two, because its average is a lot higher than the mean, and **Ocean Parkway South** has a SD of very close to zero, because its average is close to the mean.

## DESCRIPTION OF NTAS

This report is structured at the smallest geographical unit for which reliable data are available – the Neighborhood Tabulation Area (NTA). NTAs were developed by the NYC Department of City Planning, and are smaller but more representative of actual neighborhoods than commonly-used Community Districts. New York City consists of 195 NTAs of which 188 are regularly inhabited. In this report, data were collected and analyzed for all 31 indicators across each NTA, then computed in relation to the Citywide mean using SDs.

## CLASSIFICATION OF NTAS

Each NTA is shaded a particular color based on how many SDs its score is from the mean. For all indicators, green is always the better outcome and red is always the worse one. For example, on the sample map on the next page, a higher ELA Test Proficiency score indicates a better outcome, so the color scale moves from red (lower) to green (higher):

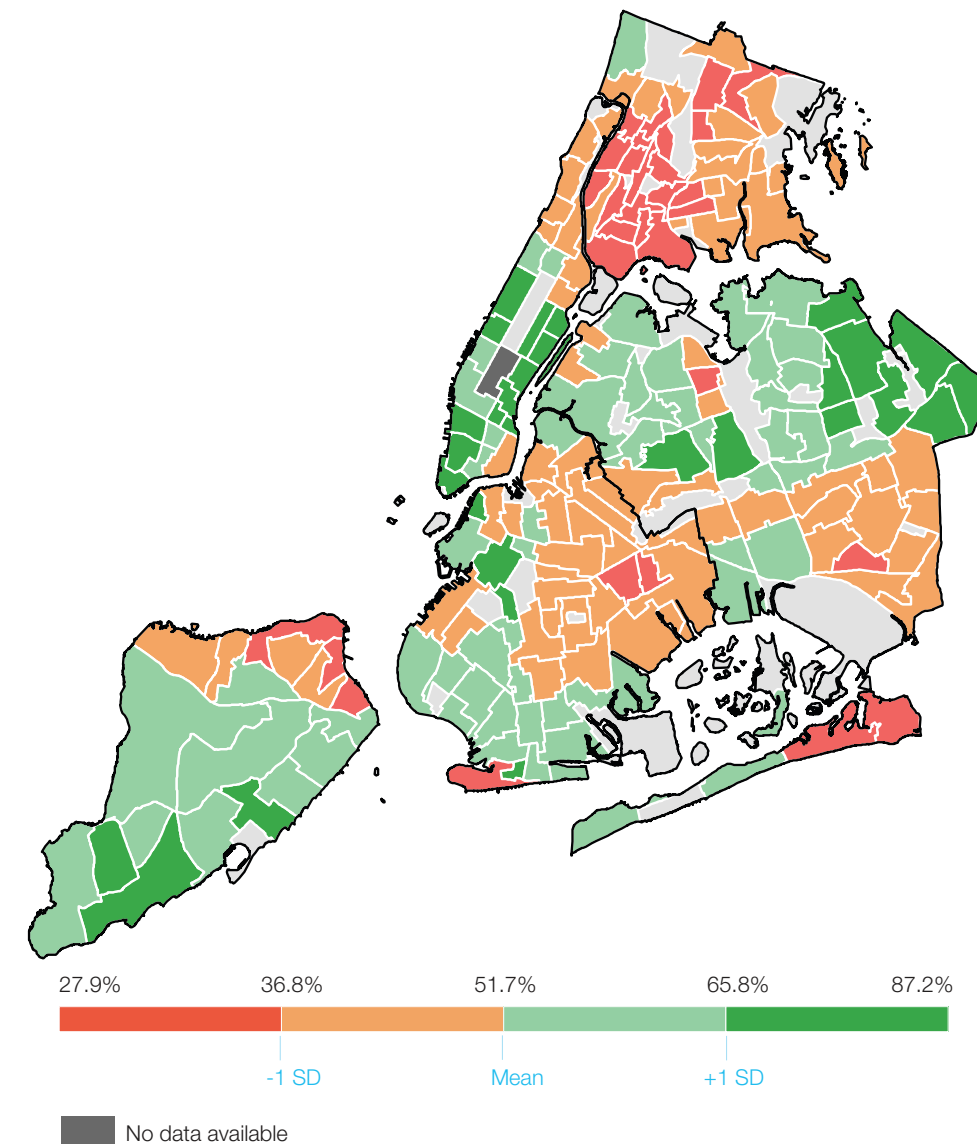
- NTAs that fall more than one SD below the mean are shown in red
- NTAs that are between the mean and one SD below the mean are shown in orange
- NTAs that are between the mean and one SD above the mean are shown in light green
- NTAs that are more than one SD above the mean are shown in dark green

Unpopulated areas such as parks, cemeteries, and airports were excluded from the analysis; these areas are shown in light gray. NTAs for which data are unavailable are marked in dark grey.

NTAs for which data are unavailable are marked in dark grey.

For other indicators in which a higher value is worse (for example, housing cost burden), then NTAs with a higher value are shown in red and NTAs with a lower value are in green.

Map 23: State Test Proficiency: ELA





# HOW TO READ TABLES

The left side of each table shows the 5 NTAs with the relatively best well-being scores. These NTAs are also shaded green on the corresponding maps.

The right side of each table shows the 5 NTAs with the relatively worst scores. These NTAs are shaded in orange and red on the maps.

For indicators where the results are clear numbers (percentages, minutes, etc.) then the values for the top 5 and bottom 5 are included. In the overall domain scores, changes over time, and composite indicators, individual values are not included because the relative comparisons and ranks are the sole focus of those indicators and charts.

NTAs with same scores/values have the same ranking in the top and bottom NTA tables. For these NTAs, a notification “tie” is included.

NTAs WITH HIGHEST ELA PROFICIENCY

- 1. Upper East Side - Carnegie Hill, MN; 87.2%
- 2. Stuyvesant Town-Cooper Village, MN; 85.2%
- 3. Gramercy, MN; 84.6%
- 4. Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill, BK; 84.6%
- 5. Turtle Bay-East Midtown, MN; 84.5%

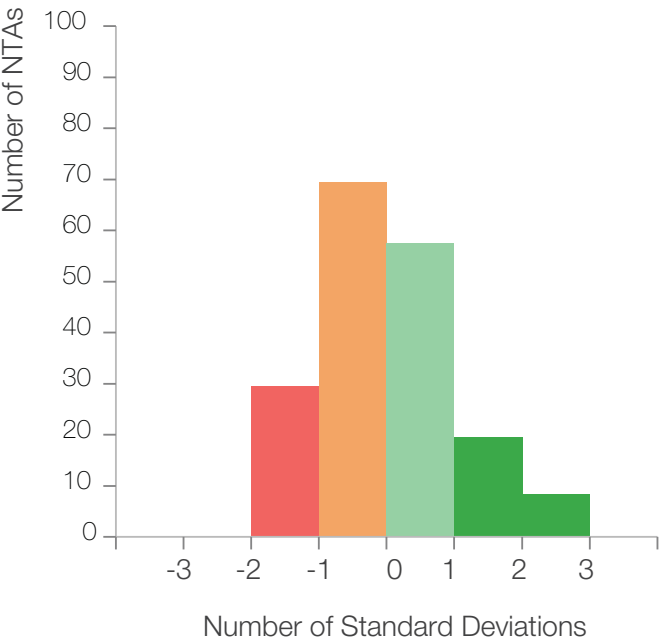
NTAs WITH LOWEST ELA PROFICIENCY

- 188. Fordham South, BX, 27.9%
- 187. East Tremont, BX, 28.6%
- 186. Hunts Point, BX; 29.9%
- 185. Bedford Park-Fordham North, BX; 30.2%
- 184. West Farms, BX; 30.2%

# HOW TO READ HISTOGRAMS

Each colored bar represents the number of NTAs that fall into that SD range. The colors are the same as in the maps, with the two shades of green representing the better outcome, and the orange and red colors represented the worse outcome. SD ranges (such as between -2 and -3 SD's in the example histogram below) that are blank mean that there are no NTAs that fall into that range for this indicator.

Figure 16: State Test Proficiency: ELA



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the core missions of government is to provide an environment that maximizes its citizens' well-being. Historically, governments have used measures such as gross domestic product or per-capita income to determine whether the citizens and communities they serve are thriving. However, these measures do not fully capture the well-being of individuals and communities. Because of this, governments now collect data on a host of issues which allows them to better understand the range of factors that influence the well-being of the people they serve. This report synthesizes these data to present a city-wide, neighborhood-based index of well-being.

The 2019 Well-Being Index is an update of a 2015 Well-Being Index, both created in partnership with Graduate Capstone teams from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Like the earlier report, the new analysis attempts to capture a wide range of factors related to the well-being and quality of life of the residents and communities of New York City. The new report also compares the change in well-being over time since 2015. The goal of this Index is to help city agencies better serve the populations to whom they are responsible.

While there is no single definition of well-being, it can be generally described as feeling good and judging life positively (CDC, 2020). In a city such as New York, with its wealth of diversity and preferences, community well-being can be difficult to capture; nonetheless, research shows that certain indicators do

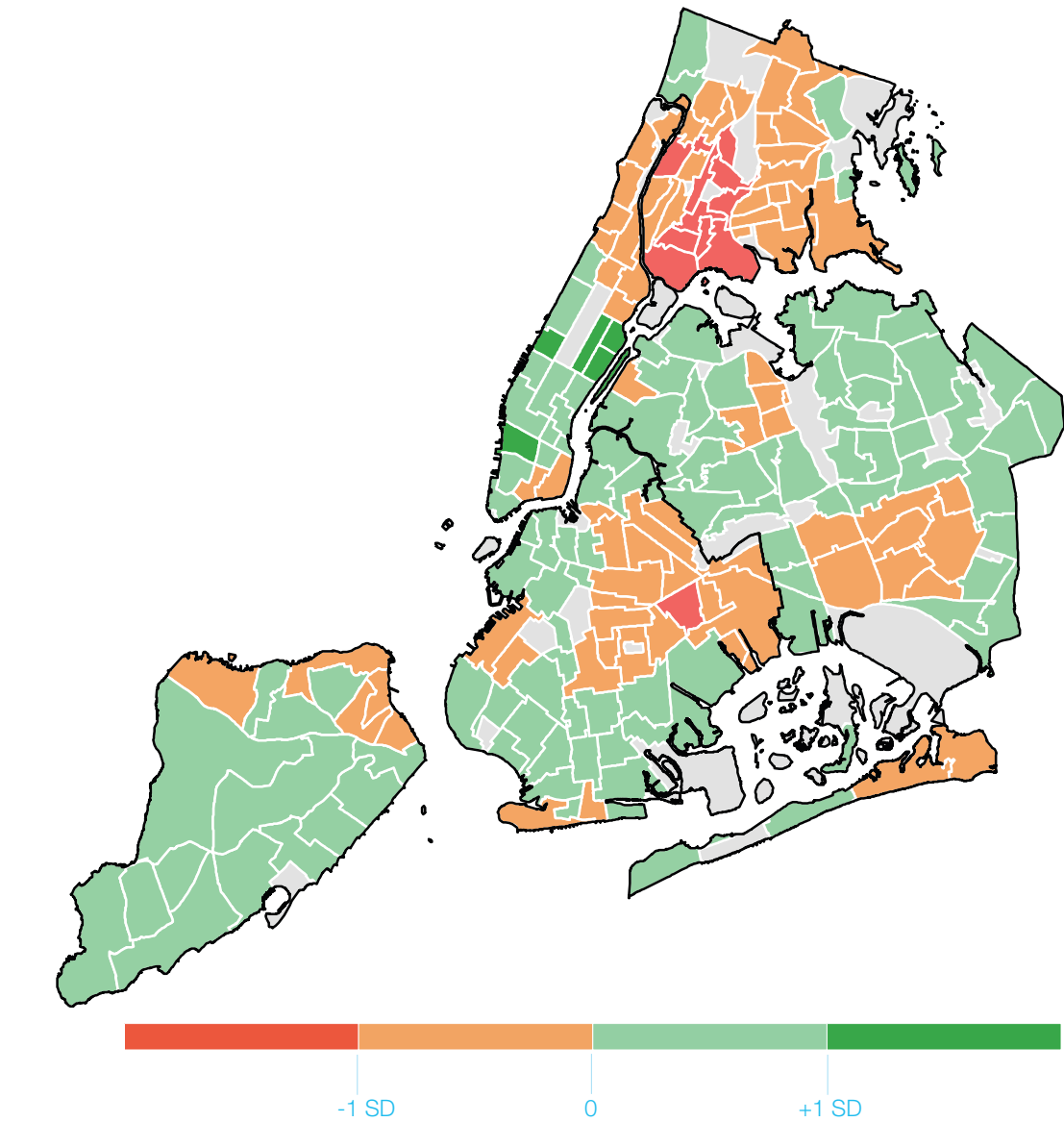
closely correlate with a community's level of well-being. Based on this research, the Well-Being Index looks at 31 indicators grouped into seven domains that together paint a picture of the quality of life of New Yorkers throughout the city. To devise the Index, the Capstone team and CIDI researchers conducted a review of the factors that influence how people view their lives, collected and analyzed data from numerous sources, synthesized the Index, and created visualizations that help elucidate important trends that can help the city better serve New York City residents. The seven domains are:

- 1. Economic Security
- 2. Health
- 3. Education
- 4. Housing
- 5. Personal and Community Safety
- 6. Core infrastructure
- 7. Community Vitality

## OVERALL WELL-BEING

Map 1 shows the overall well-being of each NTA. Among the 188 NTAs, there is a clustering around the average well-being score: 100 neighborhoods are within one standard deviation above the mean and 72 neighborhoods are within one standard deviation below the mean. The five neighborhoods with scores greater than one deviation above the mean are in Manhattan. Neighborhoods with scores below one SD from the mean are mostly but not only in the Bronx. The geographical trends seen in overall well-being are generally consistent with the trends seen in most of the seven domains.

Map 1: Overall Well-Being



### NTAs WITH HIGHEST OVERALL WELL-BEING

- 1. Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill, MN
- 2. Lincoln Square, MN
- 3. Lenox Hill-Roosevelt Island, MN
- 4. Yorkville, MN
- 5. West Village, MN

### NTAs WITH LOWEST OVERALL WELL-BEING

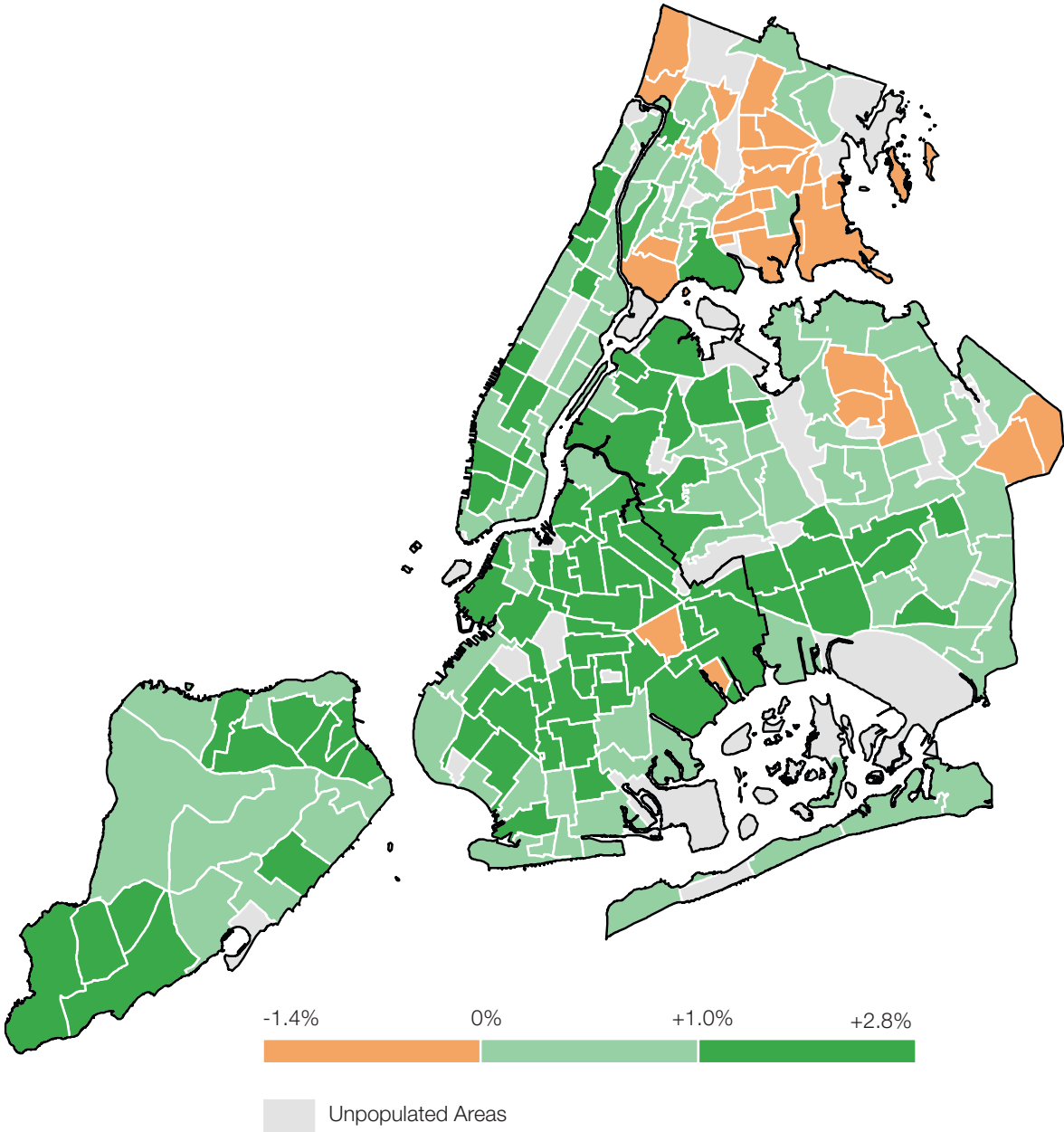
- 188 (Tie for 2 NTAs). East Tremont, BX; Belmont, BX
- 187. Claremont-Bathgate, BX
- 186. Mott Haven-Port Morris, BX
- 185. Hunts Point, BX

OVERALL WELL-BEING CHANGE OVER TIME

This report also examines how the city has changed over time, measured in percent change between 2015 and 2019. While not all indicators are collected or available every year, the 2015 Well-Being Index provided data for most of the current indicators. As in the 2019 Index, the data for the 2015 Index represented data from roughly one to four years before the Index year. For indicators that are new to the 2019 Index, the report retroactively looks at data that matched the previous time frame.

These results are shown in Map 2. Overall, that the vast majority, 86.7%, of all NTAs experienced an increase in overall well-being from 2015 until 2019. Brooklyn had the most NTAs with increases larger than 1%, as indicated by the dark green shading. These increases appear to be driven mostly by increases in the Economic Security, Education, and Personal and Community Safety domains in these neighborhoods. The east Bronx had the most NTAs with decreases in well-being over time. These declines appear to be driven mostly by decreases over time in the Health, Housing, Infrastructure and Core Services domains in these neighborhoods.

Map 2: Overall Well-Being Change Over Time (2015-2019)



NTAs WITH THE LARGEST GROWTH IN OVERALL WELL-BEING








- 1. North Side-South Side, BK; +2.8%
- 2. Ocean Parkway South, BK; +2.7%
- 2. Bushwick North, BK; +2.7%
- 4. Cypress Hills-City Line, BK; +2.6%
- 5. Clinton, MN; +2.4%

NTAs WITH THE LARGEST DECLINE IN OVERALL WELL-BEING

- 188. Bronxdale, BX; -1.4%
- 187 (Tie for 2 NTAs). Pelham Parkway, BX; Norwood, BX; -0.9%
- 186. Brownsville, BK; -0.5%
- 185. Murray Hill, QN; -0.4%

DOMAINS AND INDICATORS

The seven indicators included in this report were selected to cover a wide array of distinct factors related to well-being. To ensure this distinctness, the report selected indicators with minimal topical overlap by carrying out a correlation analysis using a large number of possible indicators. In cases where multiple variables provided essentially the same information, only one variable was chosen. Based on this research and analysis, the final domain and indicator list includes below.

DOMAINS	INDICATORS
1 ECONOMIC SECURITY	<div></div> <div><div>1. Household Income</div><div>2. Household Poverty</div><div>3. Unemployment Rate</div></div>
2 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	<div></div> <div><div>1. Current Asthma</div><div>2. Did Not Get Needed Medical Care</div><div>3. Health Insurance Coverage</div><div>4. Late or No Prenatal Care</div><div>5. Poor Health (Composite)</div><div>6. Poor Mental Health (Composite)</div><div>7. Preterm Births</div><div>8. Self-Reported Health Status</div></div>
3 EDUCATION	<div></div> <div><div>1. Bachelor's Degree and Above</div><div>2. Chronic Absenteeism</div><div>3. On-Time High School Graduation Rate</div><div>4. Preschool Enrollment</div><div>5. State Test Proficiency: ELA</div><div>6. State Test Proficiency: Math</div></div>
4 HOUSING	<div></div> <div><div>1. Owner Cost Burden</div><div>2. Renter Cost Burden</div><div>3. Noise Complaints</div><div>4. Overcrowded Housing</div></div>
5 PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	<div></div> <div><div>1. Index Crime Rate</div><div>2. Pedestrian Injuries</div><div>3. Perception of Neighborhood Safe</div></div>
6 CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	<div></div> <div><div>1. Commute Time</div><div>2. Internet Subscription</div><div>3. Pothole Complaints</div></div>
7 COMMUNITY VITALITY	<div></div> <div><div>1. Disconnected Youth</div><div>2. General Election Voter Turnout Rate</div><div>3. Helpful Neighbor</div><div>4. Jail Incarceration</div></div>

<sup>1</sup> Icons from the Noun Project.

CONCLUSION

This report shows that the areas with the lowest overall well-being scores are the east Bronx and east-central Brooklyn. The parts of the City with the highest overall well-being are central and lower Manhattan, downtown Brooklyn, southern Staten Island, and northeast Queens. These results show largely uniform trends across the seven domains, with some notable exceptions. For example, there is more variance in the Education domain, signifying unequal education opportunity, resources, and achievement across the city. In the Housing domain, central Queens and southern Brooklyn show lower scores compared to their outcomes in other domains. Trends in Community Vitality and Personal and Community Safety generally follow the overall trend, with the exception of comparatively lower scores in each in parts of central Manhattan. A completely different pattern emerges in the Core Infrastructure and Services domain, with communities further away from Manhattan having lower scores. Economic Security and Health generally follow the trends seen in overall well-being.

Looking to the future, this report helps identify which areas of the city should be the targets of intervention. Overall, there are several NTAs that lie significantly below the city average across multiple domains. Conversely, there are some regions that are doing well on average, but failing behind in one or more specific domains. City officials and policymakers can use the information in this report to pinpoint the resources that each community needs to maximize residents' well-being both in specific neighborhoods, as well as across New York City as a whole.

# RESULTS

## 1. ECONOMIC SECURITY

### Summary

Previous research has shown that economic indicators such as GDP do not by themselves fully capture the entirety of the well-being of a community. However, economic factors continue to be an important part of well-being. Indicators such as income, poverty, and unemployment are consistently included in other well-being indices (including the Canadian Index of Well-Being, the Gallup-Sharecare Index of Well-being, the Greater New Haven Community Index, and the OECD Better Life Index) (OECD, 2017b and Abraham & Buchanan, 2016).

An International Labor Organization report found that economic security is highly correlated with happiness, tolerance, and future growth and development (ILO, 2004). For decades, general policies in the United States have worked to ensure economic security. President Franklin Roosevelt, for example, argued that economic security was inseparable from individual freedom and that the government should do more to ensure that all Americans enjoy economic opportunity and a basic standard of living (Sunstein, 2004). Economic security is inextricably tied to optimism and future opportunity and is therefore an essential part of any measure of well-being.

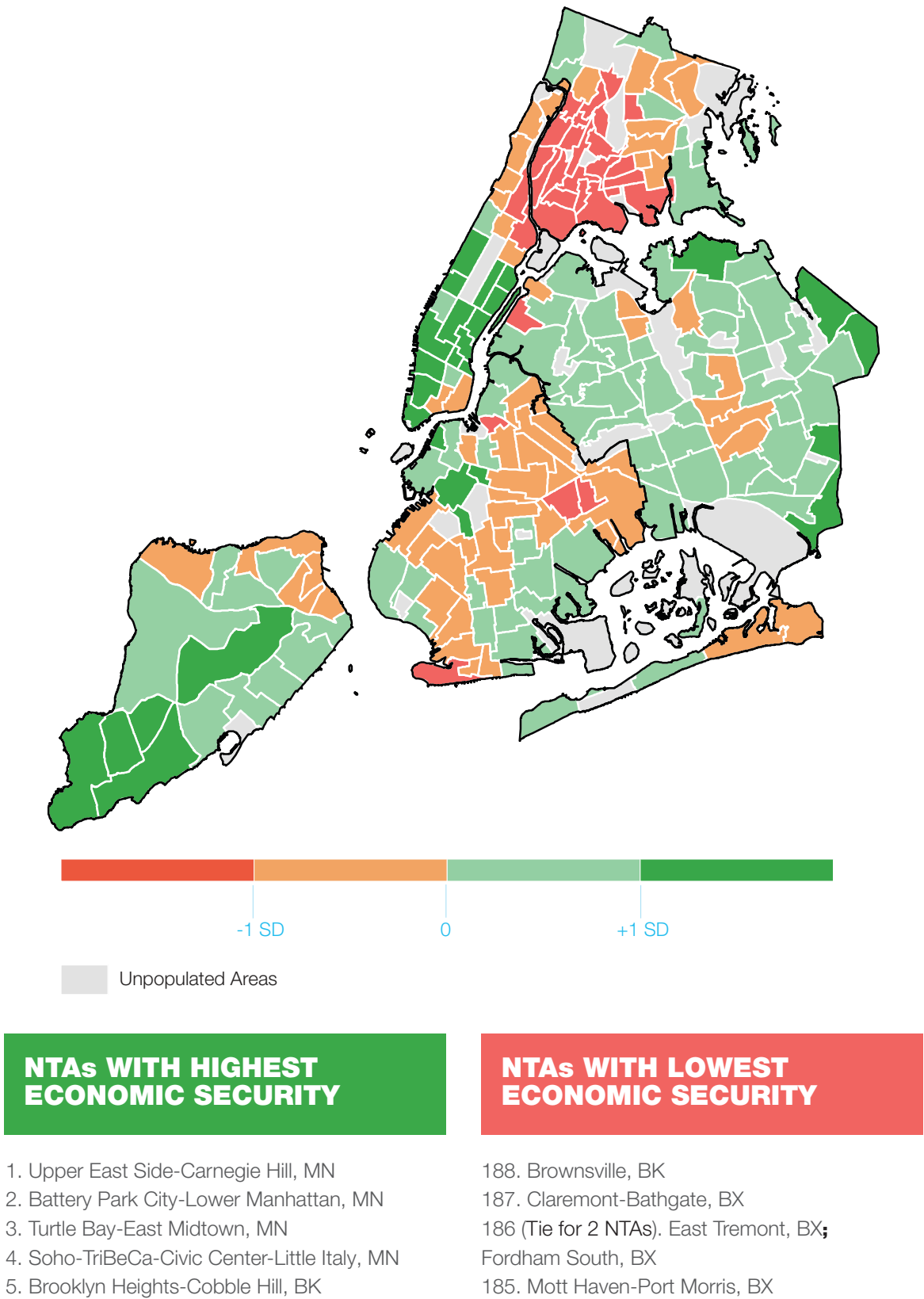
Three economic indicators were included in this report:

- 1) Median Household Income
- 2) Household Poverty Rate
- 3) Unemployment rate

Higher income, lower poverty, and lower unemployment all indicate greater well-being. Each of these contributes to the overall picture of economic security in a given neighborhood.

Map 3 shows the overall Economic Security domain score by NTA. Overall economic security is higher for NTAs on Staten Island, Queens, and Manhattan and lower for NTAs located in the Bronx and in Brooklyn. It is important to note that these three indicators often move in tandem with one another, resulting in NTAs with high median incomes having low unemployment and poverty rates, and vice versa. This is potentially promising for policymakers, as addressing one of these areas might improve outcomes for the other indicators as well.

Map 3: Economic Security





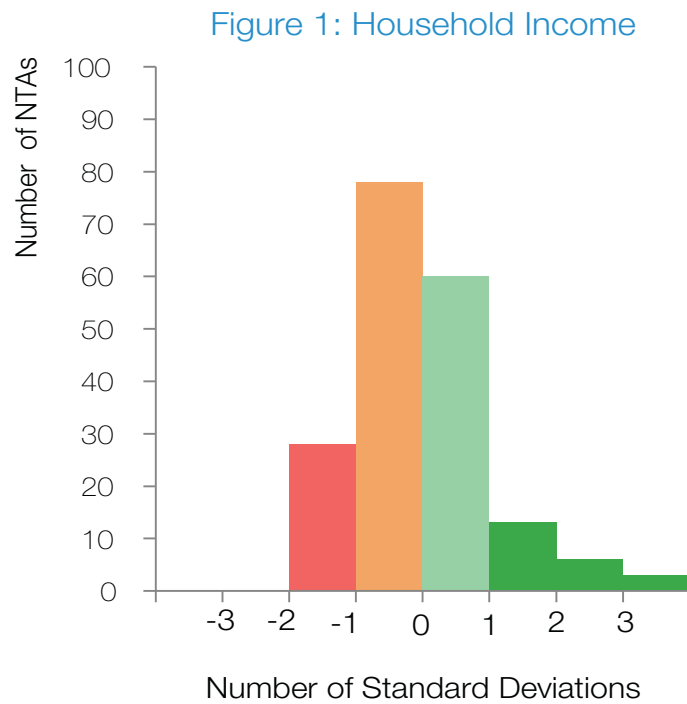
# INDICATOR: HOUSEHOLD INCOME

**Definition:** Median household income in the past 12 months (in 2017 inflation-adjusted dollars).

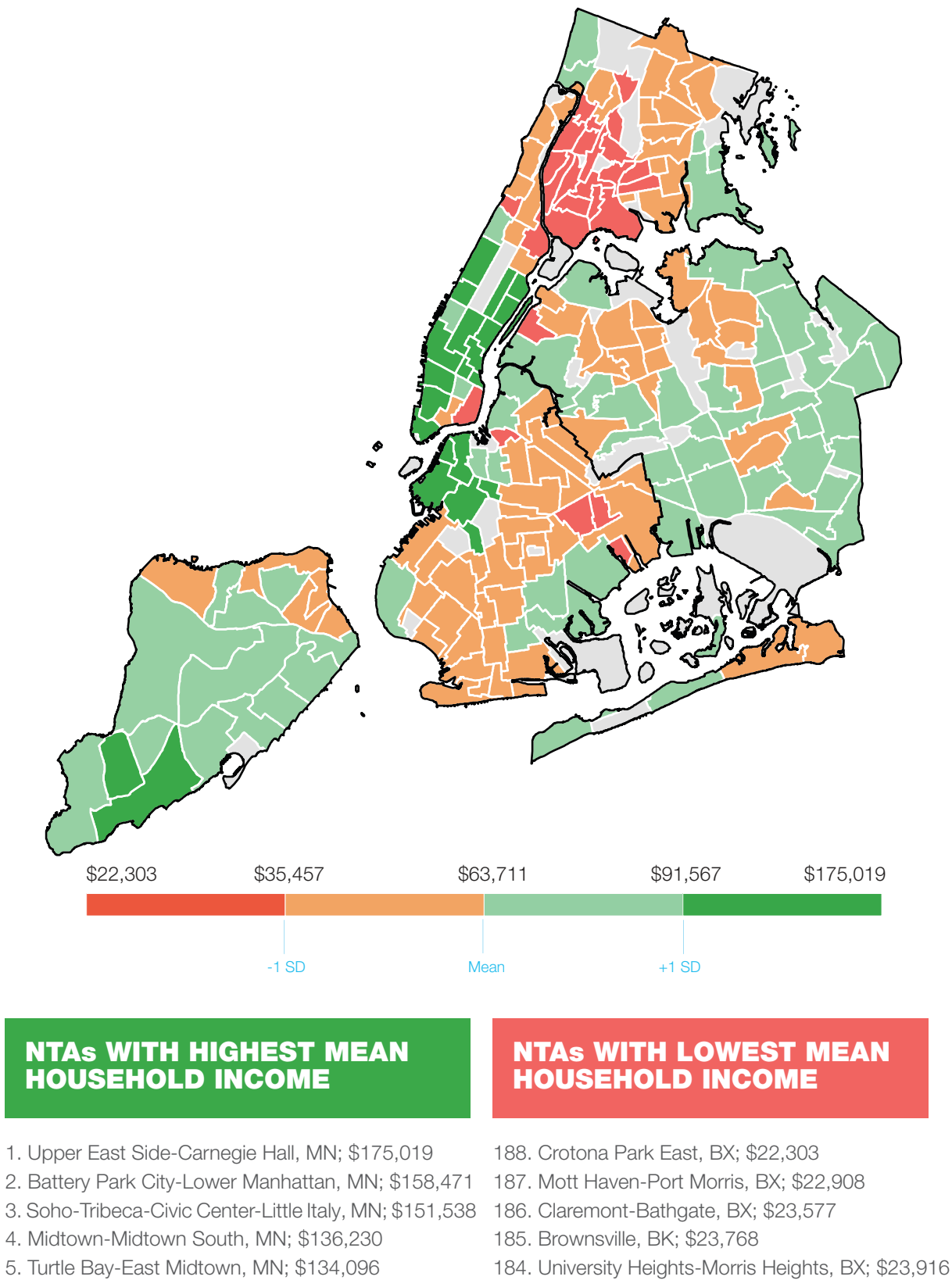
**Reasoning:** Most well-being indices include some measure of income. Respondents to the OECD Better Life Index stated that higher incomes were paramount to a high standard of living, which included access to quality housing, healthcare, and education (OECD, 2017a). In addition, economic security affords people more autonomy and control over their lives. A higher income can enable people to live in their preferred neighborhood, have a shorter commute to work, work fewer hours and spend more time socializing and pursuing leisure activities. Research has also shown that once people earn enough money to meet their basic needs, higher incomes tend to not significantly increase happiness (Kahneman & Deaton, 2010). A high cost of living in New York City means a more substantial income is needed to cover basic needs.

**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The median household income is \$58,605, while the mean is \$63,711, which explains the wide spread of incomes above the median seen in Figure1. About 73% (138 out of 188) of NTAs have income centered within one SD of the mean - between \$35,468 and \$91,567. The highest incomes are centralized in lower and central Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn, while lower incomes are dispersed across Brooklyn, Queens, upper Manhattan and the Bronx.



Map 4: Household Income



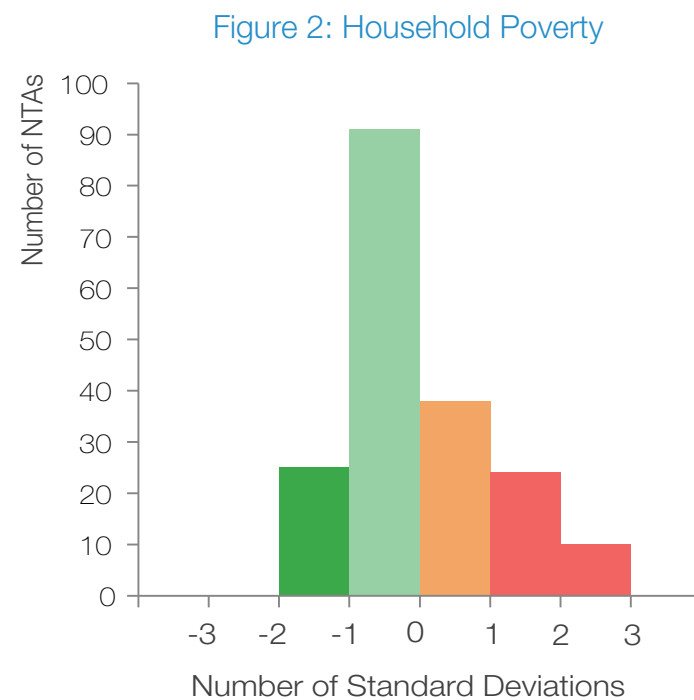
## INDICATOR: HOUSEHOLD POVERTY

**Definition:** Percent of households whose income is below the federal poverty level (\$25,750 for a family of four in 2019) (US Dept of HHS, 2019).

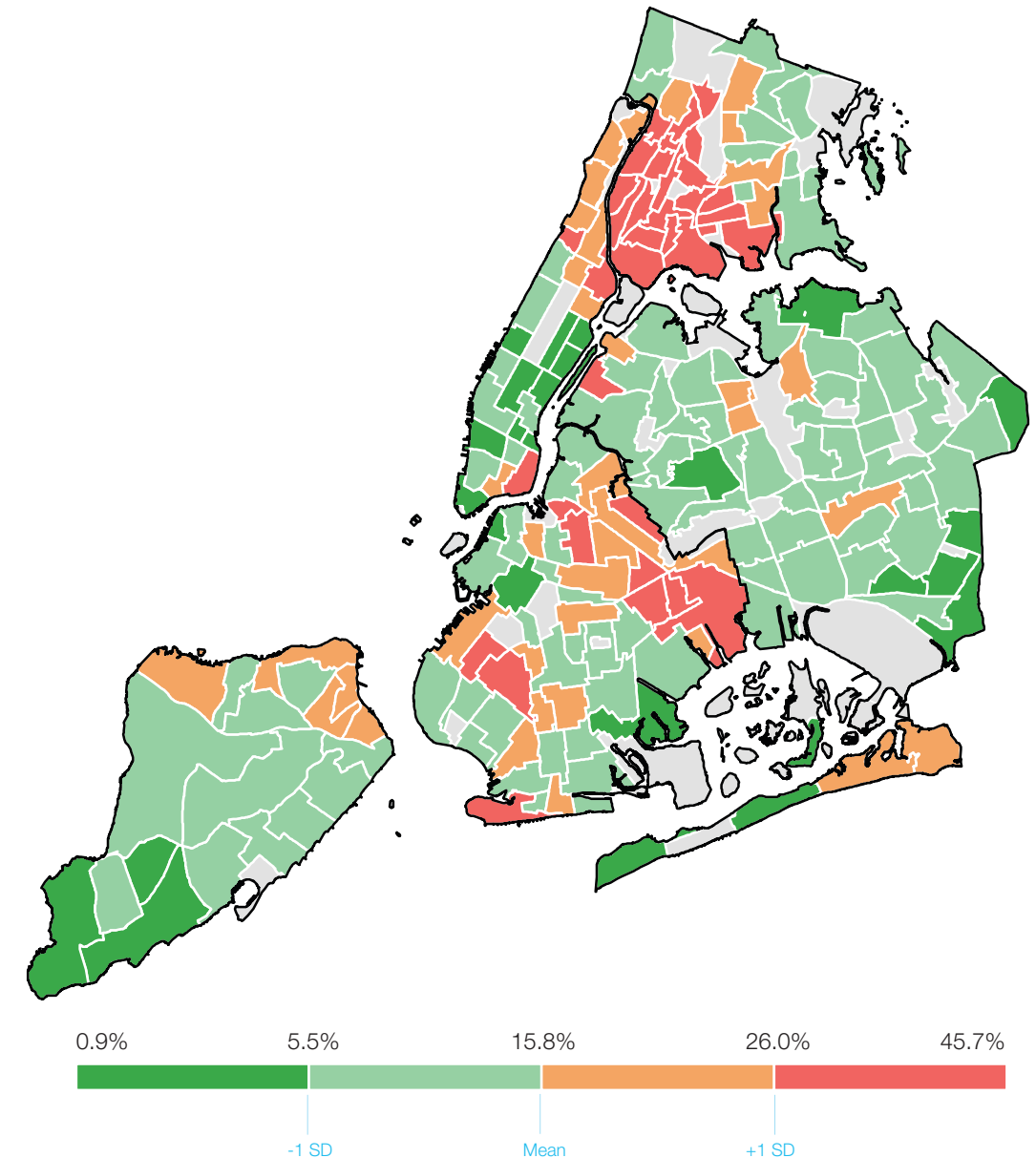
**Reasoning:** Poverty is a key measure of well-being and is a main driver of economic insecurity. Although governments provide benefits to individuals and households that fall below the poverty line, these benefits are not always available or utilized. Poverty directly affects the children in a household by impacting childhood development and educational attainment. Poverty also affects the adults in the household by lowering current and prospective life satisfaction, which can affect mental health and lead to depression (Clark & Ghislandi, 2013). In addition, higher levels of poverty can impact the health of households by increasing stress, reducing the likelihood of healthy eating, and increasing the use of tobacco products (Khullar and Chokshi, 2018).

**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates<sup>2</sup>), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** Figure 2 shows the distribution of household poverty among the 188 NTAs. The household poverty rate ranges from under 1% to 45.7%, with a median and mean poverty rate of 12.7% and 15.8% respectively. While the trend is very similar to household income, there are more NTAs performing above the mean in Queens and central Brooklyn in this indicator. This suggests that having a lower than average income is not necessarily synonymous with poverty. The Bronx and northeastern Brooklyn have higher rates of poverty following the same trend as household income in the city. One surprising finding is that Williamsburg, Brooklyn was an NTA with one of the highest rates on poverty (44.9%) However, the Williamsburg neighborhood is comprised of two NTAs, and the poverty rate in the northern part of Williamsburg (the NTA called North Side-South Side) is a much lower than the southern part of Williamsburg



Map 5: Household Poverty



### NTAs WITH LOWEST HOUSEHOLD POVERTY

1. Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill, BK; 0.9%
2. Turtle Bay - East Midtown, MN; 1.6%
3. Gramercy, MN; 2.1%
4. West Village, MN; 2.5%
5. Yorkville, MN; 2.7%

### NTAs WITH HIGHEST HOUSEHOLD POVERTY

188. Claremont-Bathgate, BX; 45.7%
187. Williamsburg, BK; 44.9%
186. Fordham South, BX; 44.6%
185. Mott Haven - Port Morris, BX; 42.7%
184. Crotona Park East, BX; 42.0%

# INDICATOR: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

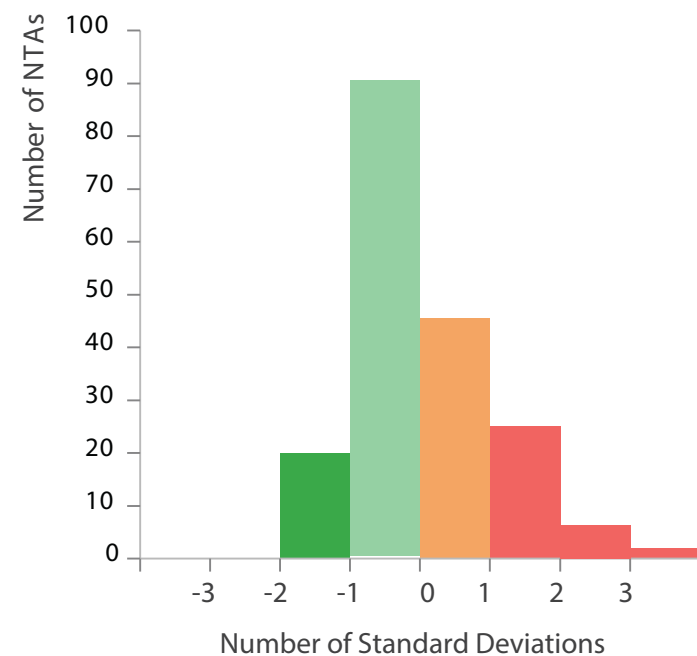
**Definition:** The number of unemployed people divided by the total number of people in the labor force (every person holding a job, including temporary and part-time and those looking for work). A person is considered unemployed if they are over 16, do not have a job, are willing and available to work, and have actively sought employment within the past four weeks. The ratio is expressed as a percentage.

**Reasoning:** Unemployment is believed to impact well-being in two ways: economically and psychosocially. Economically, unemployment reduces the income that a person uses to pay for necessities such as rent, food, and healthcare. Psychosocially, unemployment increased stress, reduces self-esteem, and weakens family and community ties. Employment often defines an individual's social standing and identity, so the impact of unemployment goes well beyond the loss of income (Voßemer et al, 2018).

**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates<sup>3</sup>), collected at the census tract level.

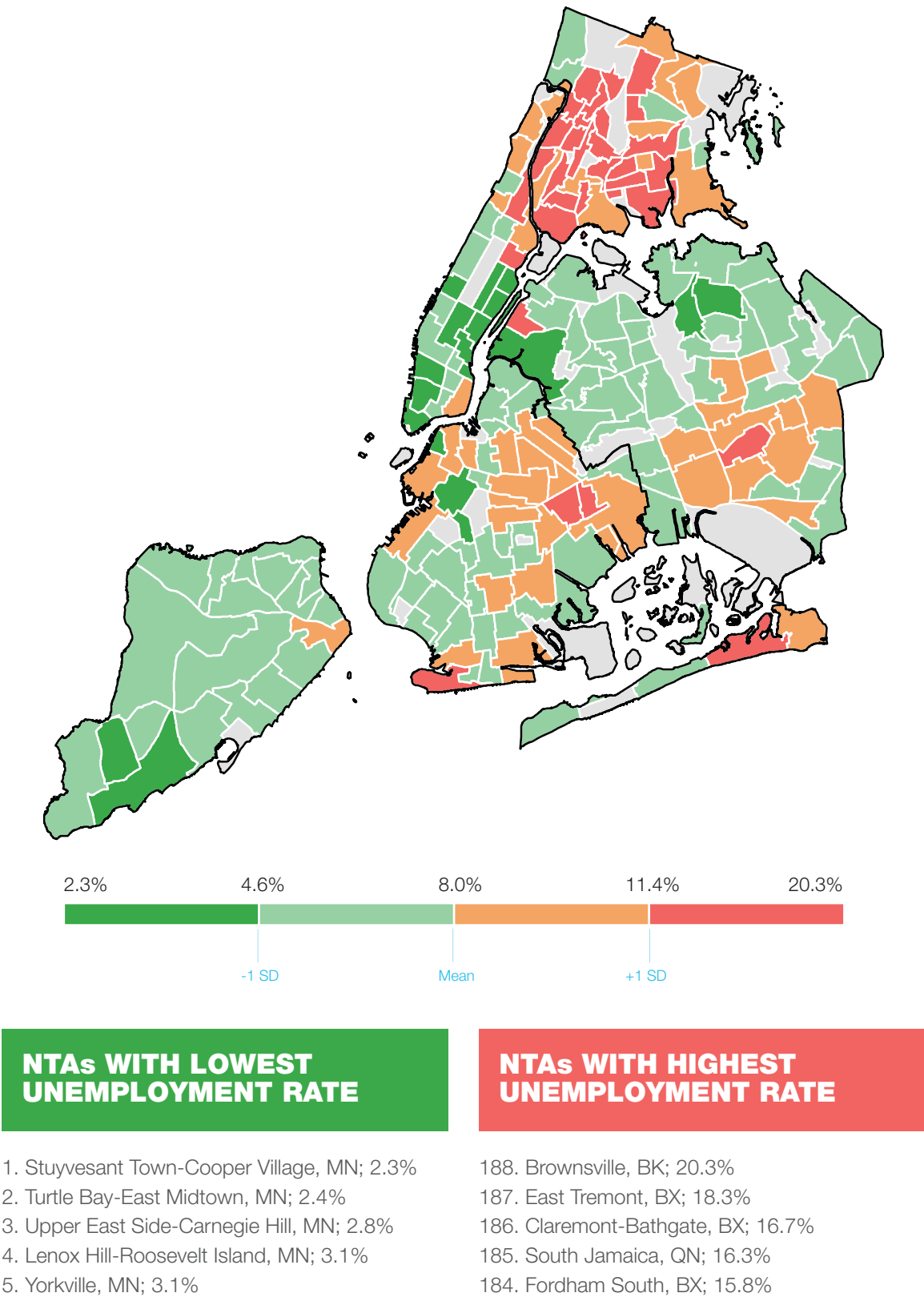
**Results:** The median unemployment rate was 7.2% and the mean was 8.0%, which explains the slight left skew of the data as seen in Figure 3. The rate of unemployment ranged from under 3% in NTAs on the east side of Manhattan to over 20% in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Similar to the poverty and household income indicators, upper Manhattan, the Bronx and north-central Brooklyn score lower than other parts of the city.

Figure 3: Unemployment Rate



<sup>3</sup> Note that income data came from the 2013-2017 5-year estimate from the American Community Survey, which covered years when the American economy was still rebounding from the Great Recession.

Map 6: Unemployment

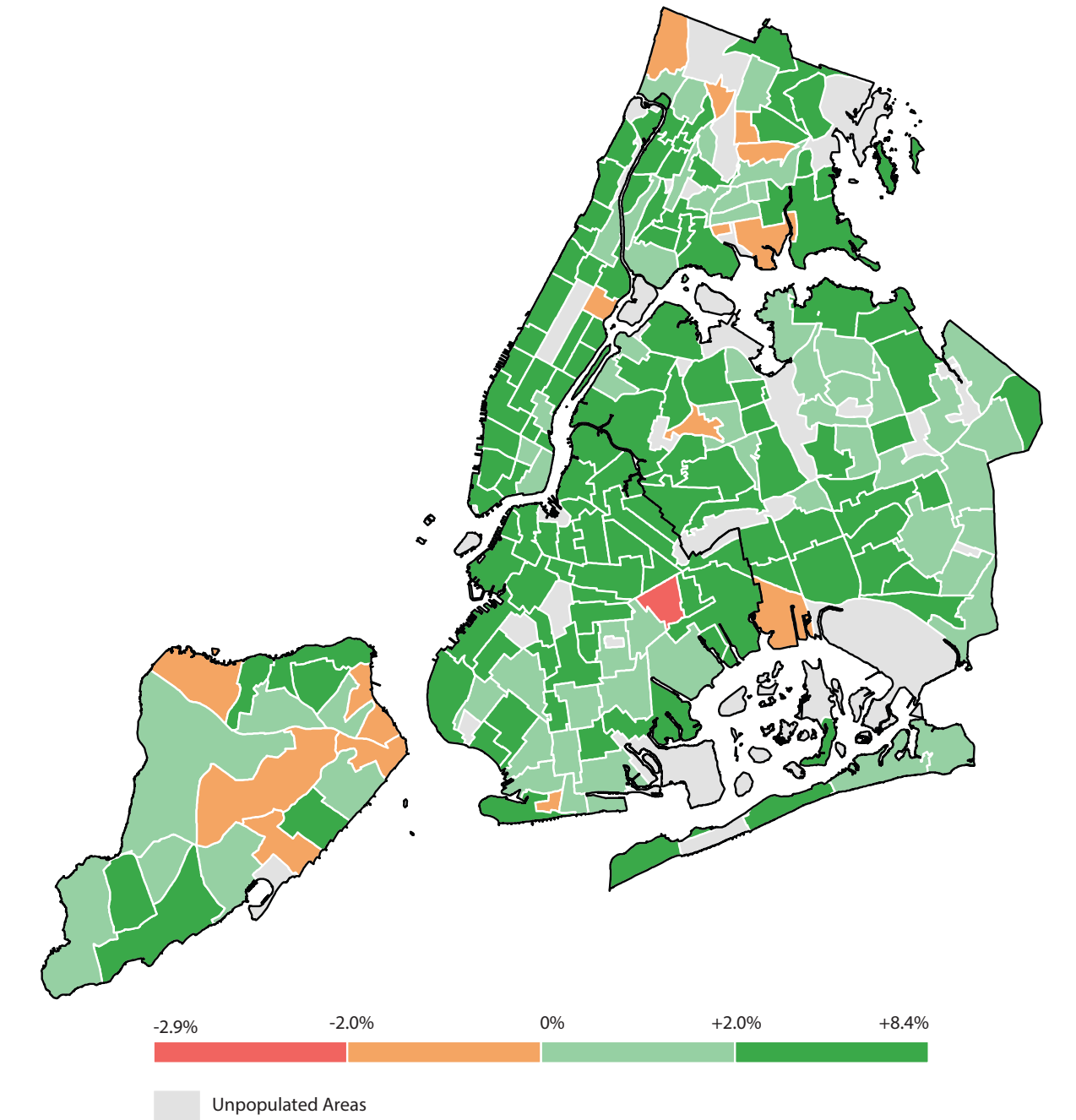




ECONOMIC SECURITY OVER TIME

Map 7 shows the percent change in the Economic Security Domain score overtime. The vast majority of NTAs experienced positive growth: 173 of 188 (92%). This indicates that incomes generally rose, and poverty and unemployment generally decreased between 2015 and 2019. The Economic Security domain saw the highest levels of positive growth of the seven domains. These high levels of growth were distributed across all five boroughs, and the few neighborhoods that saw a decline in economic security were also distributed across the City. The only NTA that declined greater than 2.0% was Brownsville, Brooklyn.

Map 7: Economic Security Over Time



NTAs WITH LARGEST GROWTH IN ECONOMIC SECURITY

- 1. North Side-South Side; +8.4%
- 2. Gramercy, MN; +7.0%
- 3. Crown Heights South, BK; +6.1%
- 4. Ridgewood, QN; +6.0%
- 5. Washington Heights South, MN; +5.7%

NTAs WITH LARGEST DECLINE IN ECONOMIC SECURITY

- 188. Brownsville, BK; -2.9%
- 187. Lindenwood-Howard Beach, QN; -1.6%
- 186. Bronxdale, BX; -1.6%
- 185. Soundview-Castle Hill-Clason Point-Harding Park, BX; -1.5%
- 184. Norwood, BX; -1.3%

2. HEALTH

Summary

Health is a fundamental component of well-being, as it is an inherent individual and social good, as well as a vehicle to attain a better life through improved economic productivity and educational attainment. The Pew Research Center found that Americans who mention health as a meaningful part of their life report higher levels of life satisfaction than those who find meaning in other sources (Van Kessel and Hughes, 2018).

The concepts of health and well-being are often used almost interchangeably, with the World Health Organization defining health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” (WHO, 1946). Because of this broad purview and the availability of a rich selection of health indicators, the Health domain includes the most indicators.

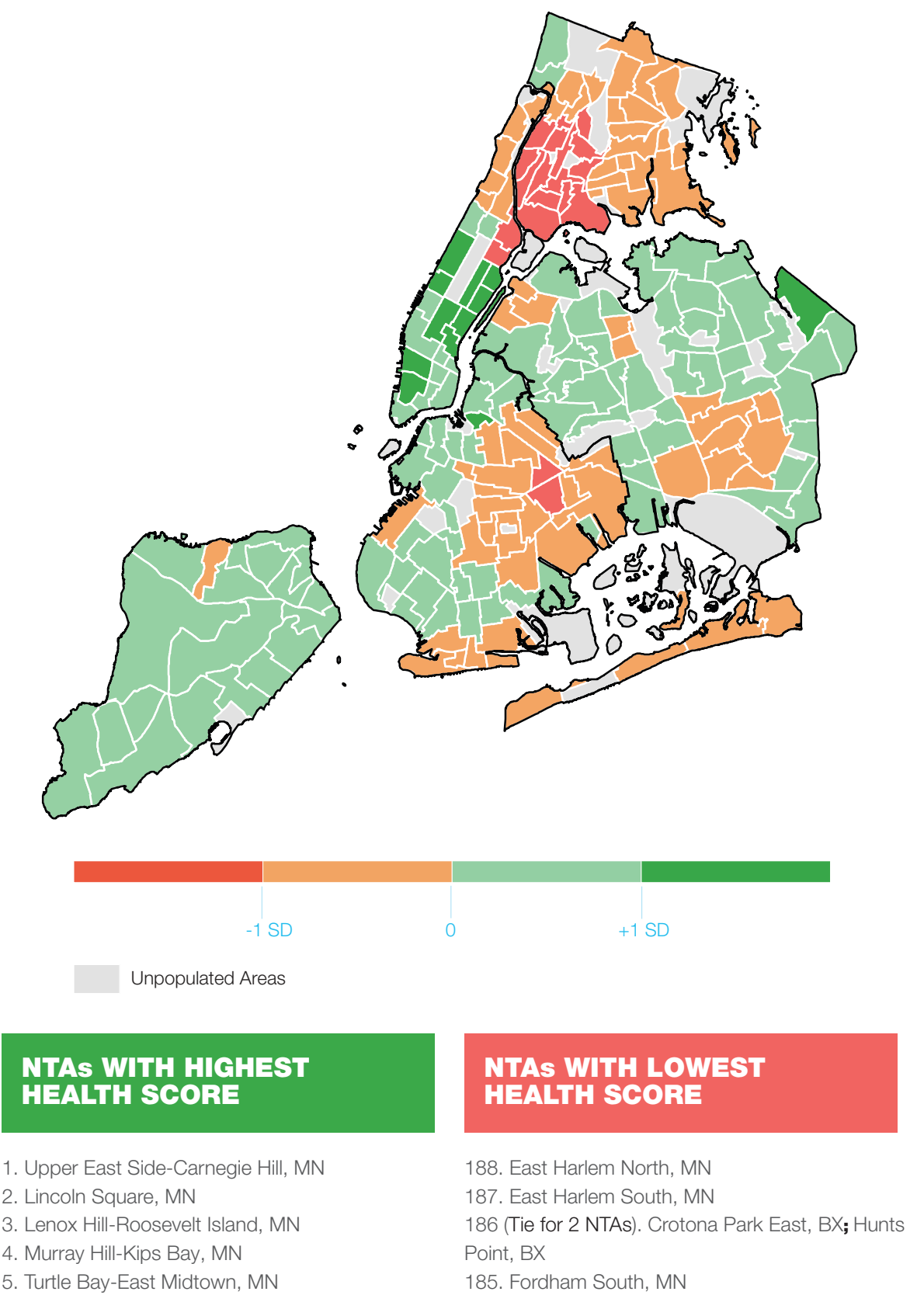
Seven indicators and one sub-domain were included in the Health domain in this report:

- 1) Asthma
- 2) Unmet need for medical care
- 3) Health insurance coverage
- 4) Late or no prenatal care
- 5) Poor health
- 6) Preterm births
- 7) Self-reported health status.
- 8) Poor mental health (Sub-domain)

Greater well-being is indicated by: lower asthma, lower percentage of population not getting needed medical care, higher health insurance coverage, lower rates of late or no prenatal care, lower prevalence of poor physical and mental health, lower rates of preterm births and higher self-reported health status. Each of these indicators contributes to the overall picture of health and well-being in New York City,

NTAs in the Bronx saw the lowest overall health scores, with only two out of 36 Bronx neighborhoods scoring above the city average. Central Brooklyn and northern Manhattan, consistent with their scores in other domains in this report, also have lower health scores. There are twenty neighborhoods that have health scores that are more than one SDs below the mean, almost all of them in the Bronx. Ten of the eleven neighborhoods with health scores more than one SD above the mean are in Manhattan.

Map 8: Health



INDICATOR: CURRENT ASTHMA

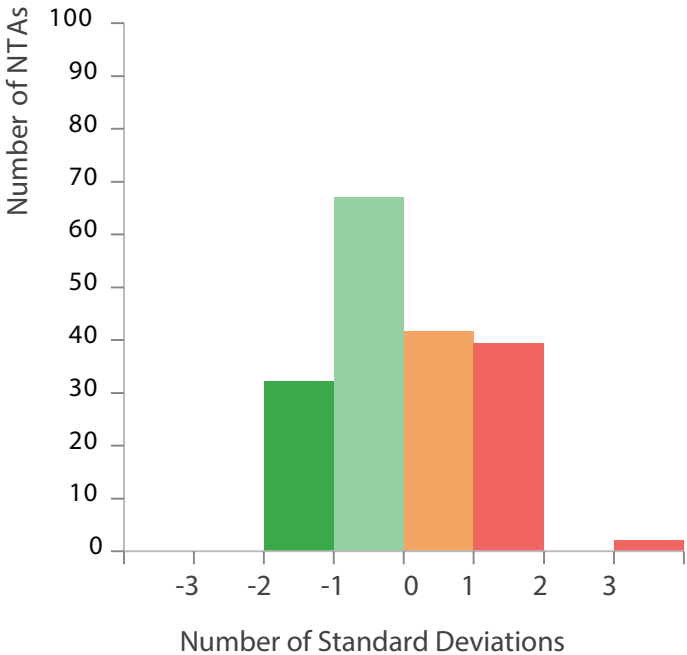
**Definition:** Percentage of population reporting an episode of asthma or an asthma attack in the past 12 months.

**Reasoning:** Asthma is a chronic disease that causes wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing (CDC, 2018b). Although many people live a long and healthy life with asthma, the prevalence of the disease in a community is an important health indicator due to its impact on quality of life and mortality. A study among adolescents found that even controlling for sociodemographic factors, teenagers with asthma had “lower perceived well-being, more physical and emotional symptoms, greater limitations in activity, more comorbidities, and more negative behaviors that threaten social development” (Forrest et al, 1997). Asthma is exacerbated by poor housing quality (e.g. cracks, leaks, and roaches) as well as outdoor air pollution, which are both more prevalent in neighborhoods with low-income households (CDC, 2016).

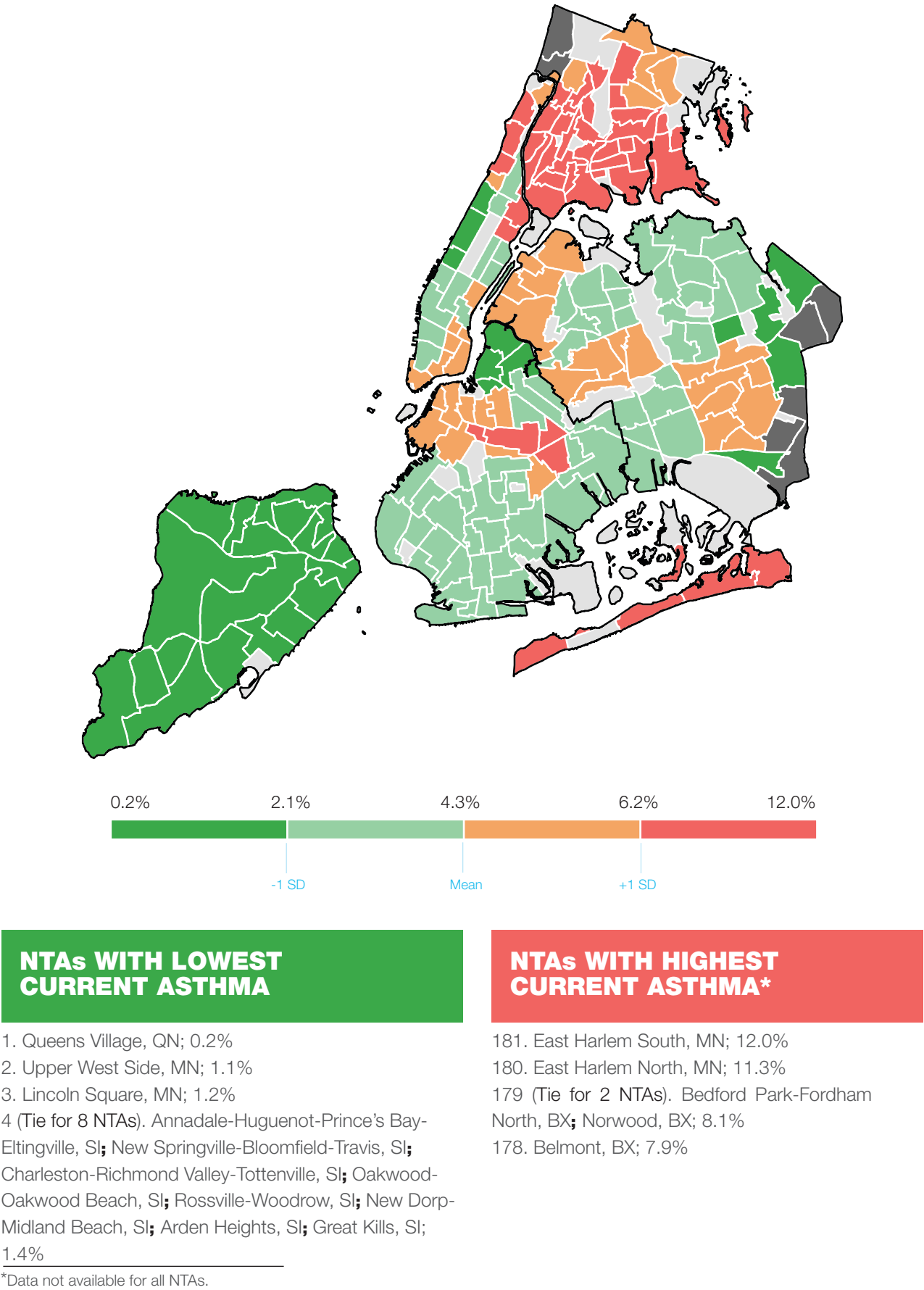
**Data Source:** Community Health Survey 2017, collected at the UHF level.

**Results:** The median percentage of the population reporting asthma episodes is 3.9%, ranging from less than 1% to 12.0%. Every NTA in Staten Island shows asthma rates lower than one SD below the mean of 4.3%. Many of the NTAs with the highest asthma prevalence are found in the Bronx and East Harlem North and South. The large number of highways crossing the Bronx is part of the story, along with housing conditions and indoor air quality also likely play a significant role. (Butini, 2018).

Figure 4: Asthma



Map 9: Asthma



INDICATOR: DID NOT GET NEEDED MEDICAL CARE

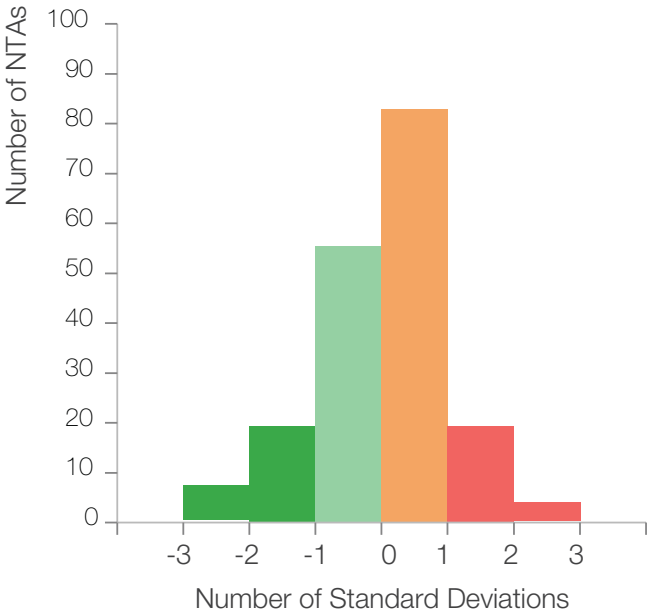
**Definition:** Percentage of population reporting that there was a time in the past 12 months when they needed medical care but did not get it.

**Reasoning:** The strength of this indicator comes from its subjective nature. Asking individuals directly if there was a time in the last year when they needed medical care but did not get it, provides an understanding of people’s perception of their own health access and connection to the health care system. This complements other more objective measures of health access, such as health insurance coverage, also included in the Index. Further, this indicator potentially better captures a broader range of barriers to health access, such as limited time, inconvenience, limited financial resources for expenses not covered by insurance, and perceptions or and experiences with the health care system.

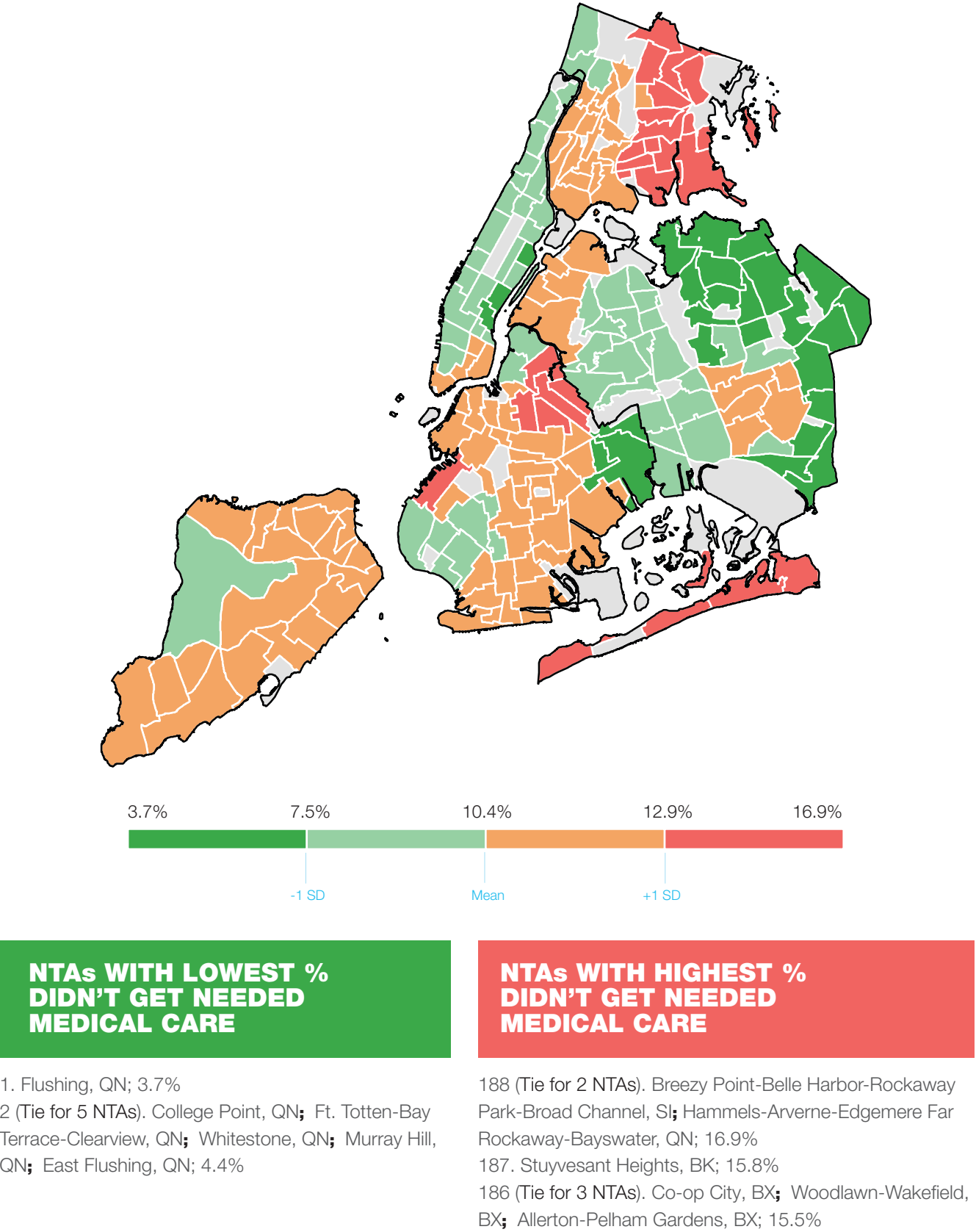
**Data Source:** Community Health Survey, 2013-2017, collected at the UHF level.

**Results:** The percentage of the population reporting not getting needed medical care is normally distributed across NTAs, with a mean of 10.4%. NTAs in the northeast Bronx tend to have higher levels of unmet need, while most NTAs in Queens and Manhattan have scores below the mean. Overall, the geographic distribution of unmet need is fairly reflective of the distribution of socioeconomic characteristics, with higher levels of unmet need in the Bronx and parts of Brooklyn. An exception to this pattern are the three NTAs with the highest percentage of their population reporting not having received needed medical care, which are all on the Queens Rockaway Peninsula. This suggests that the geography of the region may pose a unique barrier for residents to access medical care.

Figure 5: Did Not Get Needed Medical Care



Map 10: Did Not Get Needed Medical Care



## INDICATOR: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

**Definition:** Percentage of civilian non-institutionalized population with health insurance coverage, as a percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population of the area.

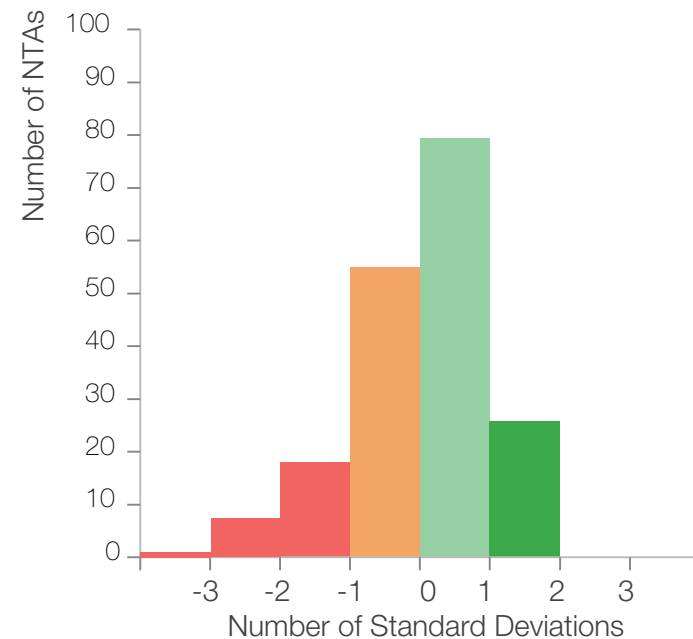
**Reasoning:** Health insurance coverage in the United States is essential for affording access to health services as well as for reducing the financial burden health problems can cause. Reviewing dozens of studies using different sources and methodological approaches, the Institute of Medicine (2019) found that there is a consistent, positive relationship between health insurance coverage and health-related outcomes. The evidence suggested that having health insurance leads to more frequent and timely use of health care services and better health outcomes for adults, while reducing the financial burden of health expenditures. Research has shown that free care led to improvements in hypertension, dental health, vision, and selected serious symptoms, especially among the sickest and poorest patients (Keeler, 1992).

In terms of policy, this indicator is a priority of Mayor de Blasio, who announced in January 2019 a plan to cover all New Yorkers. This will be accomplished by strengthening the existing public health insurance option and by launching a new program, NYC Care, which guarantees care for those who are ineligible for insurance (The official website of the City of New York, 2019b).

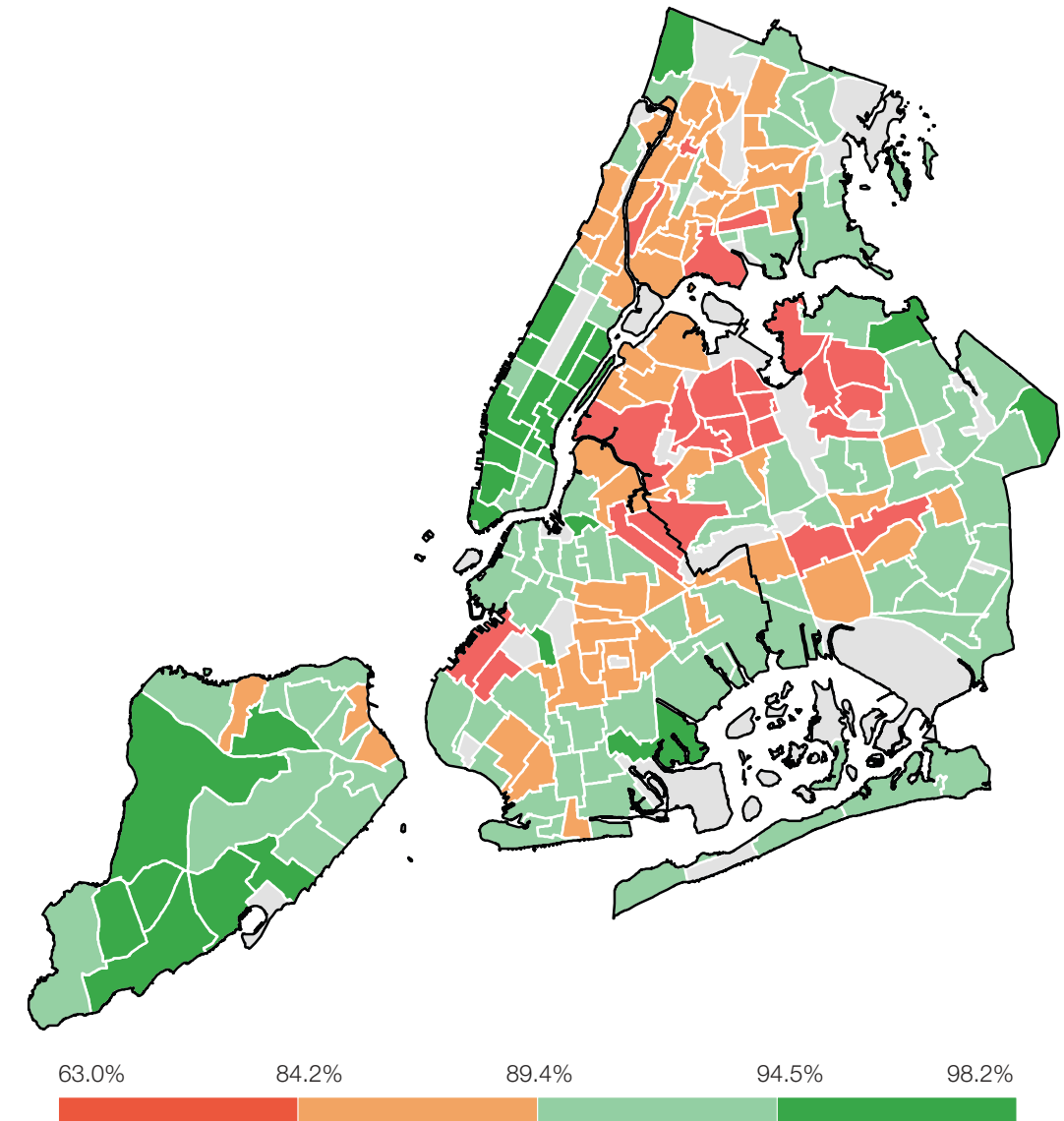
**Data Source:** American Community Survey, 2013-2017, collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The median percentage of the population covered by health insurance is 90.2%<sup>4</sup>. The distribution is left-skewed with NTAs ranging from 63.0% coverage to 98.2% coverage. Many of the NTAs with the lowest percent of the population covered by health insurance are in Queens. This could be reflective of the high concentration of immigrant residents in the borough (Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, 2018) and the disparity in health insurance coverage based on immigration status – with nearly 94% of U.S.-born New Yorkers covered and only 69% of non-citizen New Yorkers covered (NYC website, 2019b).

Figure 6: Health Insurance Coverage



Map 11: Health Insurance Coverage



### NTAs WITH HIGHEST HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

1. Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill, MN; 98.2%
2. Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville, SI; 97.9%
3. Rossville-Woodrow, SI; 96.8%
4. Lincoln Square, MN; 96.6%
5. West Village, MN; 96.5%

### NTAs WITH LOWEST HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

188. North Corona, QN; 63.0%
187. Bushwick North, BK; 74.5%
186. East Flushing, QN; 75.9%
185. Flushing, QN; 76.7%
184. Corona, QN; 77.1%

<sup>3</sup> This is slightly lower than the national average of 91.5% in the United States (US Census Bureau).



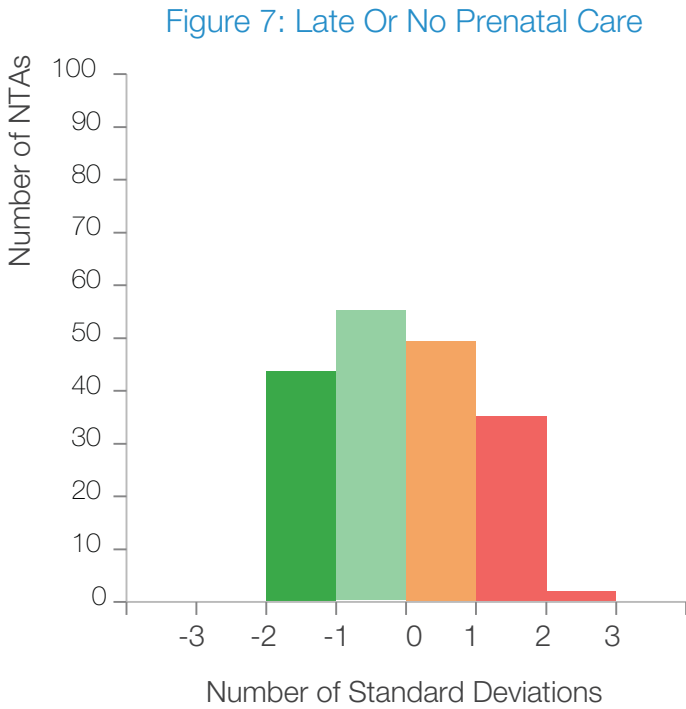
### INDICATOR: LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE

**Definition:** Live births receiving late prenatal care, as a percentage of all live births. This measure includes first receiving prenatal care after the second trimester or no prenatal care at all.

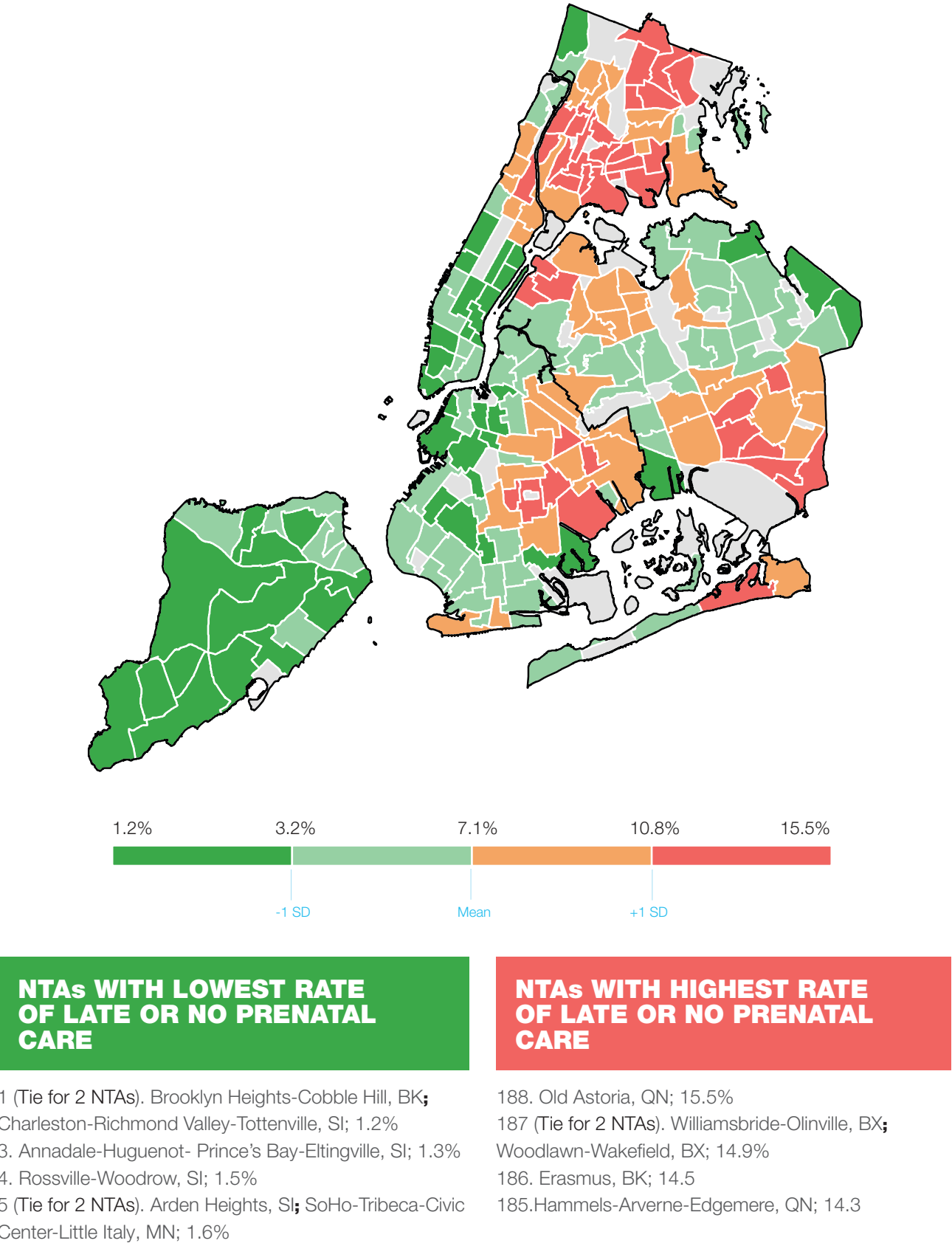
**Reasoning:** This indicator measures access to health services for pregnant women. Prenatal care is important for any woman who becomes pregnant, both for herself and for the child. Receiving prenatal care reduces the risk of complications during pregnancy for the mother and fetus, reduces the risk of health issues for the baby after birth, and ensures that the woman is not inadvertently harming the fetus (National Institutes of Health, 2017). Babies of mothers who do not receive prenatal care are five times more likely to die than babies of mothers who do. It is recommended that a woman receive prenatal care as soon as she thinks that she is pregnant (Office on Women’s Health, 2019).

**Data Source:** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics (2010-2014), NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics (2016).

**Results:** The mean percentage of women who receive late or no prenatal care is 7.1% while the median is 6.6%. Overall, pregnant women in the Bronx and parts of Brooklyn and Queens are more likely to receive late or no prenatal care, while women in Staten Island and central and lower Manhattan are the least likely to receive late or no prenatal care.



Map 12: Late or Prenatal Care



### INDICATOR: POOR HEALTH (COMPOSITE)

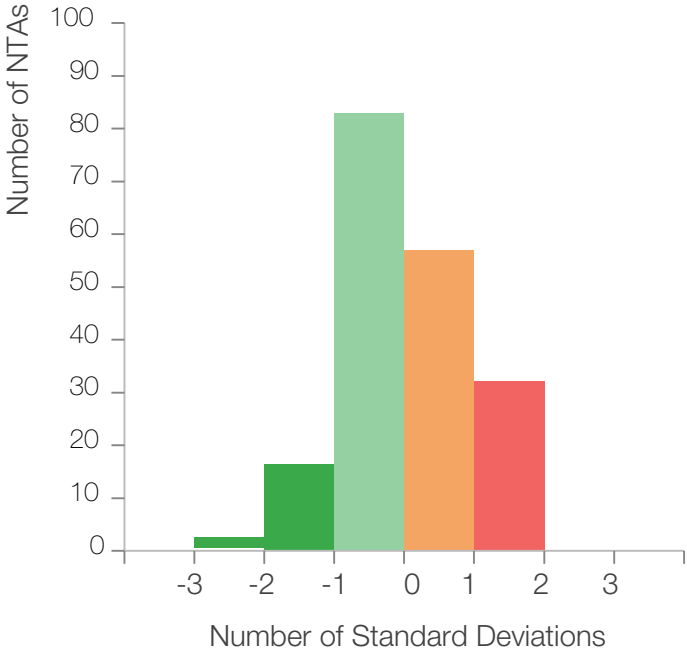
**Definition:** A composite of three variables: the percent of the population that reports having diabetes, having high blood pressure, or being obese. Data are based on self-reporting in the Community Health Survey. Respondents are asked whether they have ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that they have diabetes or high blood pressure. Body Mass Index (BMI) is calculated based on respondent's self-reported weight and height. A BMI between 25.0 and 29.9 is classified as overweight, and a BMI of 30 or greater as obese.

**Reasoning:** In developed, high-resource countries, chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertension explain a large portion of mortality (Hossain, Kaward & El Nahas, 2007). These conditions have also been associated with more physical and mental health problems, impacting overall quality of life (Dixon, 2010).

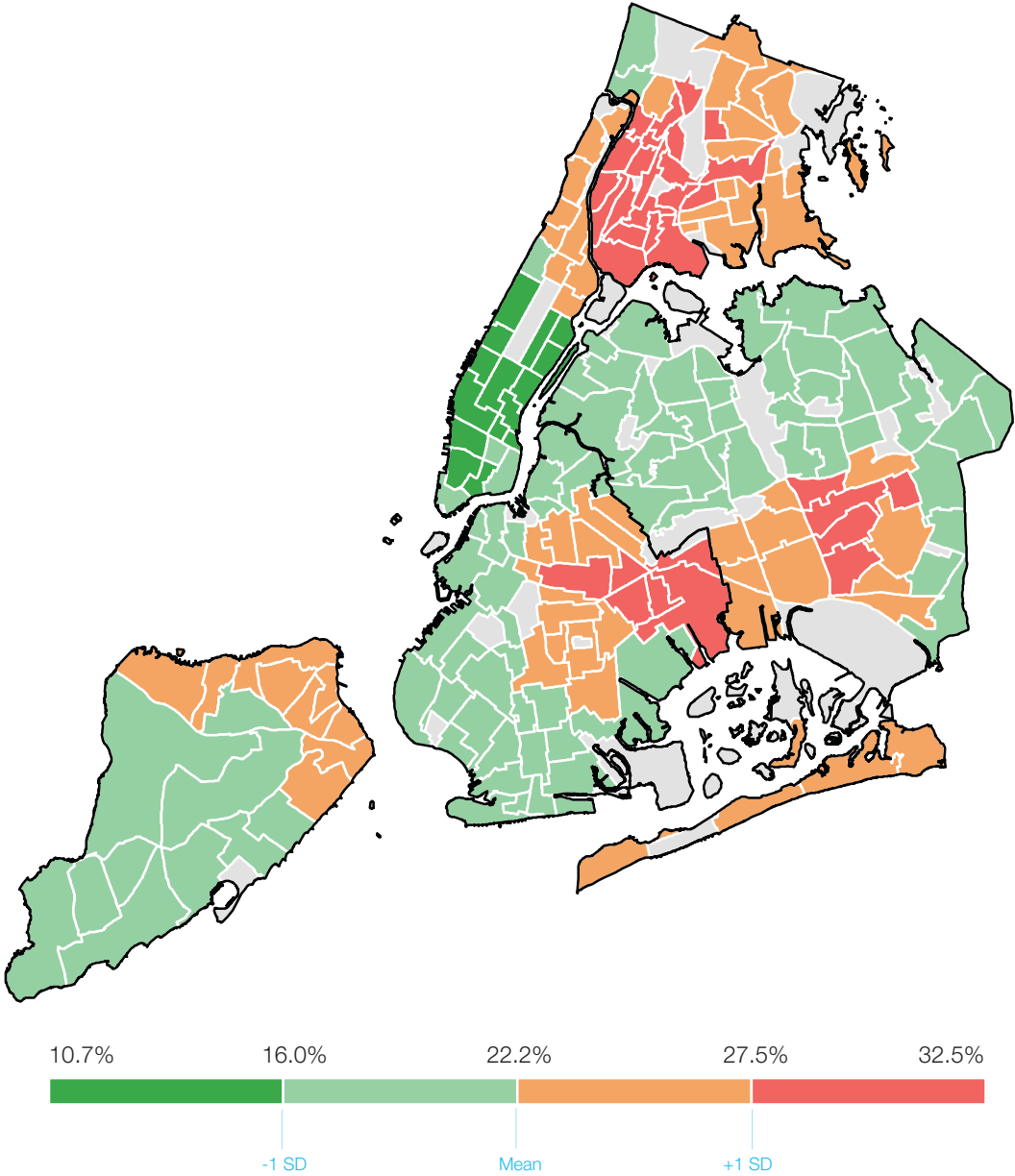
**Data Source:** Community Health Survey, 2013-2017, each part of the composite indicator collected at the UHF level, individual percentages combined into a single score, with each of the three variables having the same weight.

**Results:** The NTAs with the highest scores follow the same general pattern of other indicators, with north-central Brooklyn, northern Manhattan and the Bronx experiencing higher scores, equating to poorer health outcomes. Southeastern Queens also sees lower than average scores, which is not consistent across all health indicators. NTAs in Manhattan include the only neighborhoods with poor scores health scores more than one SDs below the mean, signifying better than average health in terms of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

Figure 8: Poor Health



Map 13: Poor Health



NTAs WITH LOWEST POOR HEALTH	NTAs WITH HIGHEST POOR HEALTH
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clinton, MN</li> <li>2. Midtown-Midtown South, MN</li> <li>3. Hudson Yards-Chelsea-Flatiron-Union Square, MN</li> <li>4. SoHo-TriBeCa-Civic Center-Little Italy, MN</li> <li>5. West Village, MN</li> </ol>	<p>188 (Tie for 8 NTAs). Mott Haven-Port Morris, BX; Crotona Park East, Morrisania-Melrose, BX; Hope, BX; Melrose South-Mott Haven North, BX; Hunts Point, BX; Longwood, East Concourse-Concourse Village, BX; Highbridge, BX; West Concourse, BX</p>

SUB-DOMAIN: POOR MENTAL HEALTH

**Definition:** A composite of three indicators into a single score: the percent of people that report suffering from current depression in the past two weeks, the percent of people that report serious psychological distress in the past 30 days, and the annual rate of psychiatric hospitalizations per 100,000 adults aged 18 and older.

**Reasoning:** Mental health is an important determinant of subjective well-being and quality of life. Depression, serious psychological distress, and the rate of psychiatric hospitalizations each capture different facets and impacts of mental health.

**Data Sources:** Community Health Survey, 2013-2017, collected at the UHF level; New York State Department of Health, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) with calculations by NYC DOHMH, Bureau of Mental Health, 2015.

RESULTS:

**Indicator 1: Depression** is one of the most common mental health disorders in the United States, with 7.6% of persons aged 12 years and over suffering from depression in any 2-week period, and 1 out of every 6 adults experiencing depression at some point in their life (CDC, 2018a). Symptoms include feeling sad or hopeless, having little interest or pleasure in doing things and feeling tired or having little energy. Depression can also impact other aspects of well-being, including physical health, job security, and family and social relationships (NYC Department of Health, 2018).

The mean percentage of depression prevalence in New York City is 9.5% and ranges from 3.3% to 20.5% across all neighborhoods. The highest rates of current depression are concentrated in East Harlem, Manhattan, and various Bronx neighborhoods.

**Indicator 2: Serious psychological distress** “includes mental health problems severe enough to cause moderate-to-serious impairment in social, occupational, or school functioning and to require treatment” (Pratt, Dey & Cohen, 2007). In addition to its direct connection to well-being, serious psychological distress is connected to physical health problems and limitations in activities of daily living (ADL).

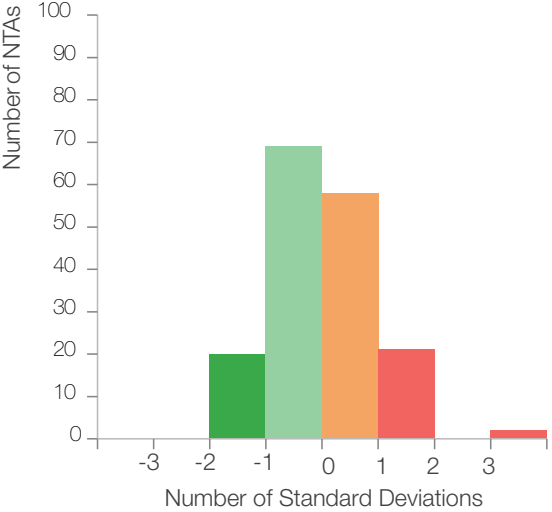
The mean percentage of New York City’s population experiencing serious psychological distress is 5.4% and ranges from 0.1% to 12.1% across all neighborhoods. The highest rates of serious psychological distress are concentrated in various Queens and Brooklyn neighborhoods.

**Indicator 3: Psychiatric hospitalizations** offer an objective measure of the health and well-being burden of mental illness in the most extreme cases (i.e. when mental health problems become an emergency situation). While a very important component of psychiatric care, hospitalizations mark distress and diminished well-being for patients and their caregivers (Weller et al, 2015). Reduction in psychiatric hospitalization is also important because of the high costs for hospitals, individuals, and communities.

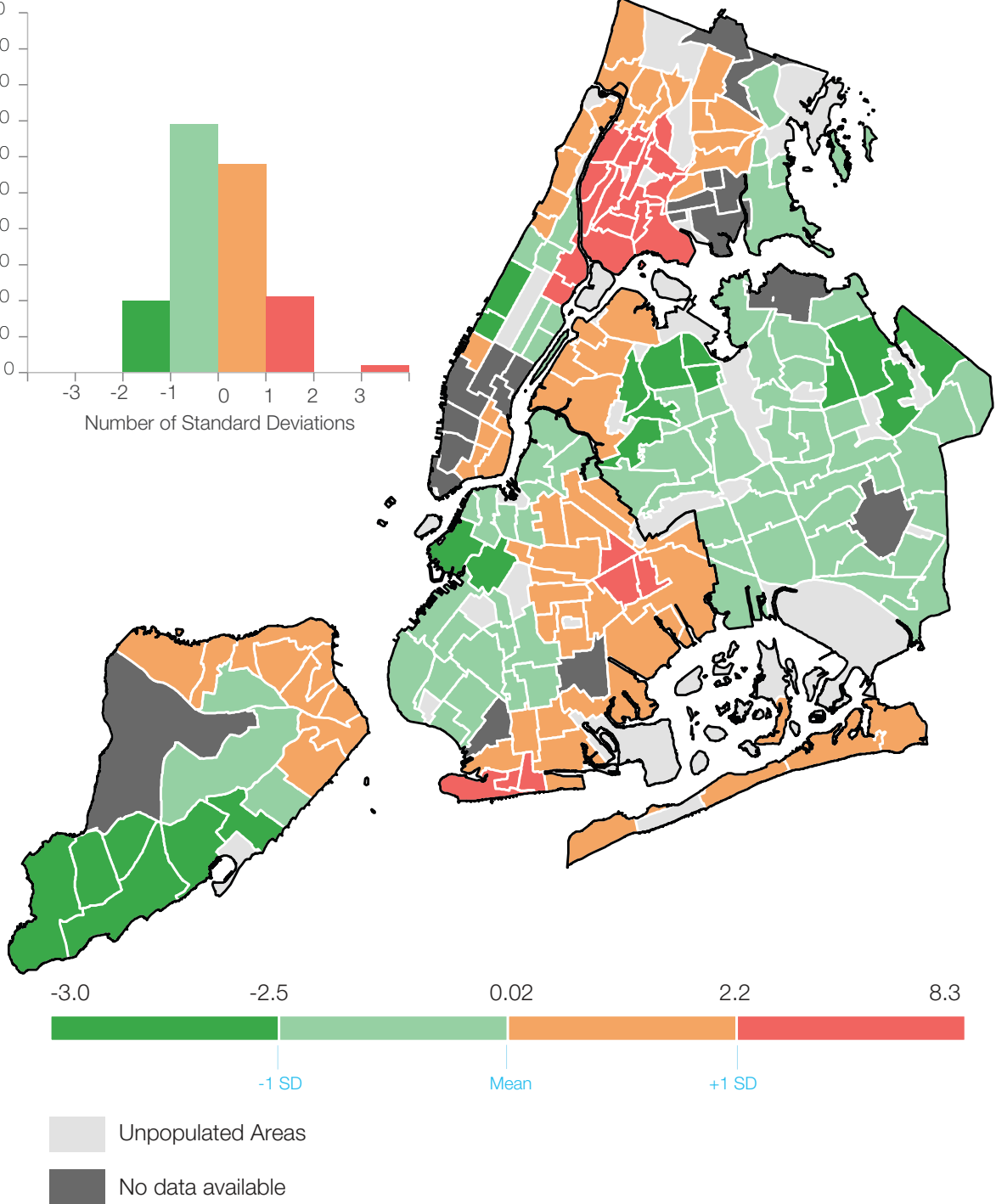
The mean rate of psychiatric hospitalizations in New York City is 658 per 100,000 adults, ranging from 223 to 1,901 per 100,000 adults. The distribution of psychiatric hospitalizations is very right skewed with five NTAs showing rates far above the mean. The highest rates of psychiatric hospitalizations are concentrated in Queens and Brooklyn.

**Composite:** Overall, the distribution of poor mental health composite scores in New York is right skewed, with two upper-bound outliers: East Harlem South and East Harlem North. These two neighborhoods’ poor mental health scores show a much higher burden of poor mental health than all other neighborhoods, representing a combination of high levels of current depression, high rates of psychiatric hospitalizations, and high serious psychological distress. Queens has consistently low poor mental health, which is in contrast to many other health indicators for these NTAs, such as pre-term births, health insurance coverage, and self-reported health, where they show lower than average outcomes.

Figure 9: Poor Mental Health



Map 14: Poor Mental Health



NTAs WITH LOWEST POOR MENTAL HEALTH

1 (Tie for 2 NTAs). Carroll Gardens-Columbia Street-Red Hook, BK; Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck, QN  
 2 (Tie for 3 NTAs). Park Slope-Gowanus, BK; Oakland Gardens, QN; Bayside-Bayside Hills, QN

NTAs WITH HIGHEST POOR MENTAL HEALTH\*

170 (Tie for 2 NTAs). East Harlem South, MN; East Harlem North, MN  
 169. East New York (Pennsylvania Ave), BK  
 168. Ocean Hill, BK  
 167. Brownsville, BK

\*Data not available for all NTAs.



## INDICATOR: PRETERM BIRTHS

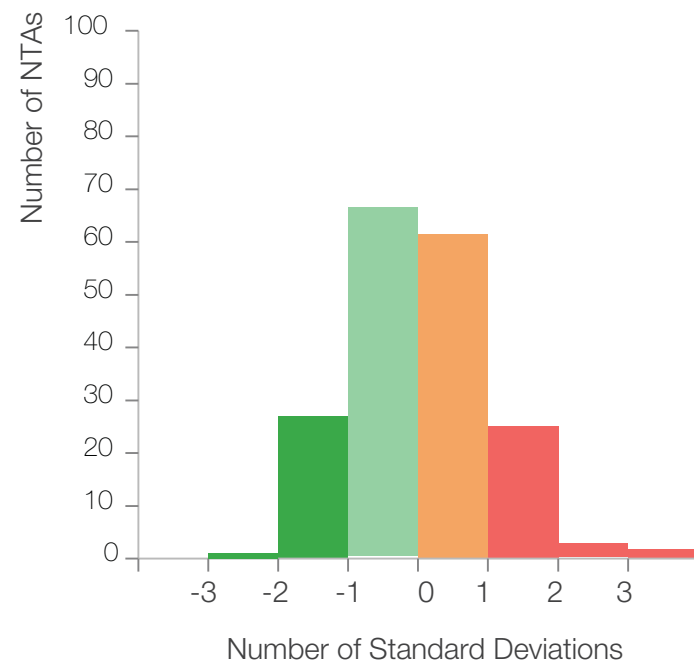
**Definition:** Percentage of births that occur before 37 weeks gestation.

**Reasoning:** Infants born preterm or with low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams, or 5 lbs. 8 oz.) are at higher risk of early death and long-term health and developmental issues than infants born later in pregnancy or at higher birthweights (Behrman & Butler, 2007). Dealing with the consequences of preterm births can also impose severe financial and emotional burdens on the families affected (ibid).

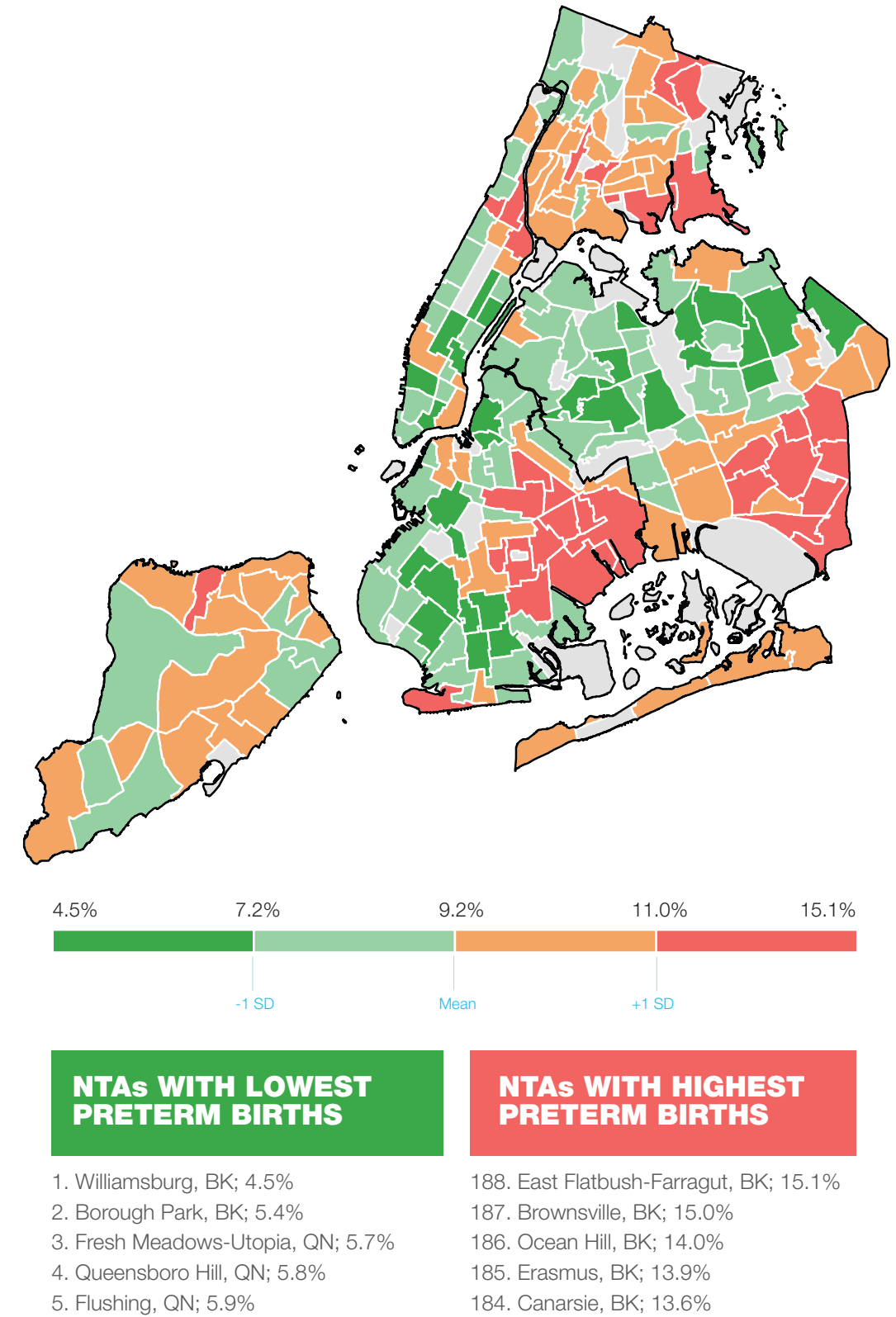
**Data Source:** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics (2010-2014); NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Vital Statistics (2016).

**Results:** The rate of preterm births ranges from 4.5% to 15.1%, and is normally distributed with a mean of 9.2% and median of 9.1%. Six NTAs have preterm birth rates more than two SDs above the mean (five of which are in Brooklyn and one in Queens).

Figure 10: Preterm Birth



Map 15: Preterm Births



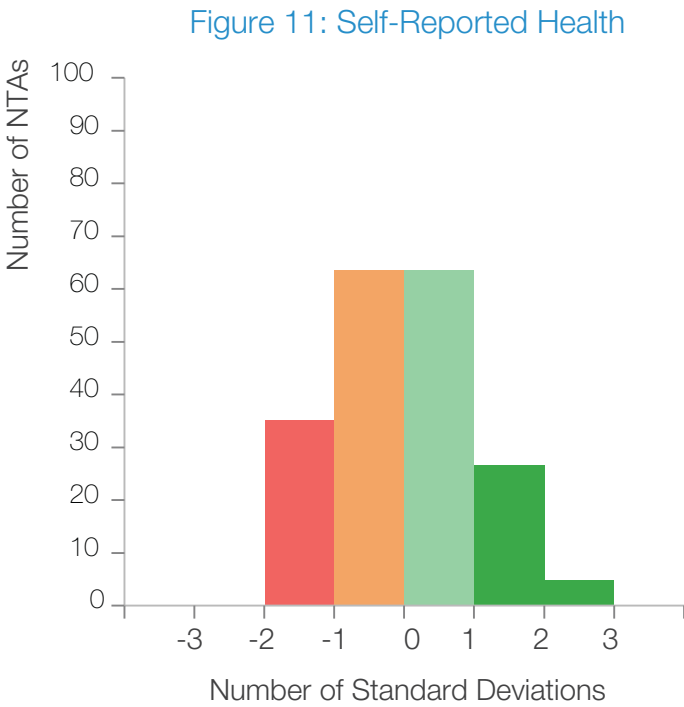
### INDICATOR: SELF-REPORTED HEALTH STATUS

**Definition:** Self-reported health status on a five point scale of excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor. The indicator in this report is a weighted average where each 'excellent' response is given a weight of 4, 'very good' is given a weight of 3, 'good' is given a weight of 2, and 'poor' and 'fair' are given a weight of 1.

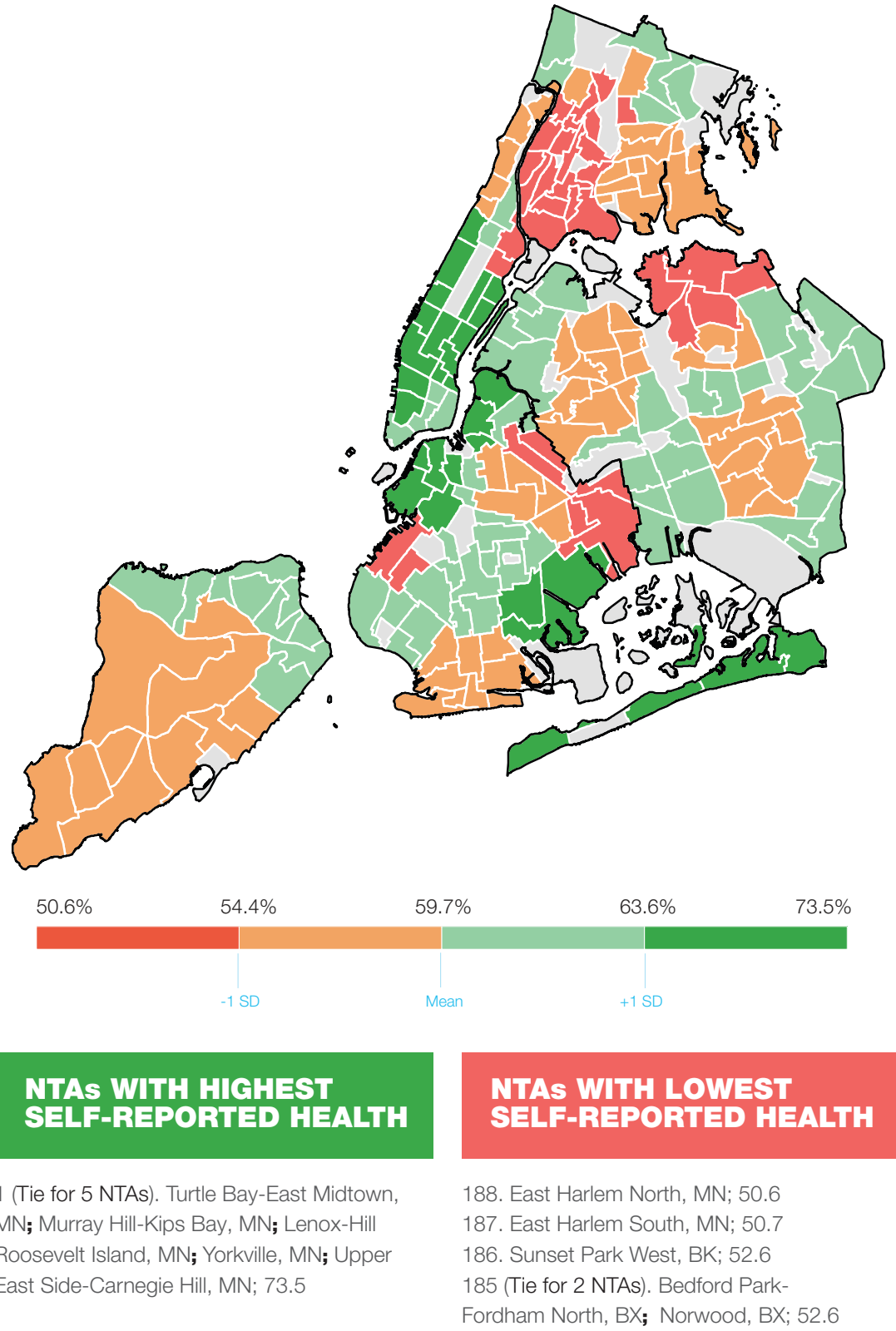
**Reasoning:** There is a broad literature that shows a strong relationship between self-reported health status and subjective and objective well-being. Despite concerns related to biased reporting, self-reported health has been shown as an important marker of mental and physical health and is predictive of mortality. A study conducted by researchers at Stanford found that adults who believed they were less healthy and less active than their peers died earlier (Martinovich, 2017). As a result, mindset and perception of health are important when discussing a person's well-being.

**Data Source:** Community Health Survey, 2013-2017, collected at the UHF level.

**Results:** The self-reported health scores range from 50.6 to 73.5, with an average score of 59.7. Middle and lower Manhattan and east and central Brooklyn self-reported high health statuses. High scores in central Brooklyn are in contrast to the worse outcomes in these NTAs for many other health indicators. Southern Staten Island also self-reports lower health compared to their more positive outcomes in other health indicators in this report.



Map 16: Self-Reported Health

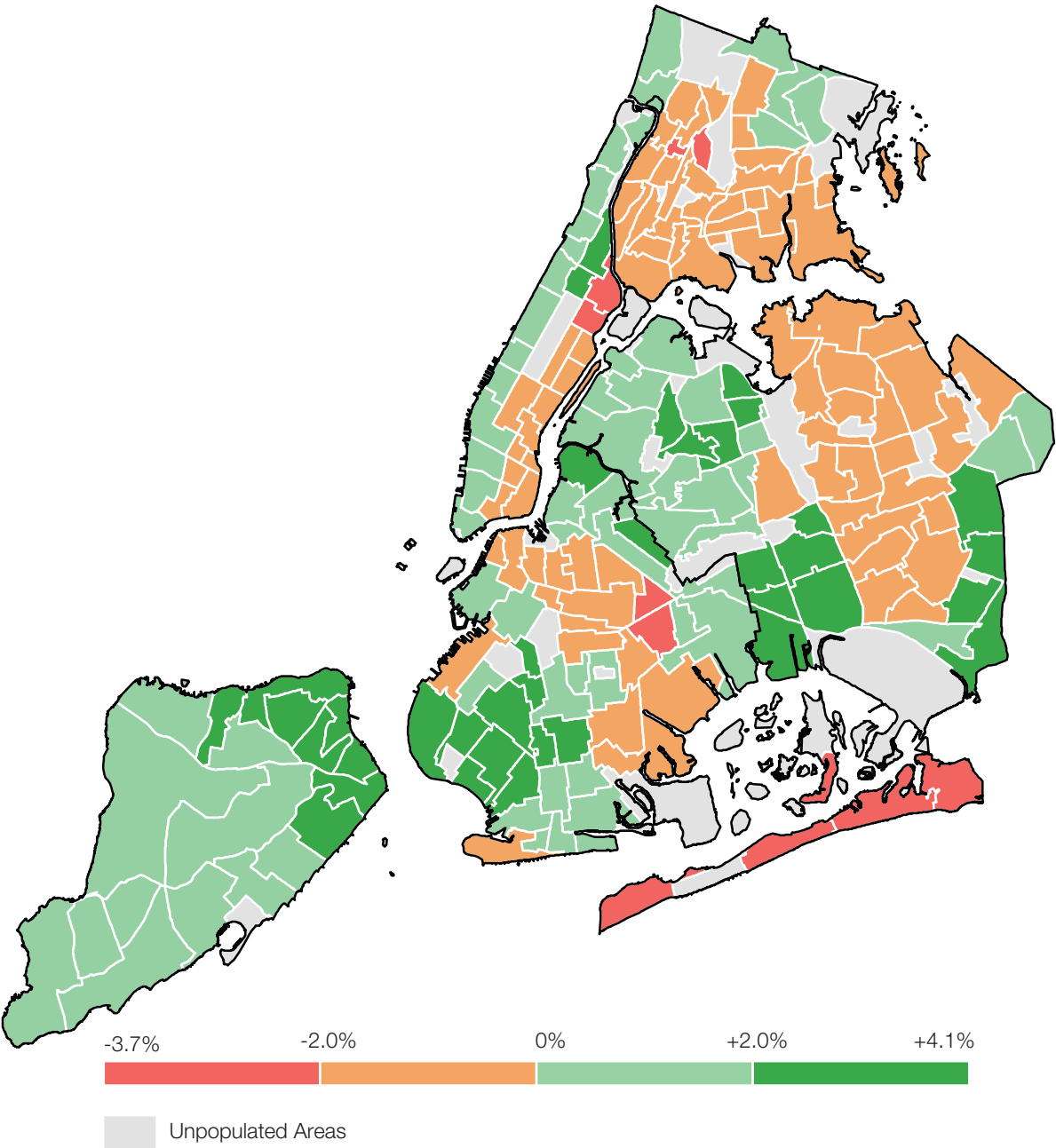


HEALTH OVER TIME

Map 17 shows the percent change in the Health domain between 2015 and 2019.Overall, 53% of all neighborhoods experienced an improvement and 47% declined in health in comparison to the 2015 Well-Being Index.

The changes in health over time do not show uniform patterns across the city. Health score changes range from -3.7% to +4.1%. The top five neighborhoods with the largest gains in health are in all Brooklyn, and all of Staten Island improved. The neighborhoods with the largest relative declines in health are found in each of the four borough besides Staten Island. The five neighborhoods with the largest declines in health are also neighborhoods with low health scores overall. The fact that the lowest scoring NTAs are also getting worse suggests that a lot more work needs to be done to improve health outcomes in these neighborhoods.

Map 17: Health Over Time



NTAs WITH LARGEST GROWTH IN HEALTH

- 1. Kensington-Ocean Parkway, BK; +4.1%
- 2. Dyker Heights, BK; +3.9%
- 3. Bay Ridge, BK; +3.8%
- 4. Ocean Parkway South, BK; +3.7%
- 5. Borough Park, BK; +3.6%

NTAs WITH LARGEST DECLINE IN HEALTH

- 188. Brownsville, BK; -3.7%
- 187. Ocean Hill, BK; -3.5%
- 186. East Harlem South, MN; -3.4%
- 185. East Harlem North, MN; -2.9%
- 184. Breezy Point-Belle Harbor-Rockaway Park-Broad Channel, QN; -2.5%

3. EDUCATION

Summary

Education is one of the indicators most predictive of positive life outcomes, with higher education leading to higher rates of gainful, meaningful employment and more positive attitudes and physical well-being (Economic and Social Research Council, 2014). Negative educational outcomes are correlated with negative life outcomes, such as lower levels of happiness (Kirkcaldy, Furnham & Siefen, 2004) or imprisonment (DeBaun & Roc, 2013). Furthermore, educational outcomes are both demonstrative of current and future well-being, as the impact of education is cumulative over the course of one’s life.

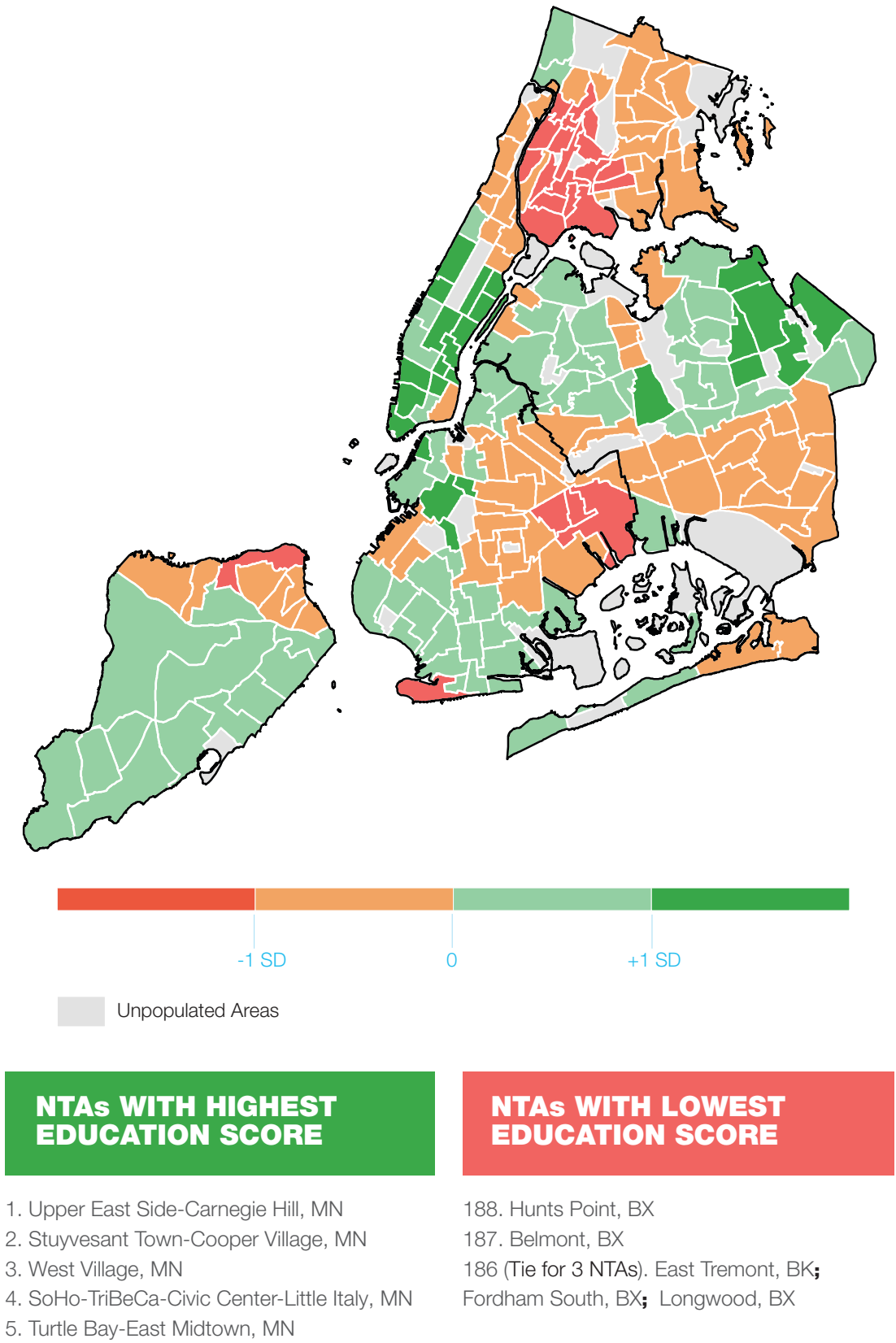
Six education indicators were included:

- 1) Percentage of the population with at least a bachelor’s degree
- 2) Chronic absenteeism
- 3) On-time graduation rate
- 4) Preschool enrollment
- 5) English Language Arts proficiency
- 6) Math proficiency.

Higher numbers for all indicators, except chronic absenteeism indicate greater well-being. Each of these indicators contributes to the overall picture of education in New York City.

As seen in Map 18, education scores are not evenly distributed across the city. The 23 NTAs with scores less than one SD below the mean are almost entirely in Brooklyn and the Bronx while 9 out of the 10 highest domain scores are in Manhattan.

Map 18: Education



### INDICATOR: BACHELOR'S DEGREE AND ABOVE

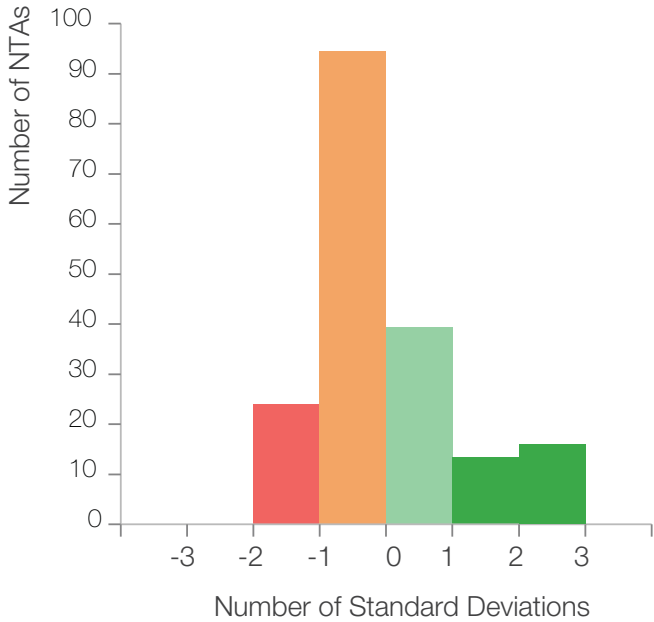
**Definition:** Percentage of population with Bachelor's degree or higher level of education.

**Reasoning:** Higher education has been associated with higher levels of employment, higher earnings, and as a result, higher tax revenues (Ma, Pender & Welch, 2016). Highly educated individuals are also less affected by unemployment, as education helps individuals find new employment faster and maintain their previous wage level once they do find a new job (Zimmer, 2016).

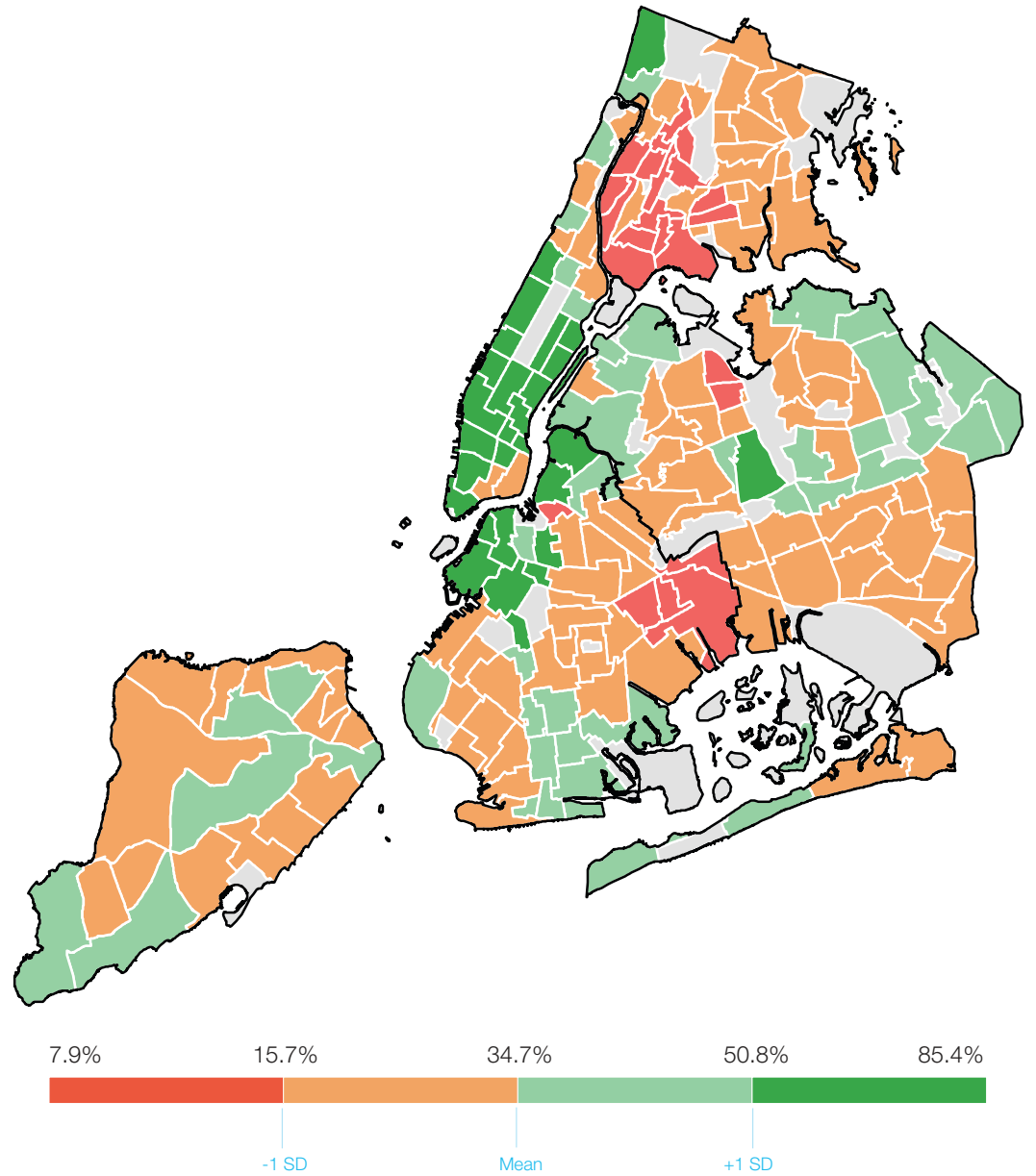
**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The median percentage of NTA population with a Bachelor's degree or above is 30.2%, while the mean is 34.7%, which is explained by the right-skewed distribution. 136 of 188 NTAs (72%) fall within one SD of the mean, but there is a very large range, from under 8% to over 85% of the population that has completed at least a Bachelor's degree. 14 of the 16 NTAs with scores more than two SDs above the mean are in Manhattan, with rates of 74% or greater.

Figure 12: Bachelor's Degree And Above



Map 19: Bachelor's Degree and Above



#### NTAs WITH HIGHEST % BACHELOR'S DEGREE AND ABOVE

1. Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill, MN; 85.4%
2. West Village, MN; 85.0%
3. Battery Park City-Lower Manhattan, MN; 84.7%
4. Turtle Bay-East Midtown, MN; 82.8%
5. Lincoln Square, MN; 81.8%

#### NTAs WITH LOWEST % BACHELOR'S DEGREE AND ABOVE

188. North Corona, QN; 7.8%
187. Mott Haven-Port Morris, BX; 9.1%
186. Williamsburg, BK; 9.4%
185. West Farms-Bronx River, BX; 9.8%
184. Hunts Point, BX; 10.3%



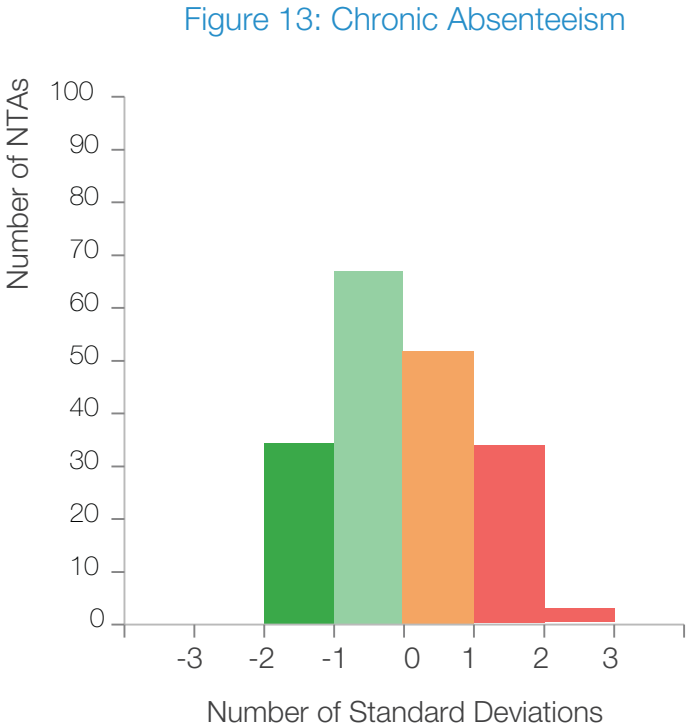
INDICATOR: CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

**Definition:** The percentage of public-school students, grades K to 5, who were chronically absent during the 2016-2017 school year. Chronically absent is defined as missing 19 or more school days per year.

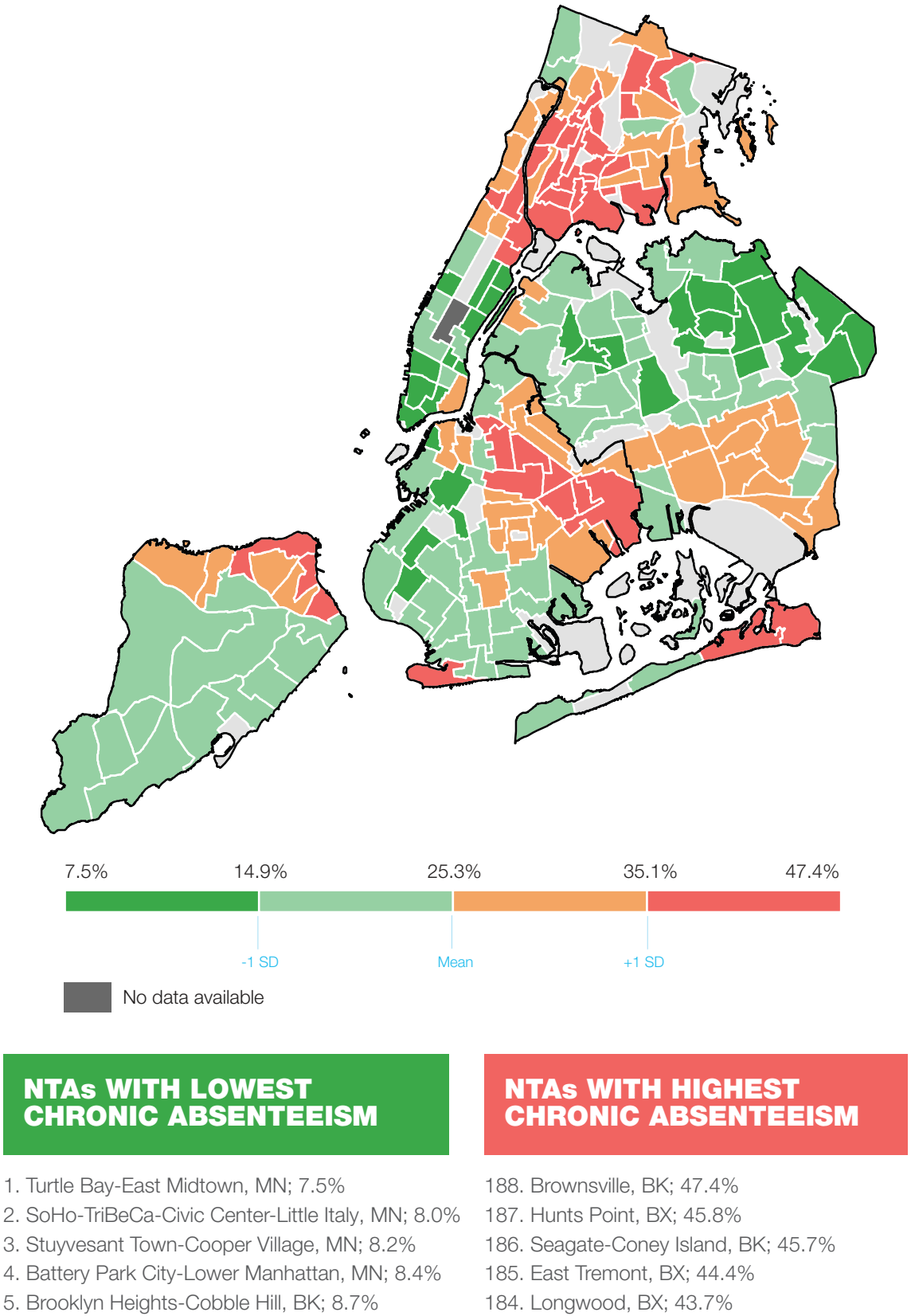
**Reasoning:** School attendance is highly linked to academic achievement, and low rates of attendance are suggestive of challenges that may prevent students from attending school (Roby, 2003). School is not only where students learn the building blocks required for academic achievement, but also where they learn to socialize with their peers. By missing school often, students miss crucial developmental opportunities.

**Data Source:** New York City Department of Education, collected at the NTA level.

**Results:** Chronic Absenteeism data are approximately normally distributed with a median of 24.1% and a mean of 25.3%. The range is from 7.5% to 47.4%. Four of the five NTAs scoring the lowest on chronic absenteeism are in Manhattan. Many NTAs in Queens also have lower than average rates of chronic absenteeism. The NTAs with the highest percentage of chronic absenteeism are divided among all five boroughs.



Map 20: Chronic Absenteeism



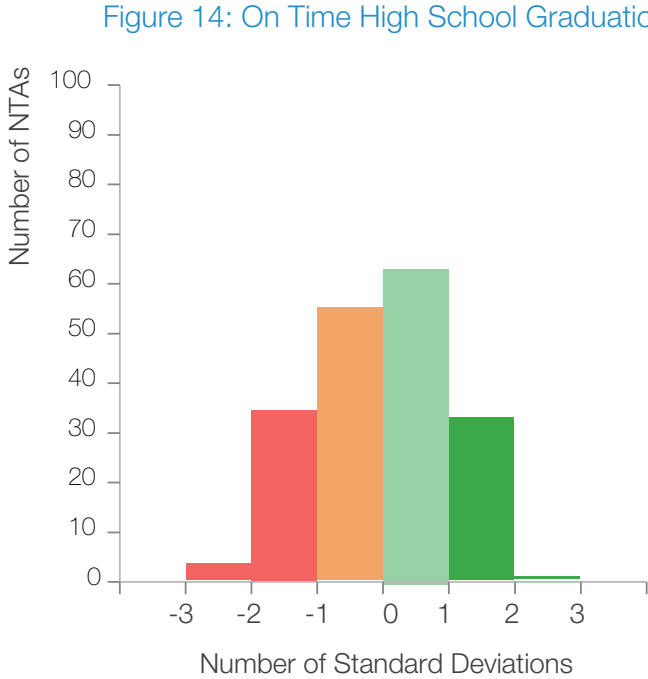
### INDICATOR: ON-TIME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

**Definition:** The percentage of students who graduated with a diploma within four years out of the cohort of all students who entered ninth grade.

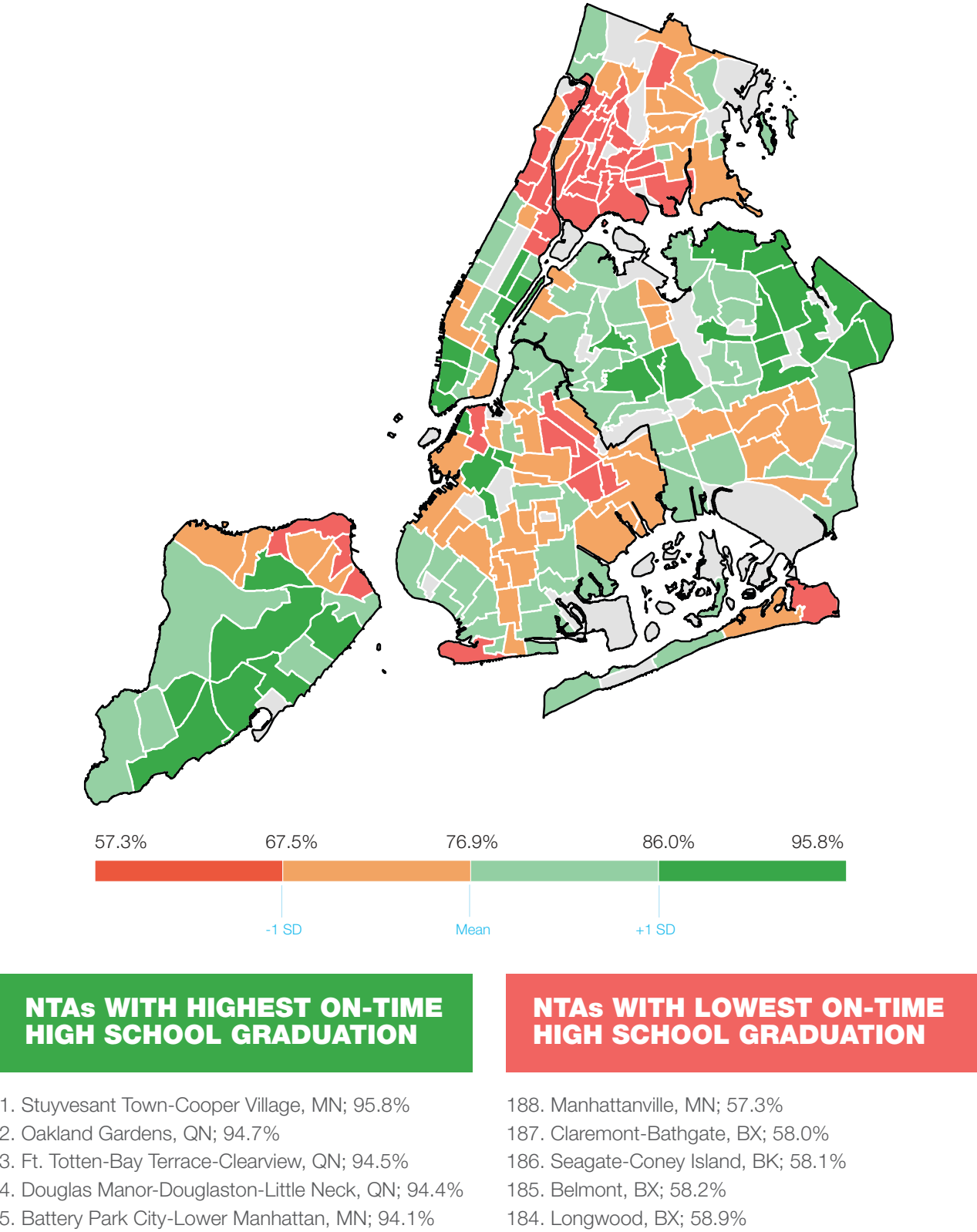
**Reasoning:** Students who drop out of high school often find themselves marginalized and on the fringes of society, finding it difficult to find employment and earn a living wage (Public Citizens for Children and Youth, 2012). Furthermore, research shows that high school graduates tend to lead longer and healthier lives than those who drop out (American Public Health Association, 2019). New York City has seen a steady increase in graduation rates over time - now reaching an unprecedented rate of over 75% (Amin & Zimmerman, 2019) - but it is important to identify the neighborhoods that have had less growth and still fall short of this average.

**Data Source:** New York City Department of Education, collected at the NTA level.

**Results:** The mean for on-time high school graduation rate is 76.9% and the median is 77.0%, and follows a normal distribution across all NTAs. The distribution ranges from 57.3% to 95.8%, and each borough has NTAs that are above and below the mean.



Map 21: On-Time High School Graduation



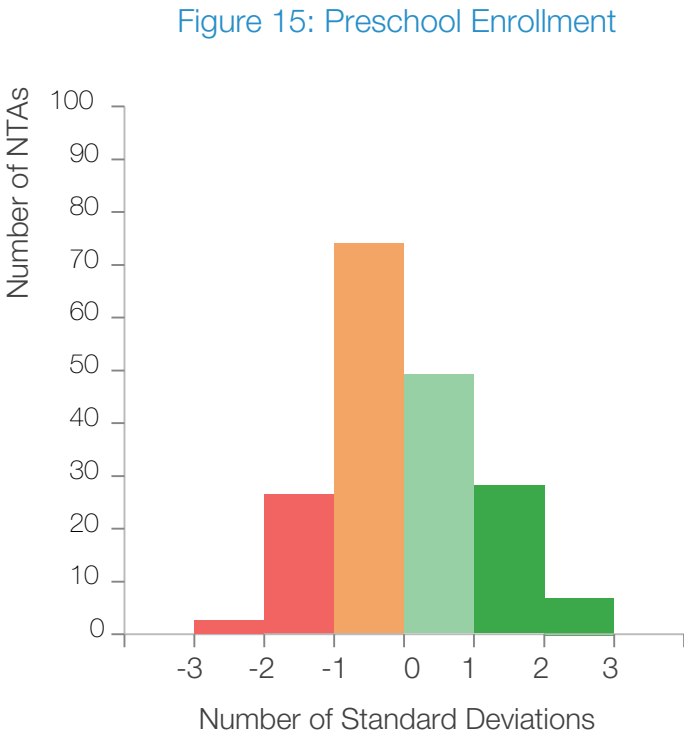
### INDICATOR: PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

**Definition:** The percentage of children aged three and four enrolled in public or private nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten.

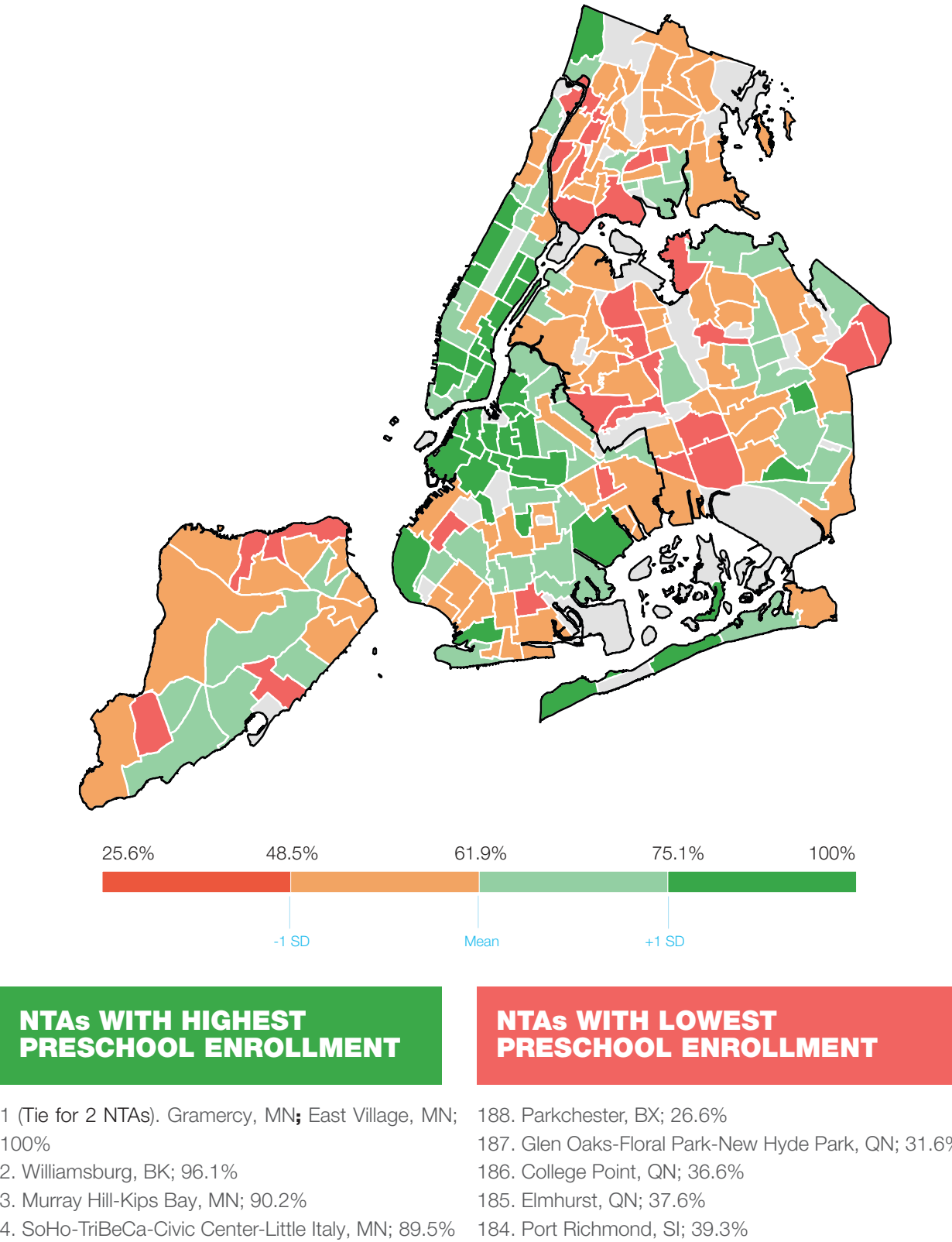
**Reasoning:** Research shows the developmental importance of the early years of life, with respect not only to education, but also to health (Melhuish, 2011). Pre-K enrollment is linked to positive educational outcomes through Middle School, including improved math achievement and enrollment in honors courses (Gormley, Phillips & Anderson, 2018). New York City has adopted a Pre-K for all program to address concerns of Pre-K tuition costs. Although this is a huge stride for the city, a greater push is needed to close enrollment gaps that still exist.

**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean preschool enrollment is 61.9%, and the median is 60.5%. The data ranges from 26.6% enrollment to 100% enrollment. Only 2 NTAs have a preschool enrollment rate more than 2 SDs below the mean, one in Brooklyn and one in Queens. Areas with lower rates of preschool enrollment are generally consistent with lower outcomes in the other education indicators in this domain, with the exception of parts of central Brooklyn, which show high rates of preschool enrollment compared to other education outcomes.



Map 22: Preschool Enrollment





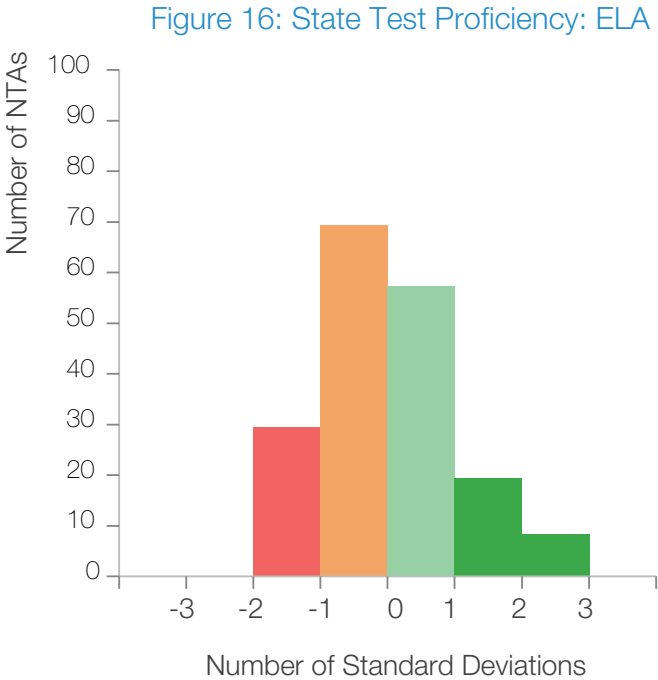
INDICATOR: STATE TEST PROFICIENCY: ELA

**Definition:** The percentage of students in grades 3-5 scoring proficient on English Language Arts (ELA) state tests.

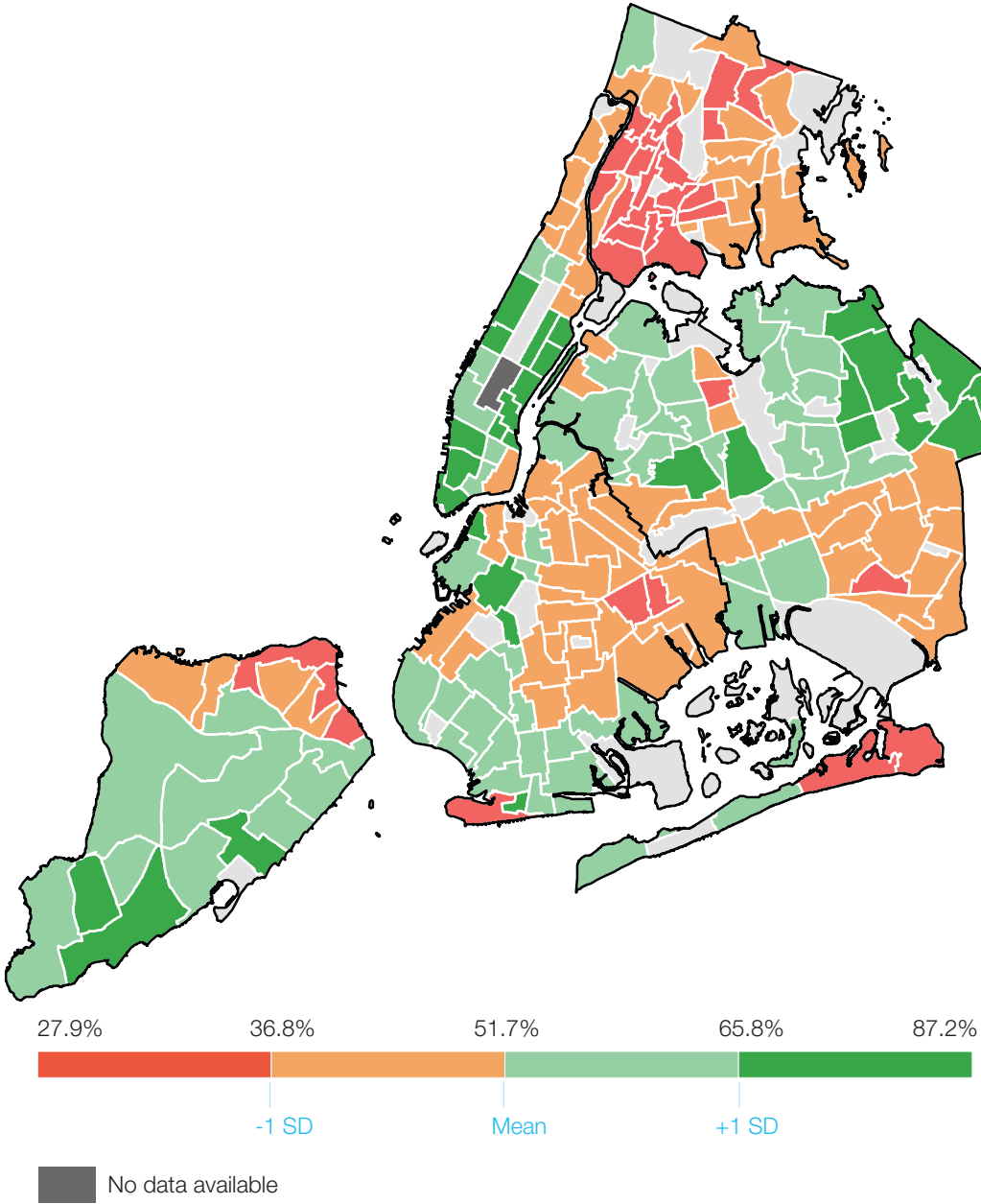
**Reasoning:** Students generally attend elementary schools in the neighborhoods they live in, making elementary school data a strong indicator for education within a given community. Furthermore, it is important to include academic achievement data because it has been shown to be predictive of later well-being in the forms of earning potential and general productivity (Fiester, 2010).

**Data Source:** NYC Department of Education, collected at the NTA level.

**Results:** The mean percent proficiency in ELA is 51.7% and the median is just slightly lower at 48.6%. Nine NTAs show scores above two SDs above the mean, or 80% ELA proficiency, eight of which are in Manhattan. The five lowest scoring NTAs are all located in the Bronx, but no NTA is lower than 2 SDs below the mean.



Map 23: State Test Proficiency: ELA



NTAs WITH HIGHEST ELA PROFICIENCY

1. Upper East Side - Carnegie Hill, MN; 87.2%
2. Stuyvesant Town-Cooper Village, MN; 85.2%
3. Gramercy, MN; 84.6%
4. Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill, BK; 84.6%
5. Turtle Bay-East Midtown, MN; 84.5%

NTAs WITH LOWEST ELA PROFICIENCY

188. Fordham South, BX; 27.9%
187. East Tremont, BX; 28.6%
186. Hunts Point, BX; 29.9%
185. Bedford Park-Fordham North, BX; 30.2%
184. West Farms, BX; 30.2%

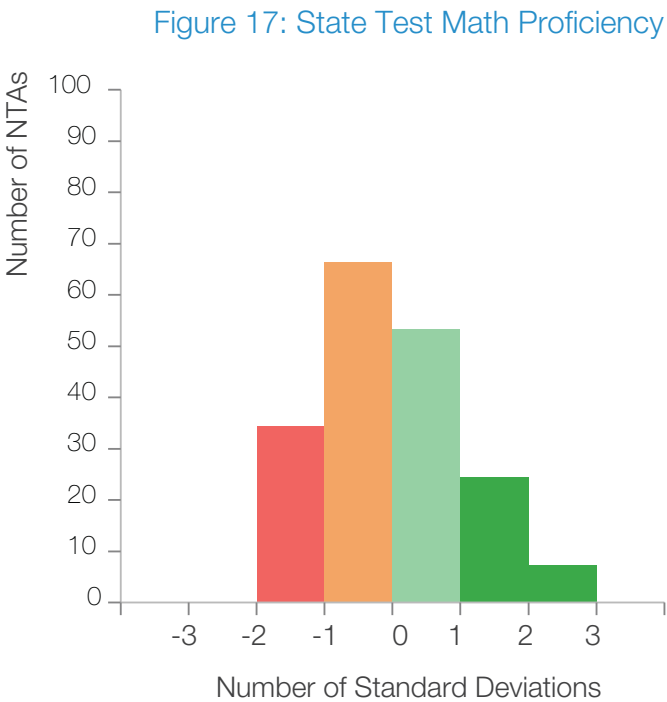
INDICATOR: STATE TEST PROFICIENCY: MATH

**Definition:** The percentage of students in grades 3-5 scoring proficient on Math state tests.

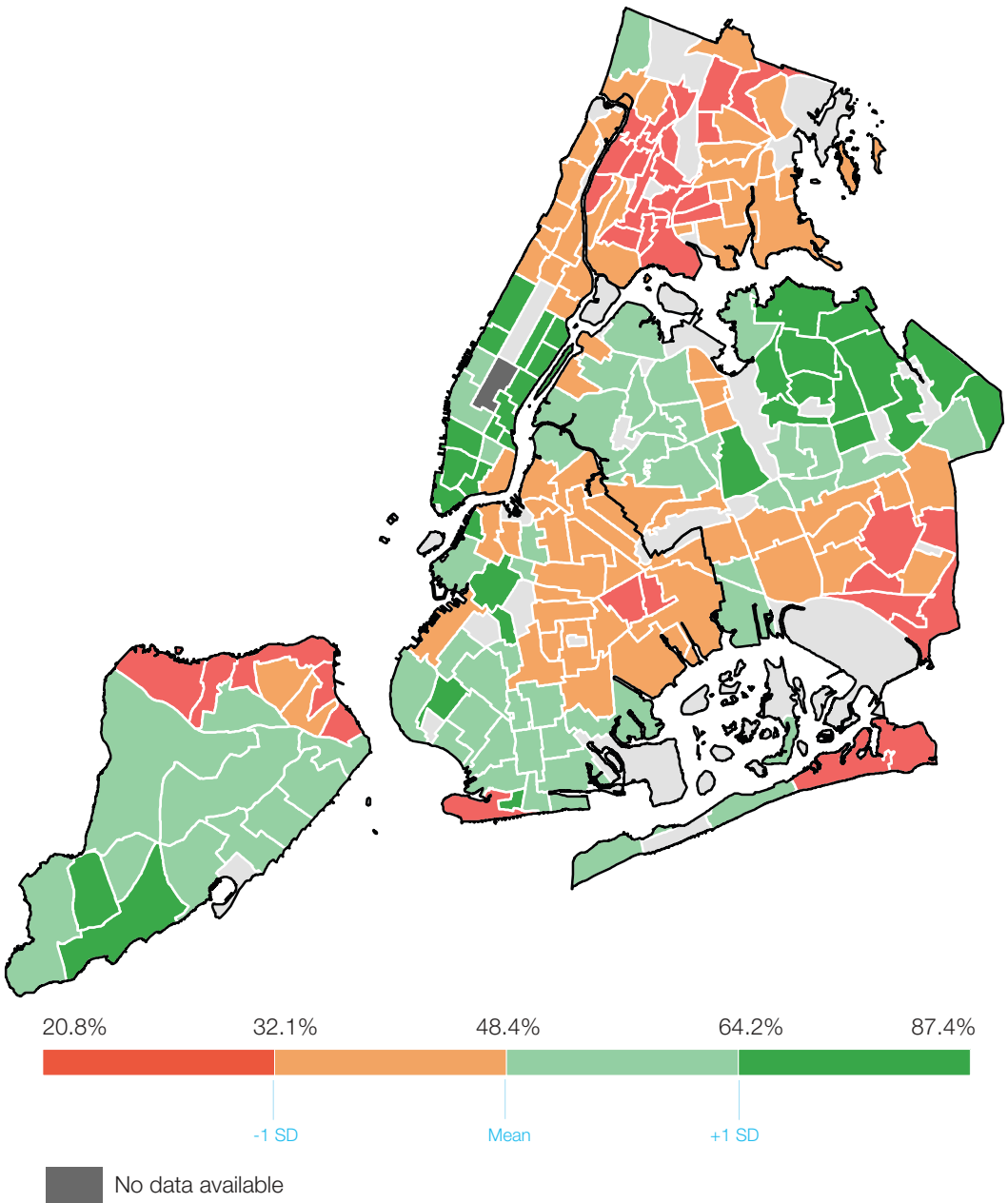
**Reasoning:** Students generally attend elementary schools in the neighborhoods they live in, making elementary school data a strong indicator for education within a given community. Furthermore, early math outcomes are correlated with later positive life outcomes, such as college readiness (Renaissance, 2018).

**Data Source:** NYC Department of Education, collected at the NTA level.

**Results:** The mean percent of students proficient in Math is 48.4% and the median is 44.8%. The Five NTAs scoring the highest on this indicator are in Manhattan, while NTAs in much of Queens and Staten Island also show high math proficiency scores. Three of the five NTAs with the lowest math proficiency are also NTAs with the lowest English proficiency. Likewise, two of the five NTAs with the highest math proficiency are also NTAs with the highest English proficiency.



Map 24: State Test Math Proficiency



NTAs WITH HIGHEST MATH PROFICIENCY

1. Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill, MN; 87.4%
2. SoHo-TriBeCa-Civic Center-Little Italy, MN; 83.8%
3. Turtle Bay-East Midtown, MN; 83.6%
4. Battery Park City-Lower Manhattan, MN; 82.8%
5. Lenox Hill-Roosevelt Island, MN; 81.8%

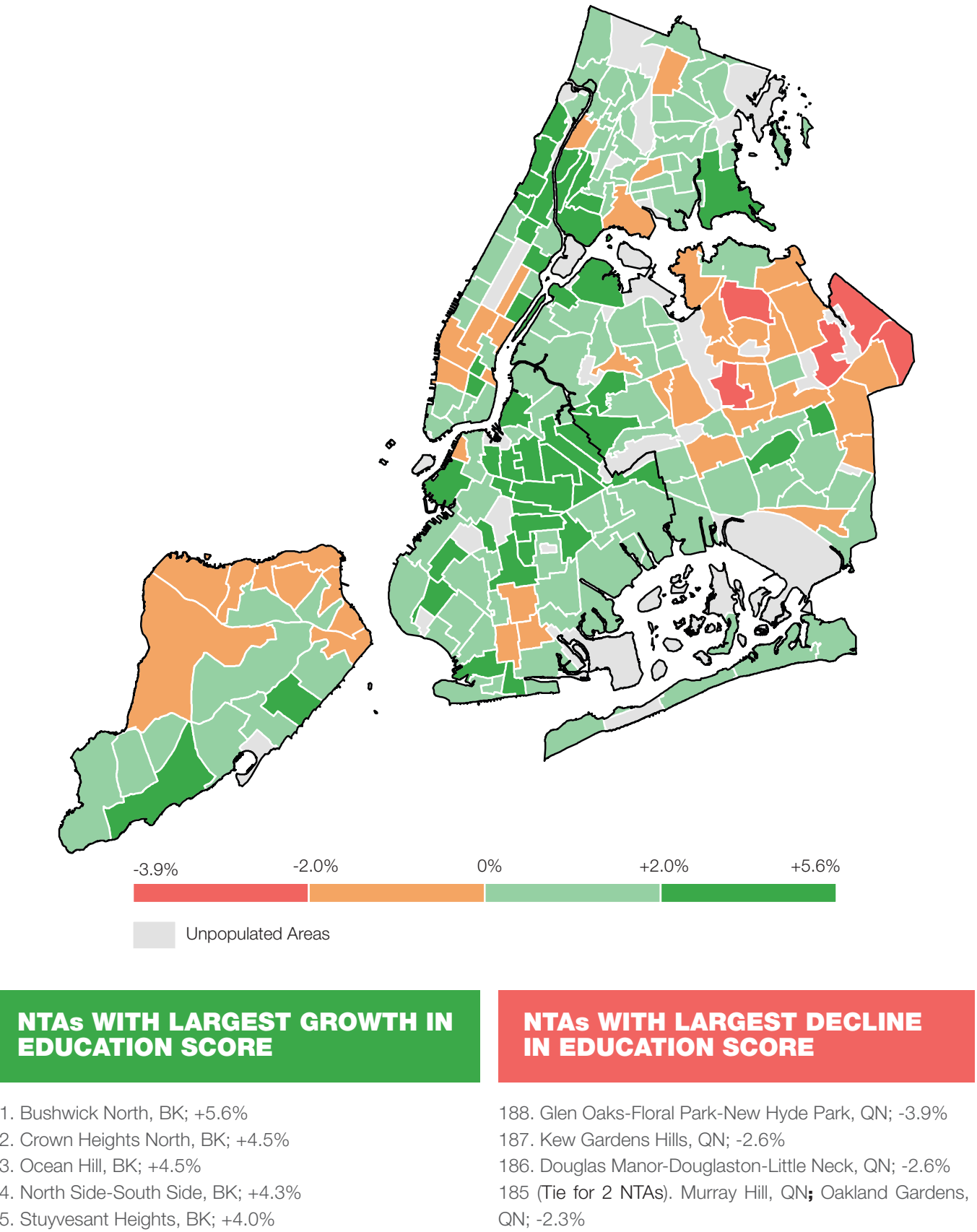
NTAs WITH LOWEST MATH PROFICIENCY

188. Belmont, BX; 20.8%
187. Fordham South, BX; 23.5%
186. Bedford Park-Fordham North, BX; 23.6%
185. East Tremont, BX; 23.9%
184. Hammels-Arvene-Edgemere, QN; 24.2%

EDUCATION OVER TIME

Overall, education has improved across New York City with 76.6% (144) of NTAs experiencing positive growth between 2015 and 2019. Furthermore, 24.5% (46) of NTAs saw growth of over 2%, indicating that educational outcomes have significantly improved in many neighborhoods. Bushwick North in Brooklyn was the NTA with the greatest growth and Glen Oaks-Floral Park-New Hyde Park in Queens was the NTA with the most decline. Even though the NTAs with the most significant decreases are all in Queens, many of those NTAs still maintained a high domain score overall. Causal relationships about drivers of education growth or decline over time are not explored in this report; however, it is important to note two wide-scale changes that may have driven some of this growth. First, NYC implemented Common Core aligned state tests in 2013, so they were still relatively new in 2015. It is possible that some of this educational improvement (specifically, ELA and math proficiency) was driven by improved implementation of these standards. Second, universal access to Pre-K (starting in 2014) has contributed to improvement within the preschool enrollment indicator.

Map 25: Education Over Time (2015-2019)



## 4. HOUSING

### Summary

Housing has long been a prominent quality of life and policy topic in New York City. Initial findings from the 2017 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (HVS) indicate that the City's total housing stock rose to almost 3,470,000 units, the highest level ever reported (NYC HPD, 2018). Although the survey found that the pace of income growth (11.2%) for all renters exceeded gross rent growth (6.2%), it also found that the median monthly rent including utilities was \$1,450 while the median income for households that rent was \$47,200 (\$3,933 a month). This exceeds the traditionally acceptable level of rent burden of 30%. The citywide net estimated rental vacancy is now 3.6%, which is below the 5% benchmark for a "housing emergency" (Kim, 2018).

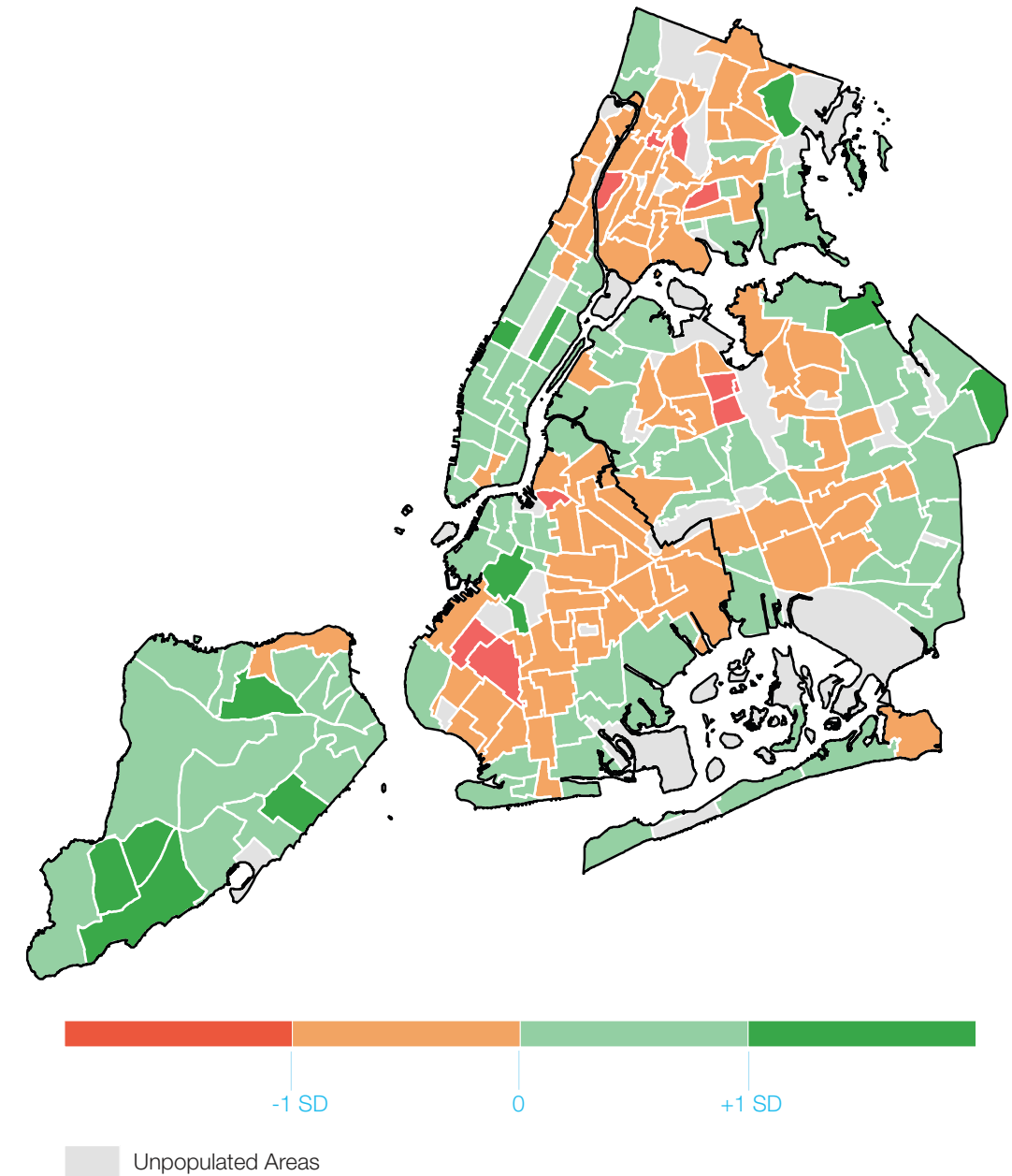
Four housing indicators are included in this report:

- 1) Owner housing cost burden
- 2) Renter housing cost burden
- 3) Overcrowding
- 4) Noise complaints

Lower rates of each indicator demonstrate higher well-being.

As seen in Map 26, Staten Island and most of Manhattan are outpacing other boroughs in regard to housing indicators. Almost 90% of NTAs score within one SD of the mean, indicating housing well-being is more uniform across the city compared to many other domains.

Map 26: Housing



### NTAs WITH HIGHEST HOUSING SCORES

1. Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville, SI
2. Ft. Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview, QN
3. Co-op City, BX
4. Lincoln Square, MN
5. Glen Oaks-Floral Park- New Hyde Park, QN

### NTAs WITH LOWEST HOUSING SCORES

188. Williamsburg, MN
187. North Corona, QN
186. Belmont, BX
185. Fordham South, BX
184. Borough Park, BK

## INDICATOR: HOUSING COST BURDEN - OWNER

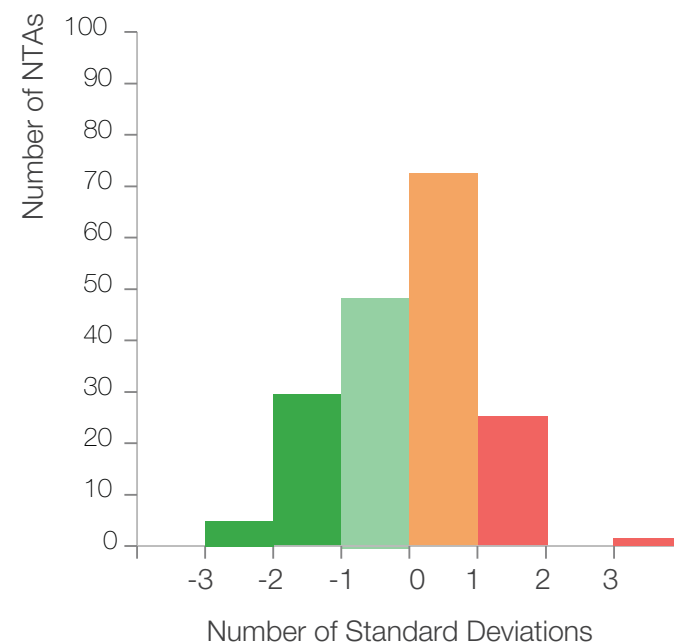
**Definition:** The percentage of households spending 30% or more of household income on mortgage payments and other housing costs for those who own their homes.

**Reasoning:** The 30% of income threshold is used by HUD to determine if a household is 'cost-burdened' by their housing costs. Those above this threshold "may have difficulty affording necessities" (EDGE PD&R, 2019) including medical care, food, transportation, and childcare (MAP, 2017). If a person uses more than 28% of their gross income on their mortgage, they are considered to be under 'mortgage stress'. New York City is the 4th most 'mortgage-stressed' city in the country as a result of its high property values (Cabral, 2016).

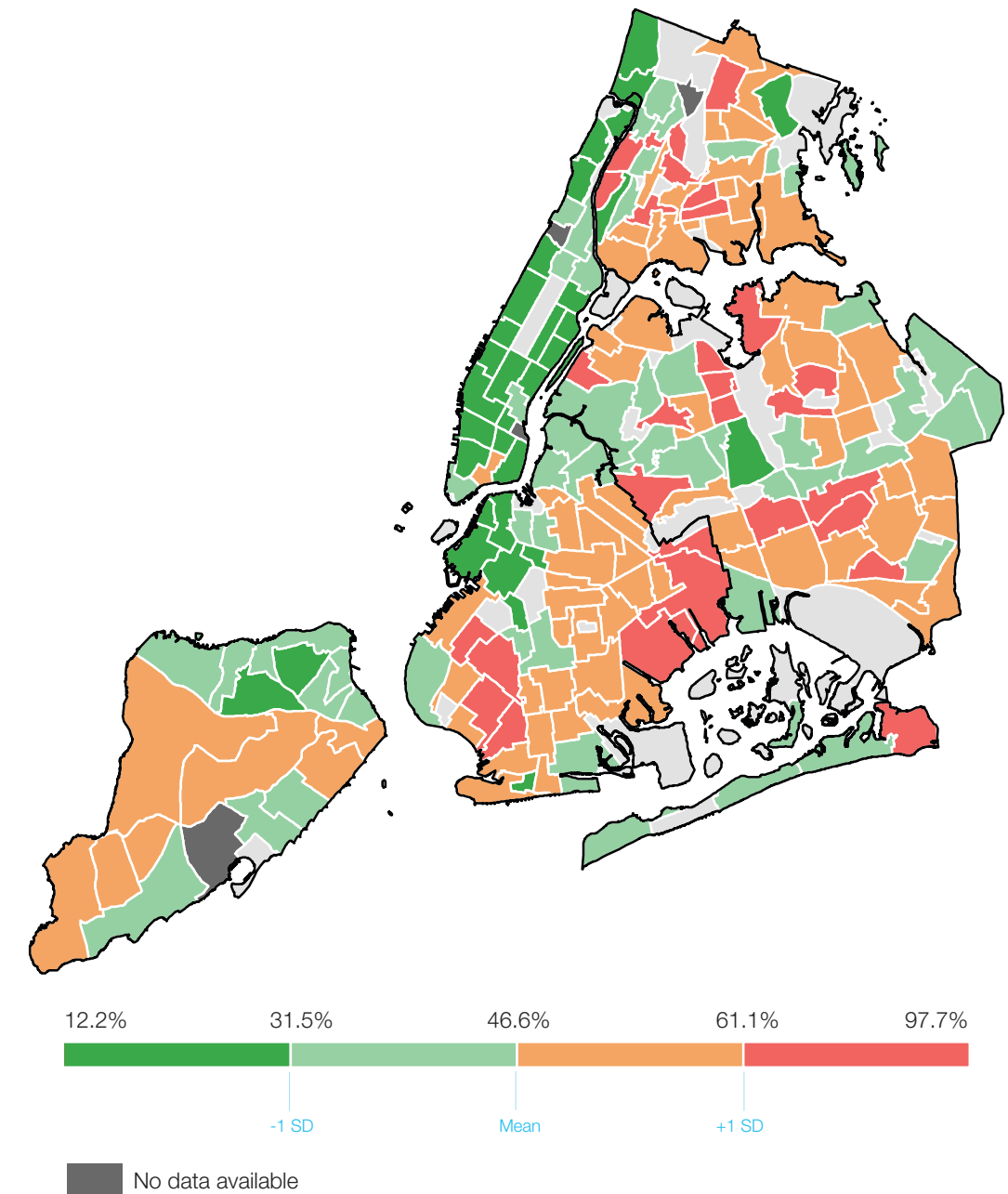
**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean and median of the percentage of households with owner cost burden are 46.6% and 47.9% respectively, meaning that in almost half of the NTAs, nearly 50% of home owners are housing cost burdened. It is important to note that overall, homeownership is most prevalent in Staten Island and Queens, with much lower rates in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx (NYU Furman Center, 2019).

Figure 18: Housing Cost Burden - Owner



Map 27: Housing Cost Burden - Owner



### NTAs WITH LOWEST RATE OF OWNER HOUSING COST BURDEN EXCEEDING 30%

1. East Village, MN; 12.2%
2. West Concourse, BX; 13.0%
3. Co-op City, BX; 14.9%
4. Morningside Heights, MN; 17.4%
5. East Harlem South, MN; 20.1%

### NTAs WITH HIGHEST RATE OF OWNER HOUSING COST BURDEN EXCEEDING 30%\*

185. Belmont, BX; 97.7%
184. North Corona, QN; 74.6%
183. Borough Park, BK; 72.5%
182. West Farms-Bronx River, BX; 72.4%
181. East Elmhurst, QN; 69.6%

\*Data not available for all NTAs.



## INDICATOR: HOUSING COST BURDEN - RENTER

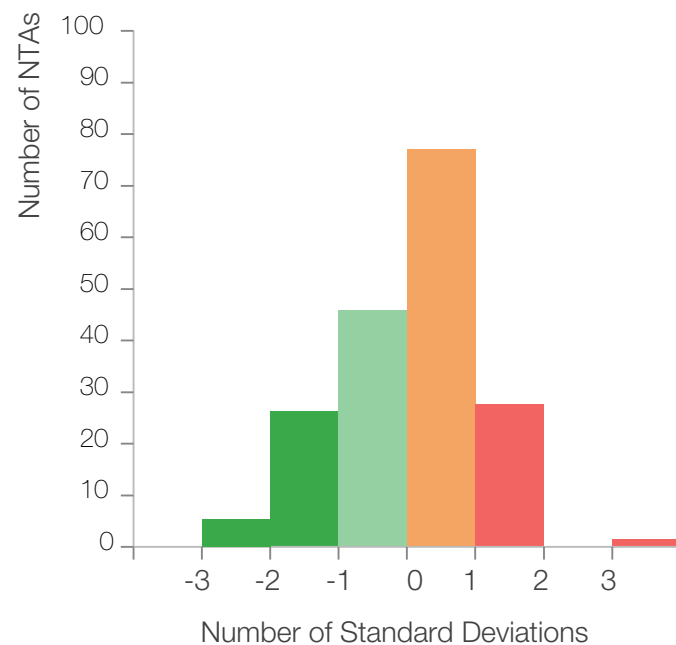
**Definition:** The percentage of households spending 30% or more of household income on rent and utilities.

**Reasoning:** The same reasoning used for home owner cost burden applies to renters. Households burdened by high rents suffer the same problems as owners spending too much on their mortgage payments (Taylor, 2018). A 2019 Harvard University study found that severely cost-burdened renters spend 35% less on food and 74% less on healthcare compared to unburdened households (Harvard University, 2019). Studies also show that housing cost burdened families are less likely to have a usual source of medical care and more likely to postpone needed treatment than those who enjoy more-affordable housing (Taylor, 2018). In addition, high renter cost burden directly impacts economic well-being by limiting savings and investment (Gabriel and Painter, 2018).

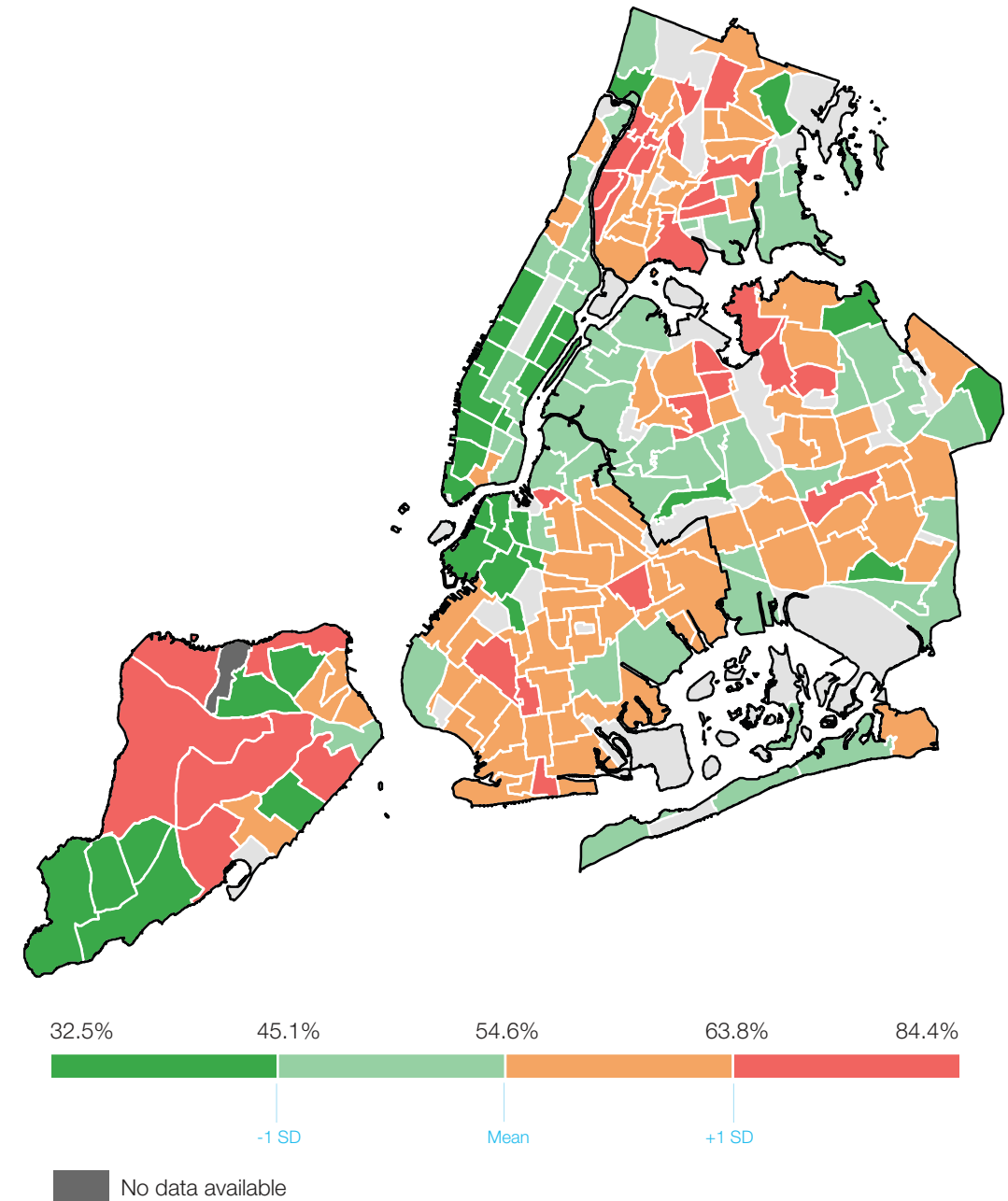
**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean is 54.5% and the median is 55.5%, meaning that in over half of the NTAs, over 50% of renters are housing cost burdened. This is about ten percentage points higher than home owner cost burden, signifying that renters struggle more than home owners to pay for housing costs. The maps of owner and renter cost burdens are similar, implying that the price relationship between owning and renting are consistent throughout the city. The high renter cost-burden in Staten Island NTAs is mostly caused by a low number of renters in those NTAs. The mean renter cost-burden of Staten Island as a whole (56.2%) is similar to that of Queens (55.2%), Brooklyn (55.0%), and the Bronx (59.7%).

Figure 19: Housing Cost Burden - Renter



Map 28: Housing Cost Burden - Renter



### NTAs WITH LOWEST RATE OF OWNER HOUSING COST BURDEN EXCEEDING 30%

1. Rossville-Woodrow, SI; 32.5%
2. Arden Heights, SI; 33.0%
3. Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville, SI; 33.8%
4. Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill, BK; 34.6%
5. DUMBO-Vinegar Hill-Downtown Brooklyn-Boerum Hill, BK; 35.7%

### NTAs WITH HIGHEST RATE OF RENTER HOUSING COST BURDEN EXCEEDING 30%\*

187. West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George, SI; 84.4%
186. Borough Park, BK; 72.4%
185. Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville, SI; 70.7%
184. Great Kills, SI; 69.7%
183. Fordham South, BX; 69.3%

\*Data not available for all NTAs.

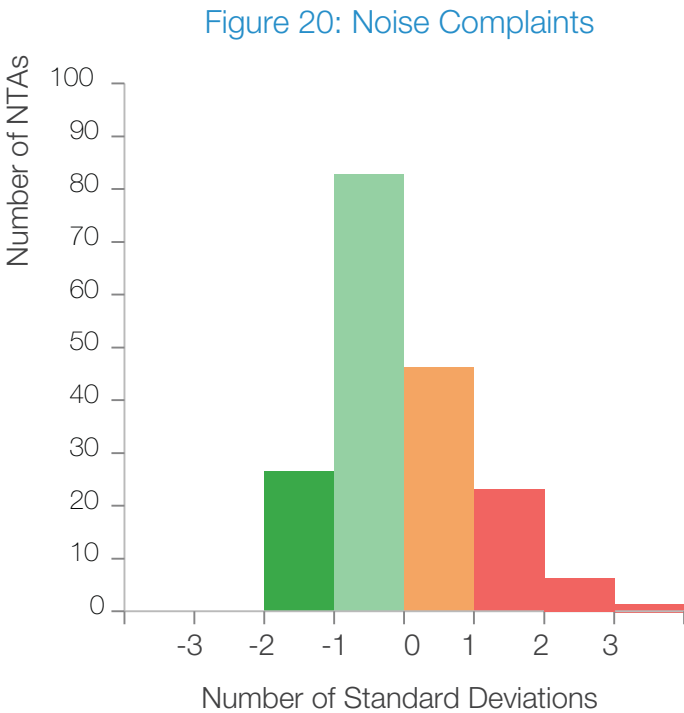
INDICATOR: NOISE COMPLAINTS

**Definition:** Number of noise complaints reported to NYC’s complaint line 311 per 1,000 residents.

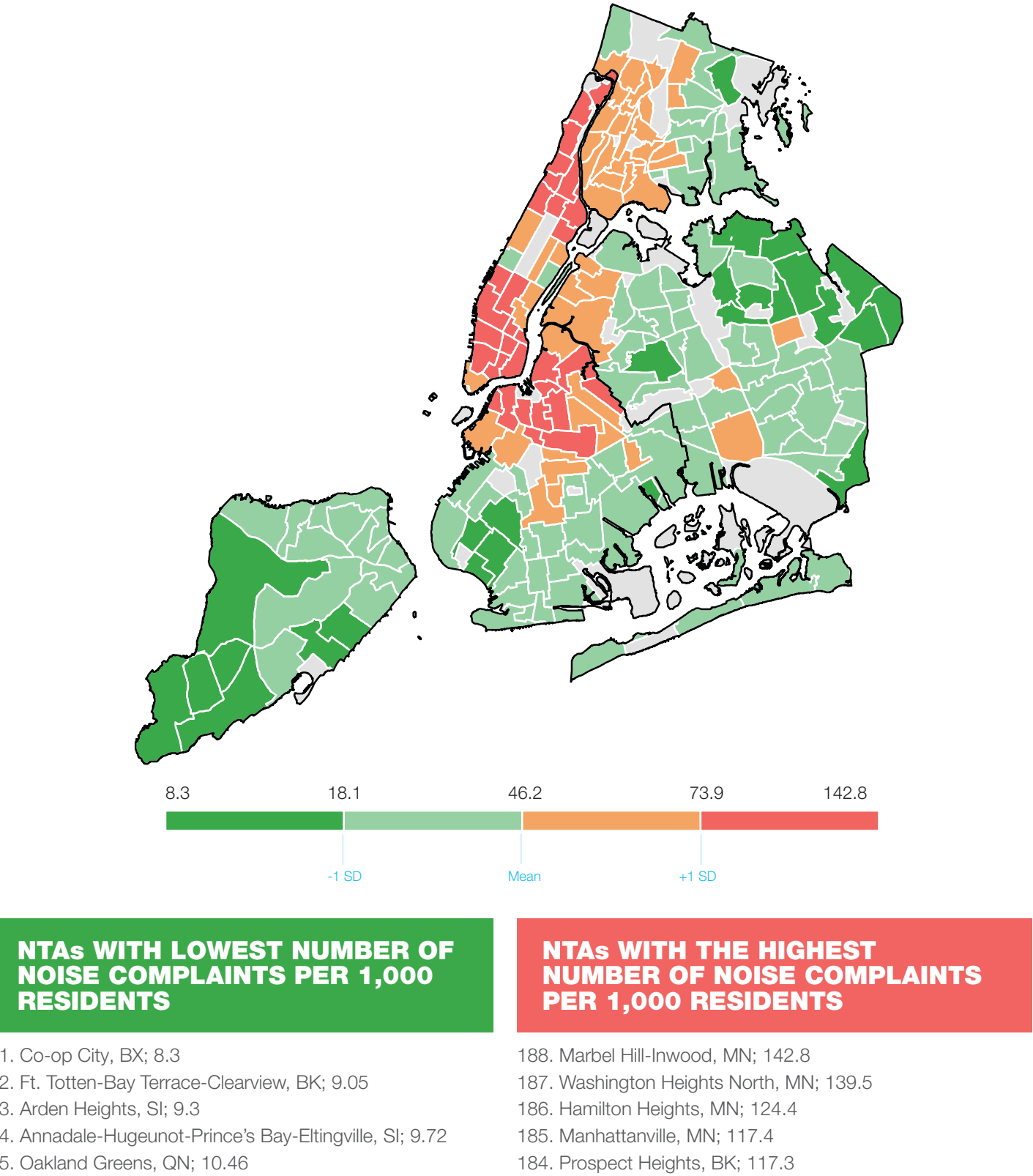
**Reasoning:** Noise pollution and intrusive sounds affect people’s mental health, and loud noises can negatively affect hearing. One in six New York adults report hearing loss, and nearly 20% of New Yorkers report being distracted by noise while at home. Noise not only affects hearing but also mental health. Persistent noise can increase stress levels, raise blood pressure, and cause fatigue due to lack of sleep. As a result, the New York City Health Department provides advice about how to prevent and avoid the negative effects of noise, one of which includes calling 311 about noise complaints (NYC Department of Health, 2018).

**Data Source:** NYC Open Data 2018, collected at the ZIP code level.

**Results:** The mean is 46.1 noise complaints per 1,000 residents and the median is 37.8. While there is loose evidence that higher income neighborhoods call 311 more often (White, 2016), this is not borne out by the data here. Instead, noise complaints were more directly correlated with the density and crowding levels of housing units in different areas. The neighborhoods with the most complaints per 1,000 residents were in upper and lower Manhattan, downtown and northwestern Brooklyn, and the Bronx. The areas with the least amount of noise complaints were areas further away from Manhattan.



Map 29: Noise Complaints



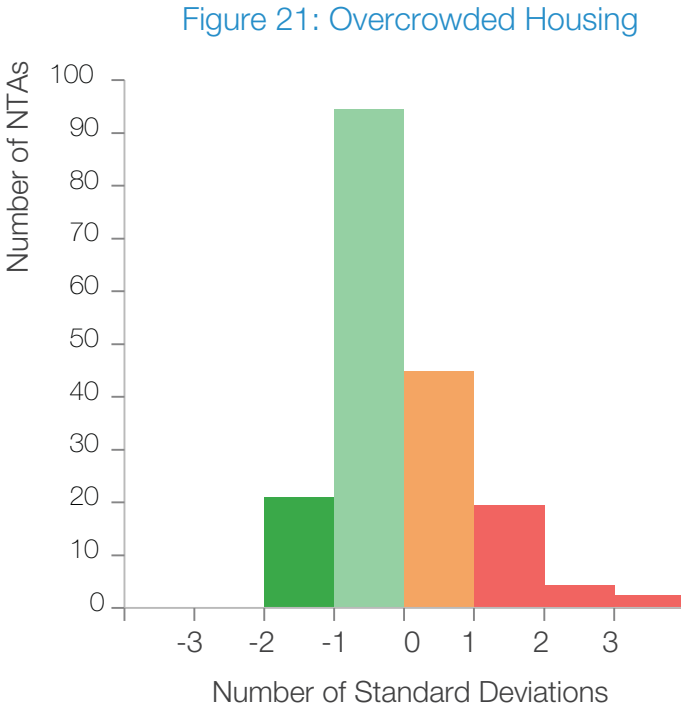
INDICATOR: OVERCROWDED HOUSING

**Definition:** The percentage of households with more than 1 occupant per room.

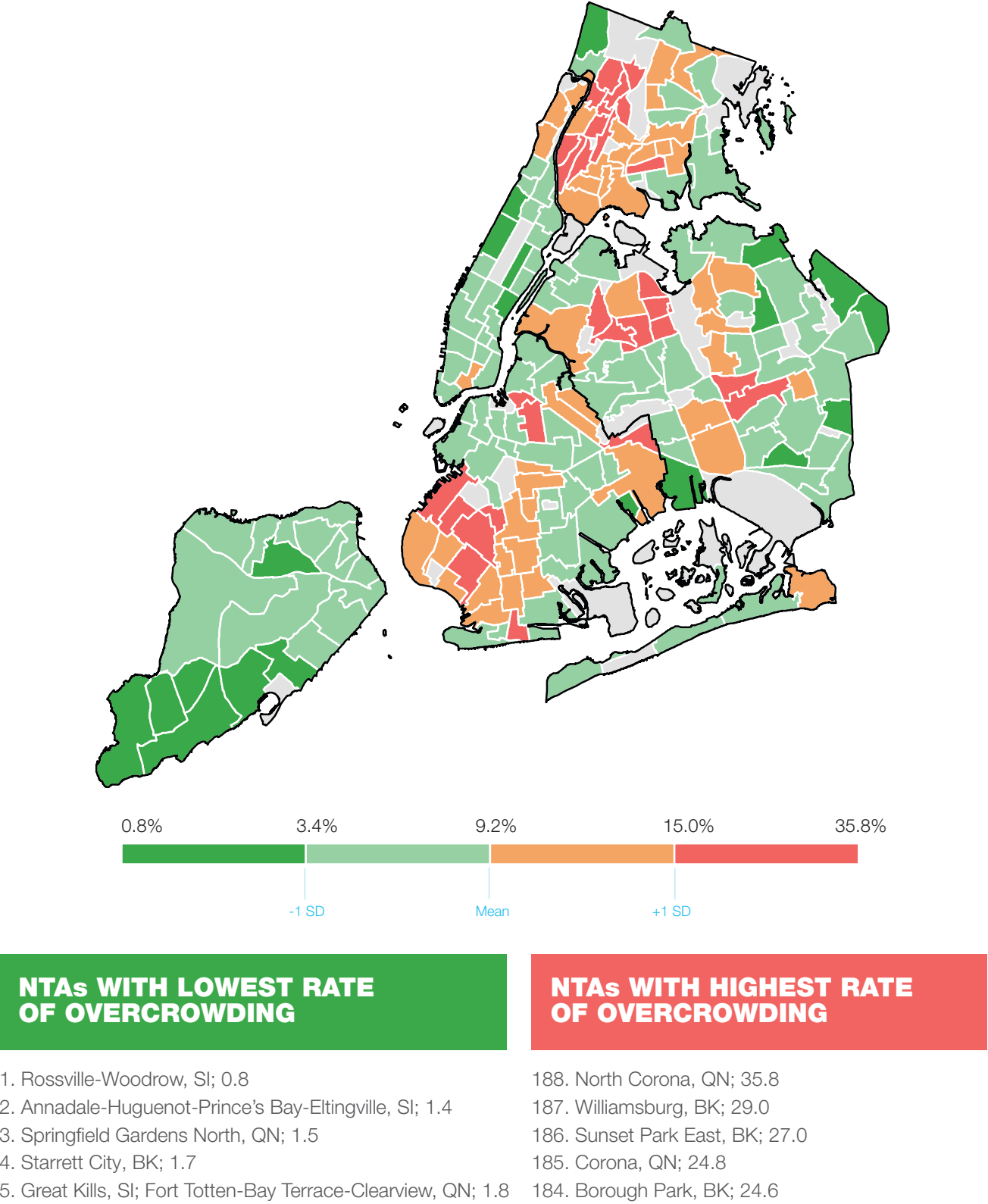
**Reasoning:** Studies have shown that overcrowding has a negative effect on health and academic achievement and reinforces social stratification (Solari, 2012). Overcrowded housing also impacts well-being as it can prevent inhabitants from having personal space and can lead to inadequate sleep (Solari, 2012). Overcrowding can also contribute to psychological distress (Evans, 2003) and a higher likelihood of contracting bacterial and viral illnesses (Eliot, 2014).

**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean percent of New York City's population living in overcrowded housing is 9.2% and the median is 8.1%. It seems that high income is a key factor enabling residents to avoid crowded housing conditions as higher income areas of Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island generally have the lowest rates of overcrowding. The areas with the highest rates of overcrowding tend to be lower income neighborhoods, though parts of central Brooklyn are an exception to this.



Map 30: Overcrowded Housing

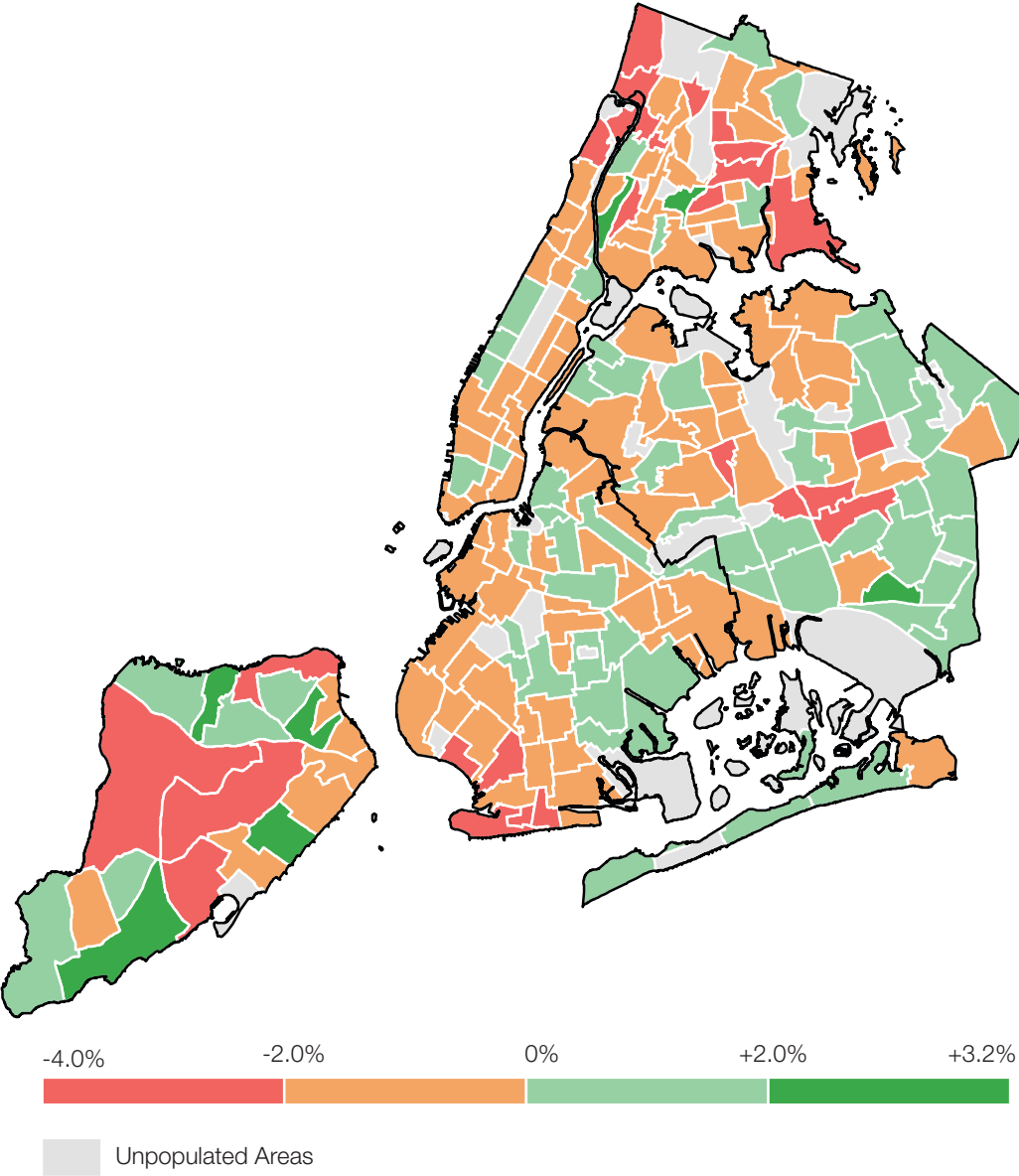




HOUSING OVER TIME

The housing domain was the only domain to see an overall decrease over time, with 65% of NTAs experiencing a negative percent change. This does fit with the anecdotal perception that the housing market in the City is getting worse over time. The Crotona Park East NTA in the Bronx experienced the greatest increase in domain score, while Marble Hill-Inwood in Manhattan saw the greatest decrease. Overall, NTAs that increased and decreased are spread around all five boroughs. While the indicators in this domain capture some aspects of the quality and affordability of housing, they cannot fully capture the more subtle social effects of changing neighborhoods.

Map 31: Housing Over Time (2015-2019)



NTAs WITH LARGEST GROWTH IN HOUSING SCORE

- 1. Crotona Park East, BX; +3.2%
- 2. Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills, SI; +2.8%
- 3. Port Richmond, SI; +2.3%
- 4 (Tie for 2 NTAs). Springfield Gardens North, QN; Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville, SI; +2.2%

NTAs WITH LARGEST DECLINE IN HOUSING SCORE

- 188. Marble Hill-Inwood, MN; -4.0%
- 187. Great Kills, SI; -4.0%
- 186. Brighton Beach, BK; -3.5%
- 185. East Concourse-Concourse Village, BX; -3.5%
- 184. Pelham Parkway, BX; -3.5%

5. PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Summary

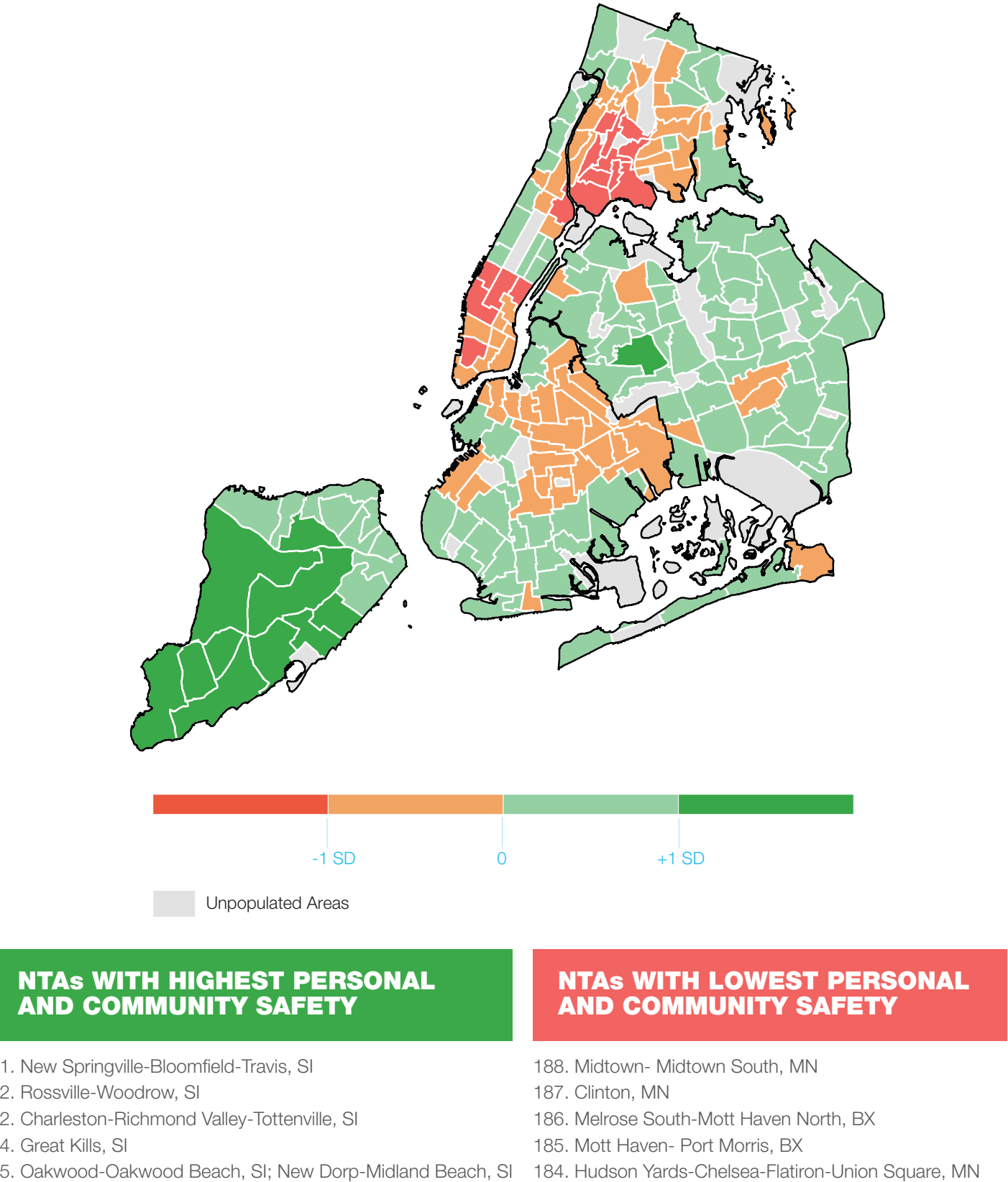
Physical safety, as well as the perception of being safe in one’s community, is a key component of well-being.

Three Personal and Community Safety indicators were included in this report:  
1) Index crime rate  
2) Pedestrian injuries  
3 Residents’ perception of neighborhood safety

A lower index crime rate, higher perception of neighborhood safety and lower numbers of pedestrian injuries all indicate greater well-being. Each of these contributes to the overall picture of personal community safety in New York City.

As seen in Map 32, many neighborhoods, especially in Staten Island and Queens, have personal and community safety domain scores above the mean. This indicates that residents experience low crime and few pedestrian injuries and perceive their community to be safe. The Bronx, central Brooklyn, and lower Manhattan have lower personal and community safety domain scores. In Manhattan, NTAs with the lowest personal and community safety domain scores are located in neighborhoods that experiences heavy commuter and tourist traffic, which partially explains both the high number of pedestrian injuries as well as the high index crime rate in these areas. In the Bronx, low perceptions of neighborhood safety, validated by a higher than average index crime rate throughout the borough, is a main driver of the borough’s low overall domain score.

Map 32: Personal and Community Safety



INDICATOR: INDEX CRIME RATE

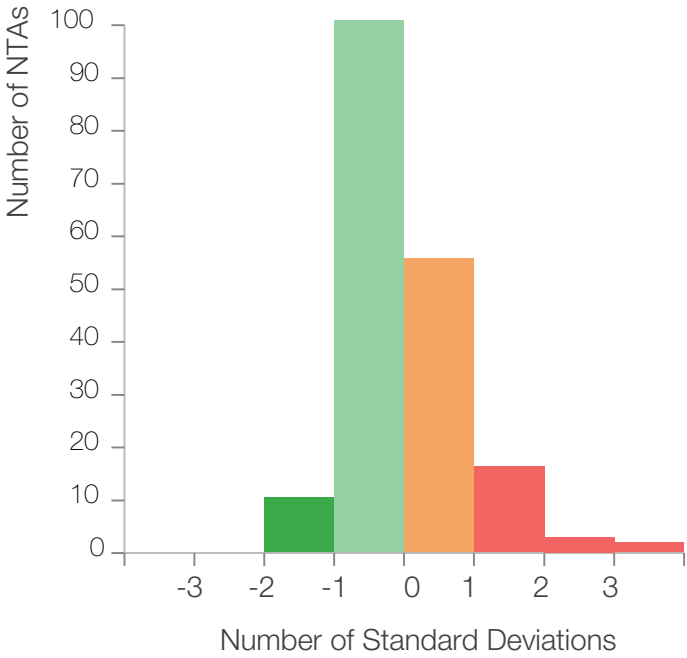
**Definition:** Total number of seven major crimes per 1,000 residents. Major crimes include: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, grand larceny, and grand larceny of a vehicle.

**Reasoning:** A variant of this statistic, violent crime, is an indicator used throughout many well-being indices, including indices from Measure of America, OECD, and the Opportunity Index. A German study found that being a victim of violent crime increases worrying and anxiety and therefore negatively impacts a person’s well-being (Krekel 2015). The reason that this report also includes non-violent crime is that victims of all experience long-lasting mental health issues such as distress, problems at work or in school, and problems with family members or friends (Newmark et al, 2003). The Department of Justice estimates that 67% of victims experience socio-emotional problems as a result of their victimization (Newmark et al, 2003).

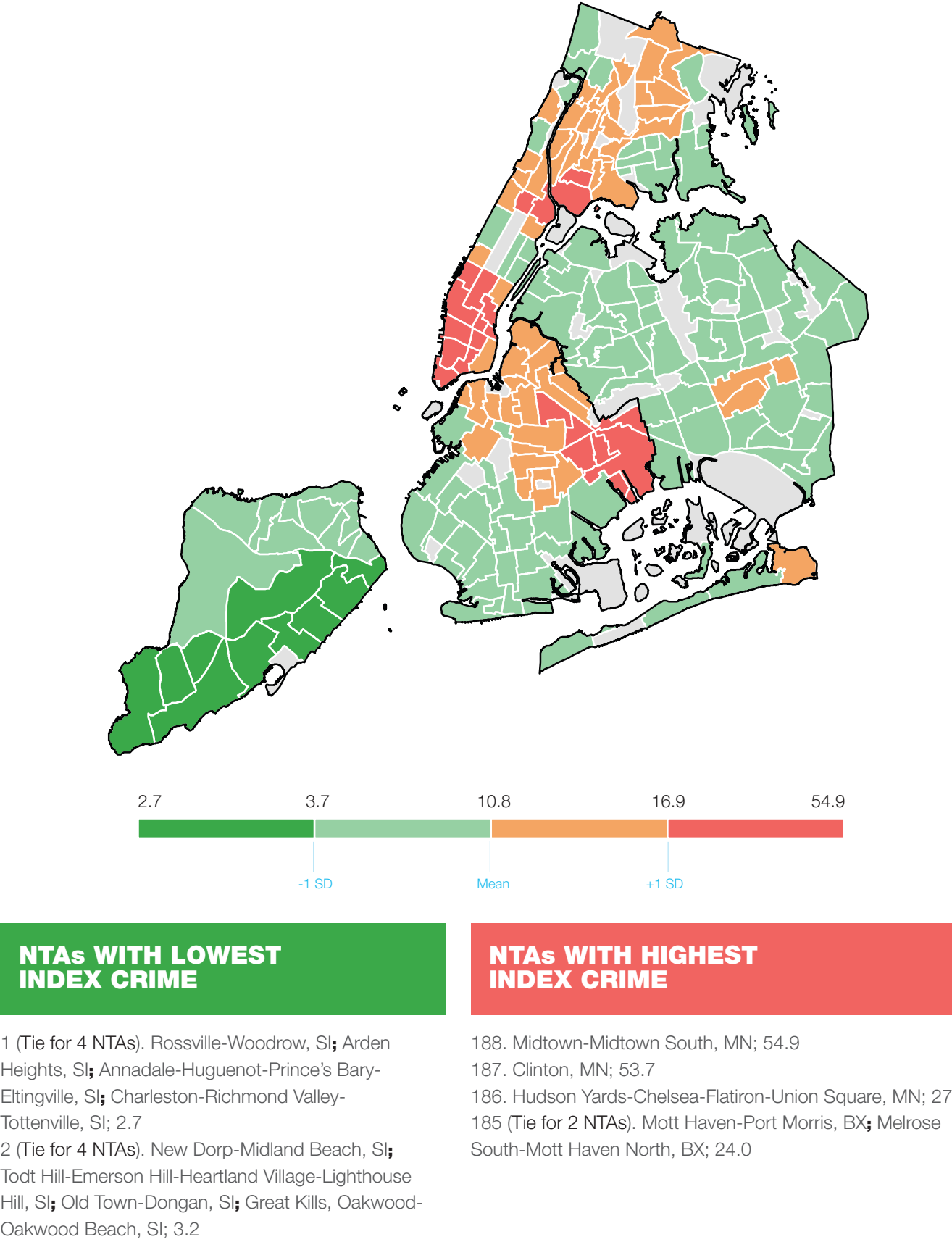
**Data Source:** Index Crime, New York Police Department (NYPD) through NYC Open Data, 2018, collected at the precinct level.

**Results:** The average major crime rate per 1,000 people in New York City is 10.9. The top 10 NTAs with the lowest crime rates are all found on Staten Island. Most NTAs with high crime rates in Manhattan are in high traffic areas which see hundreds of thousands of tourists and commuters pass through every day. As the crime rate is calculated based on number of residents of these areas, not the number of people that pass through the neighborhoods each day, the resulting crime rate looks disproportionately large. Only 11 of the Bronx’s 36 NTAs have index crime rates below the mean, but only two Bronx NTAs are more than 1 SD below the mean. In the Manhattan NTAs, almost 75% of the total major crimes reported were non-violent larceny/thefts.

Figure 22: Index Crime Rate



Map 33: Index Crime Rate



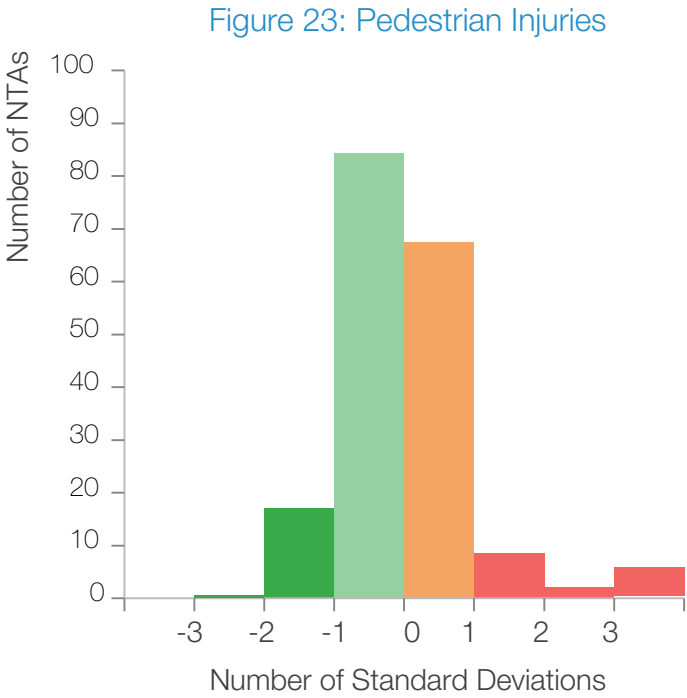
INDICATOR: PEDESTRIAN INJURIES

**Definition:** Number of pedestrians injured per year per 1,000 residents.

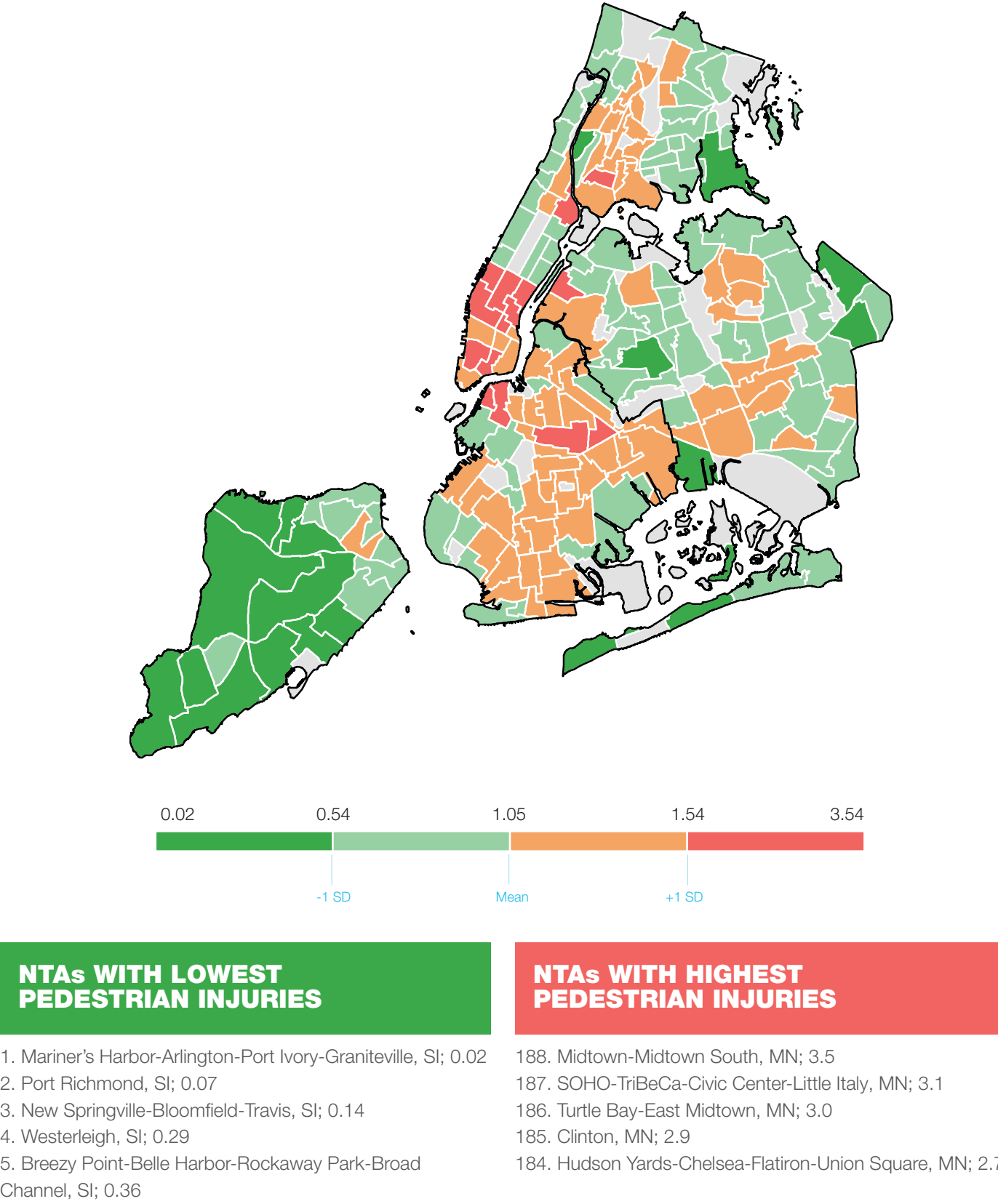
**Reasoning:** 65% of New York City residents either walk or use public transportation as their primary form of transportation; they own cars at lower rates and walk more than residents of any other US city (Elise, 2015). Thus, being safe while walking is an important aspect of well-being in New York City. Recognizing how vital walking is to the urban way of life, New York City created an initiative called Vision Zero, which aims to eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2024 (NYCEDC, 2012). However, since pedestrian injuries still exist in the city, it is important to include them in the domain of personal and community safety.

**Data Source:** Motor Vehicle Collisions, New York City Police Department (NYCPD) through NYC Open Data, 2018, collected at the ZIP Code Level.

**Results:** On average, 1 pedestrian per 1,000 residents per NTA is injured each year in New York City. Staten Island NTAs have the lowest pedestrian injury rates. The fact that Staten Island has the highest percentage of vehicle commuters in the city and the fewest number of walkers could help explain this finding (NYCEDC, 2012). The bottom five NTAs are all in Manhattan, primarily in NTAs with high tourist and commuter foot traffic, coupled with the highest rates of vehicle congestion.



Map 34: Pedestrian Injuries



INDICATOR: PERCEPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

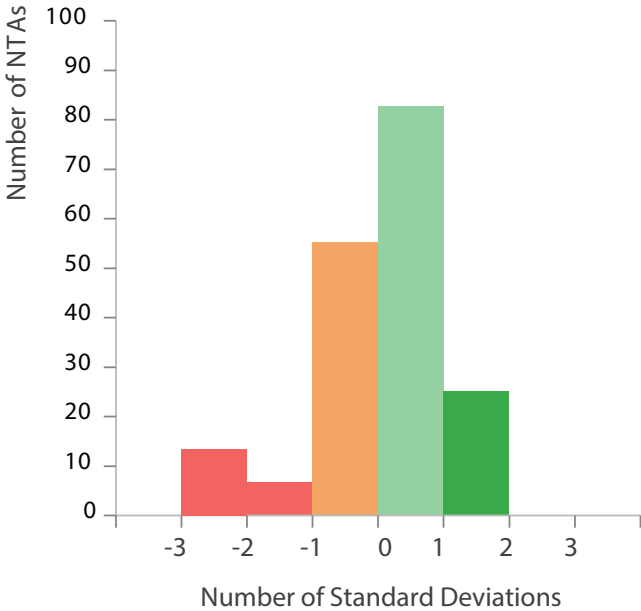
**Definition:** Percent of population that perceives their neighborhood as safe from crime.

**Reasoning:** New Zealand’s Canterbury Well-being Index includes “perception of neighborhood as safe” as an indicator of well-being because individual’s well-being can be affected if they fear harm, even if they aren’t actually harmed (Canterbury Wellbeing Index, 2019). A report on the perception of neighborhood safety and functional decline in older adults found that “perception of one’s personal safety is [...] intricately tied to health, quality of life, well-being and social engagement” (Sun, 2012). Older adults, for example, are more likely to leave their apartment and exercise if they believe their neighborhood to be safe, improving their health and well-being. In addition to physical safety, perceived safety in one’s neighborhood is a key component of safety and well-being (Yuma, 2014). When individuals do not perceive their surroundings to be safe stress rises, outdoor exercise decreases, and general happiness declines. Perceived safety impacts “social habits” and “feelings of freedom” because when people feel safe, they are more likely to immerse themselves in community activities (Australian Government Department of Health, 2019).

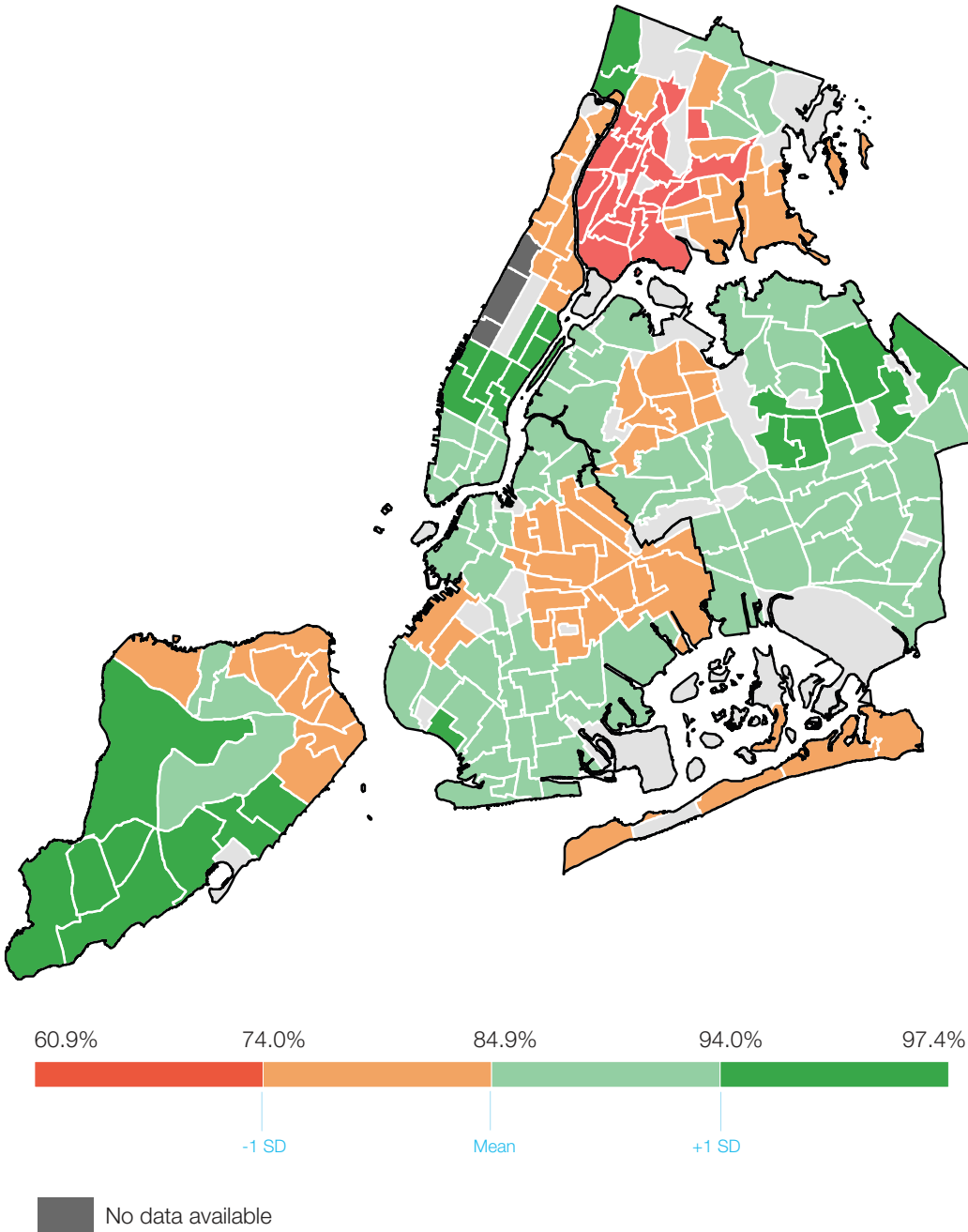
**Data Source:** Community Health Survey 2016, collected at the UHF level.

**Results:** Most people in New York City perceive their neighborhood to be safe – with a median of 86.7% and a mean of 84.9% of people perceiving their neighborhood to be safe from crime. The top 5 NTAs with the highest perception of neighborhood safety are in Manhattan, even though Manhattan NTAs rank among the worst in both index crime rates and pedestrian injuries. All twelve NTAs with a score greater than one SD above the mean are in the south Bronx, mirroring closely the reality of these neighborhoods having high crime rates in New York City. 143 of the 188 NTAs had a perception of safety above 80%, which is promising for well-being.

Figure 24: Perception of Neighborhood Safety



Map 35: Perception of Neighborhood Safety



NTAs WITH HIGHEST PERCEPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

1 (Tie for 5 NTAs). Lenox Hill- Roosevelt Island, MN; Murray Hill-Kips Bay, MN; Upper East Side, MN; Yorkville, MN; Turtle Bay-East Midtown, MN; 97.4%

NTAs WITH LOWEST PERCEPTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY\*

185 (Tie for 9 NTAs ;). East Concourse-Concourse Village, BX; Highbridge, BX; Crotona Park East, BX; Hunts Point, BX; Melrose South-Mott Haven North, BX; Morrisania-Melrose, BX; Mott Haven-Port Morris, BX; Mount Hope, BX; Longwood, BX; West Concourse, BX; 60.9%

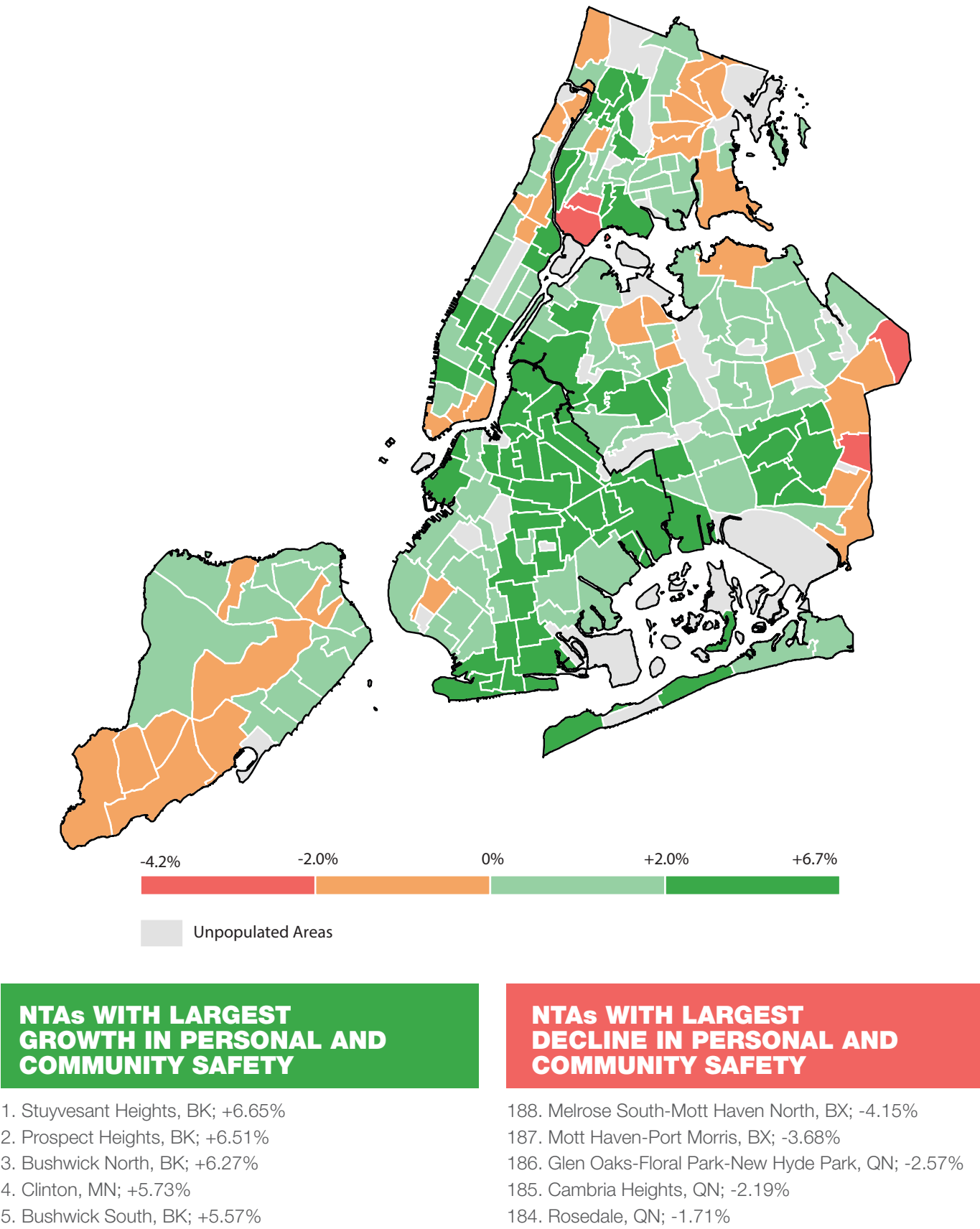
\*Data not available for all NTAs.



PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER TIME

Overall, the Personal and Community Safety domain score has increased in 80% of NTAs, and overall by an average of 1.5%. One reason that personal and community safety is increasing for New Yorkers is due to an overall decrease in crime in the city. New York City today has one of the lowest crime rates of any large city in the country (Suarez, 2017). This low crime rate can be attributed to policies such as NYPD Comp Stat, a targeted data-driven approach to policing, strict gun laws, and neighborhood policing, which have strengthened community ties between police and citizens (NYPD, 2019). Streets have also become safer as a result of Vision Zero, the program implemented by the Mayor’s Office in 2014 to reduce serious pedestrian injuries and deaths to zero per year. The top five NTAs that experienced the most positive change in personal and community safety domain were located in Brooklyn and Manhattan, with Brooklyn having the largest share of growth.

Map 36: Personal and Community Safety Over Time



6. CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Summary

The mobility of residents and their ability to access both private and public forms of transportation and infrastructure is a reflection of social and economic well-being. New York City is unique in its low rates of car ownership, with the city reporting that only 45% of households owning cars, which is nearly half of the national rate (NYC EDC, 2018). This makes New Yorkers especially dependent on the public transportation infrastructure provided by the government.

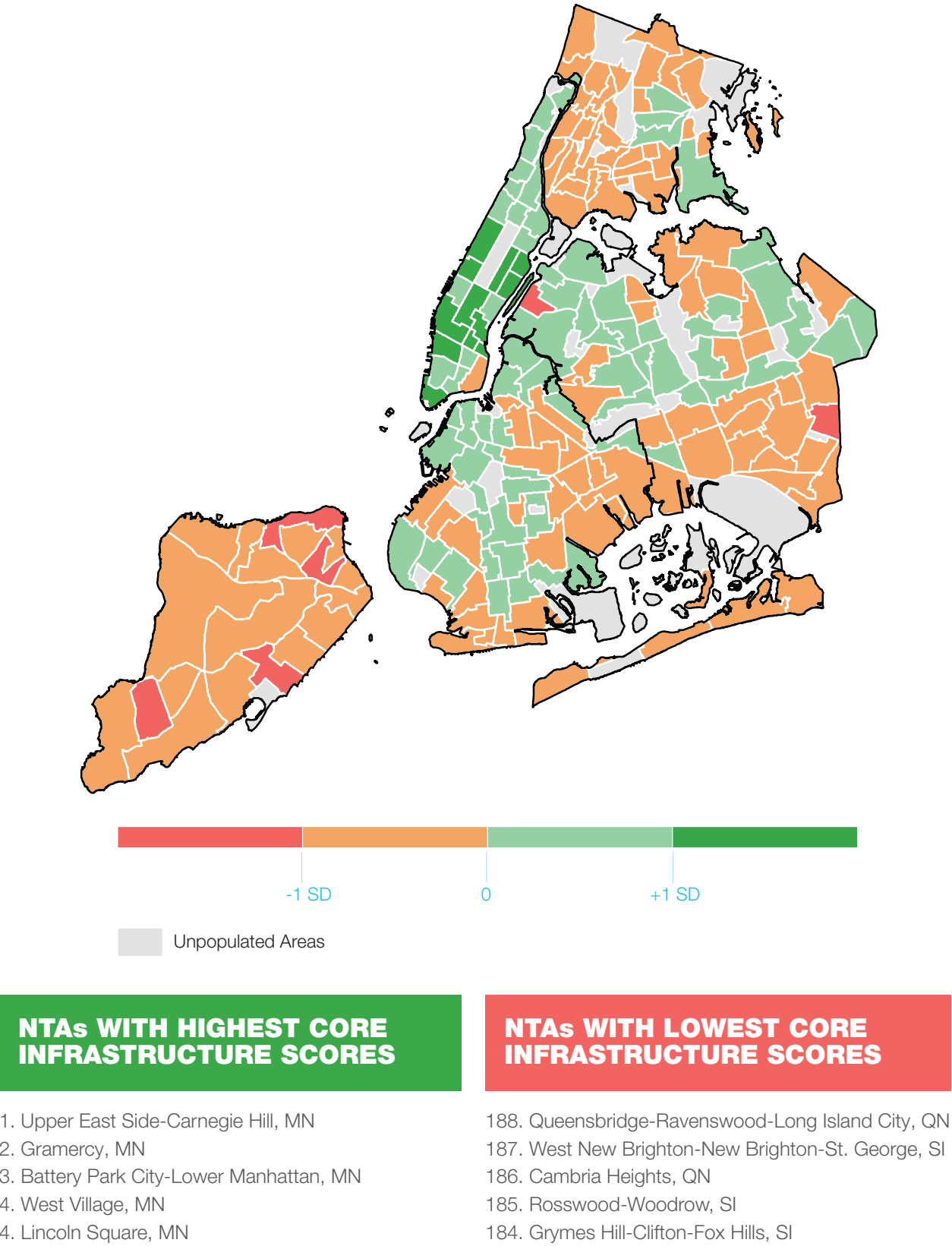
Three indicators were included in the Core Infrastructure and Services domain:

- 1) Average commute time
- 2) internet subscription rate
- 3) Pothole complaints

Lower commute times, higher internet subscription rates, and a lower number of potholes complaints all indicate greater well-being. Each of these indicators contributes to the overall picture of infrastructure in New York City.

This domain is not evenly distributed throughout the city. Manhattan noticeably has much higher core infrastructure scores than the other boroughs; a main driver of this could be lower commute times to work. Staten Island and outer Queens’ lower domain scores are likely driven by the fact that more people in the borough drive cars than other boroughs, which might also explain the increased number of pothole complaints in the borough.

Map 37: Core Infrastructure and Services



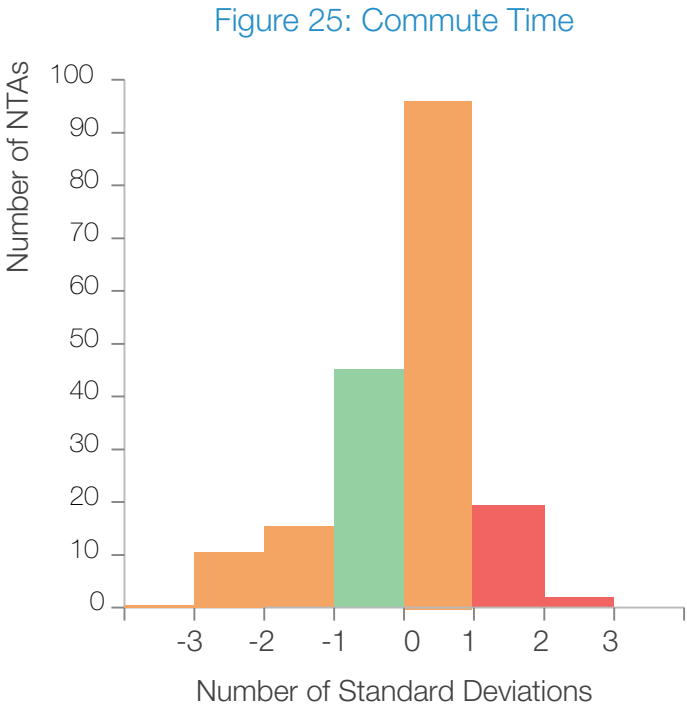
INDICATOR: COMMUTE TIME

**Definition:** The average travel time, in minutes, for workers aged 16 and over who did not work at home to reach their place of work.

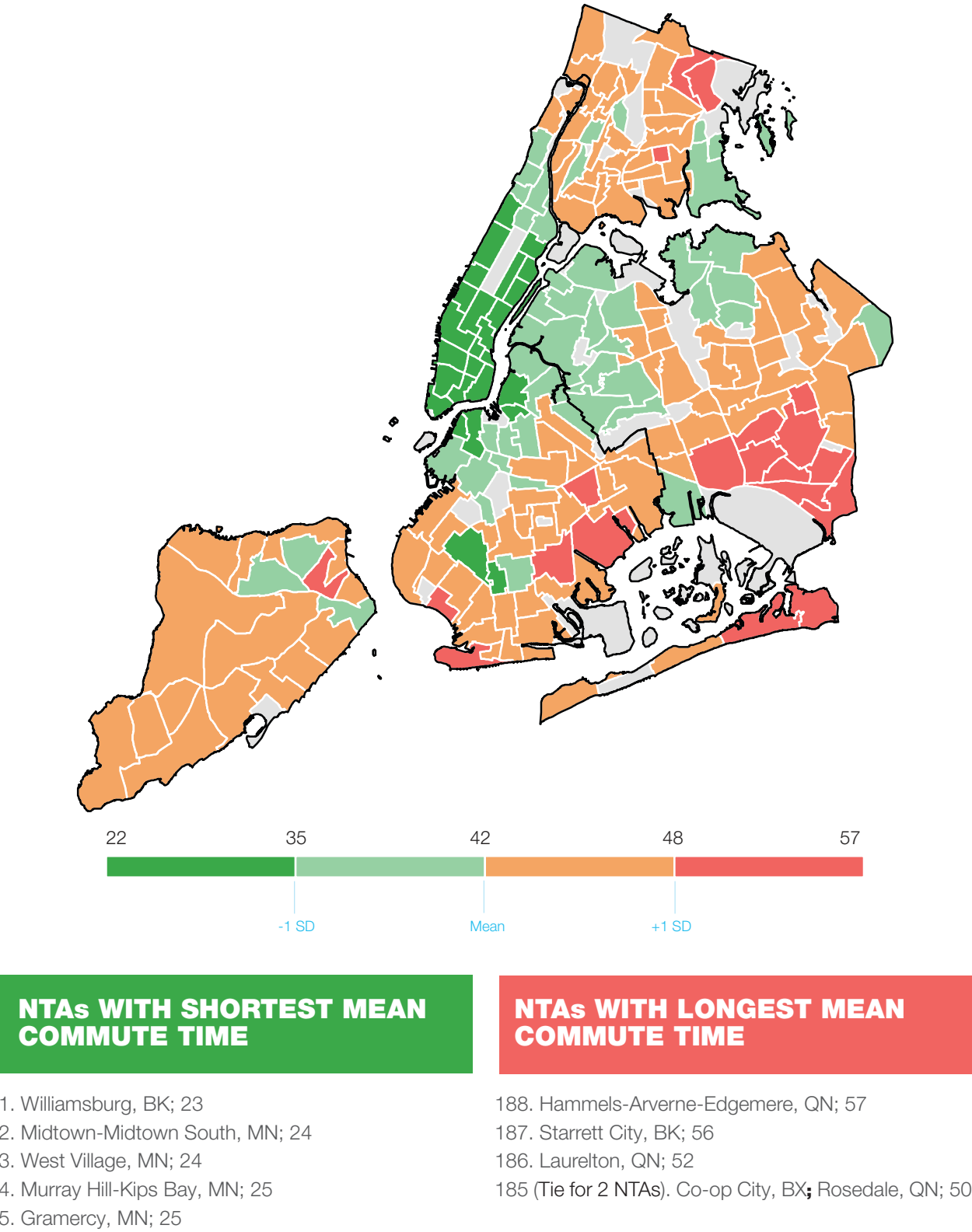
**Reasoning:** Studies have shown that a higher commute time negatively affects well-being in the form of lower life satisfaction and happiness, and higher anxiety (Segghi, 2014). As New Yorker’s are very dependent on public transportation, this indicator may speak to the quality and usability of public transportation across the city.

**Data Source:** American Community Survey (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean travel time to work for New Yorkers was 42 minutes, with a median of 43 minutes. This is an increase from 2015 when the mean was 40 minutes and the median was 41 minutes. This could be caused by a number of factors, including the deterioration of the subway system and the population growth of the outer-boroughs relative to Manhattan (NYC Planning, 2019). NTAs that are further from Manhattan and not on express subway lines generally see longer commute times.



Map 38: Commute Time



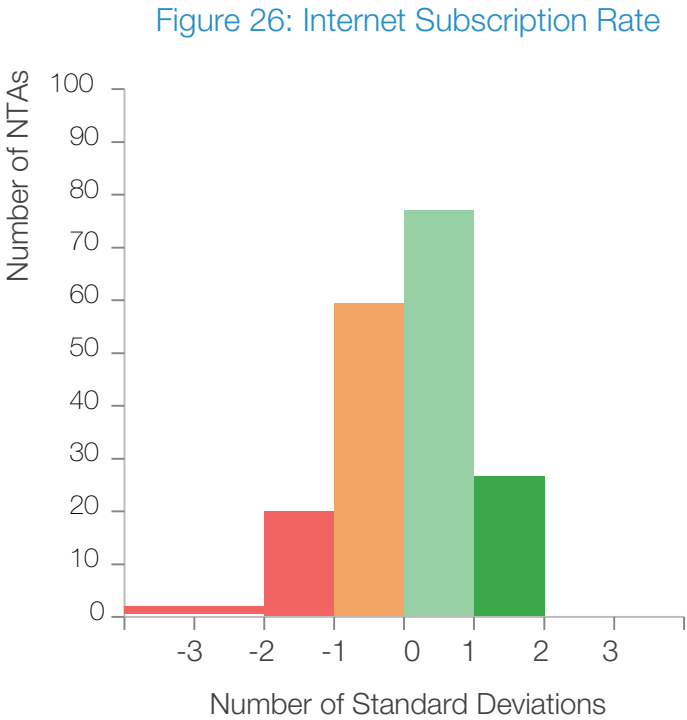
INDICATOR: INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION

**Definition:** The percentage of households with an Internet subscription.

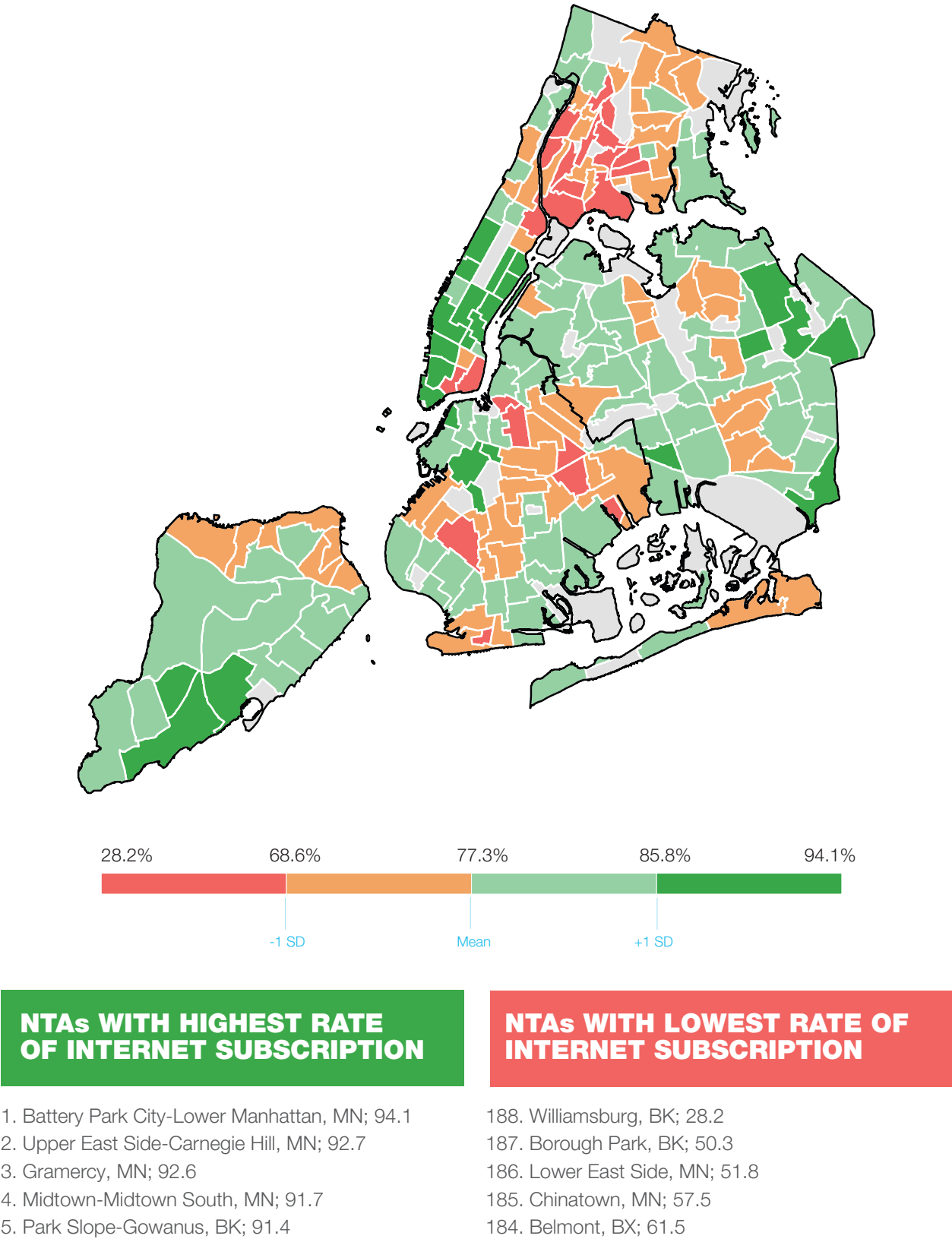
**Reasoning:** The Internet is an important part of modern life, and is often necessary for work, school, and other daily activities. Studies have shown that access to the internet is associated with greater levels of happiness and social connection (Boniwell, Osin & Renton, 2015), access to health information (Wagner et al, 2005), and better academic performance (Jackson et al, 2006).

**Data Source:** American Community Survey, (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean rate of internet subscription for New York is 77.3%, with the median at 78.5%. Low rates of internet subscription are seen mainly in neighborhoods with lower education and income levels. The connection with income levels is not surprising given high access costs. The association between lower internet access rates and lower education levels is supported by a 2014 policy brief published by the New York City Comptroller which found that 40% of New Yorkers with less than a high school education lacked broadband at home compared to 11% of New Yorkers with a bachelors or advanced degree (Office of the New York City Comptroller, 2014). The two lowest NTAs in this indicator have large communities of orthodox Jews who typically do not have internet access in their homes.



Map 39: Internet Subscription Rate



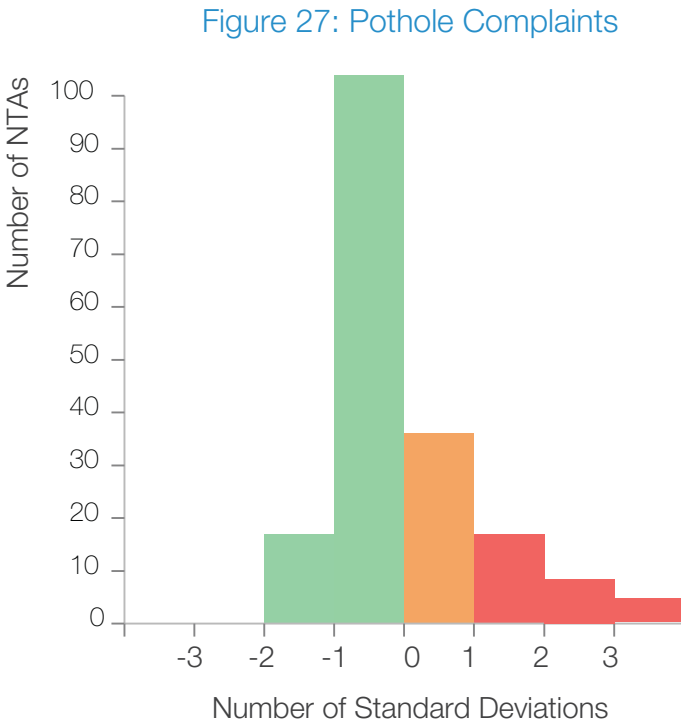
INDICATOR: POTHOLE COMPLAINTS

**Definition:** Number of complaints about potholes reported to NYC’s complaint line 311, per one thousand residents.

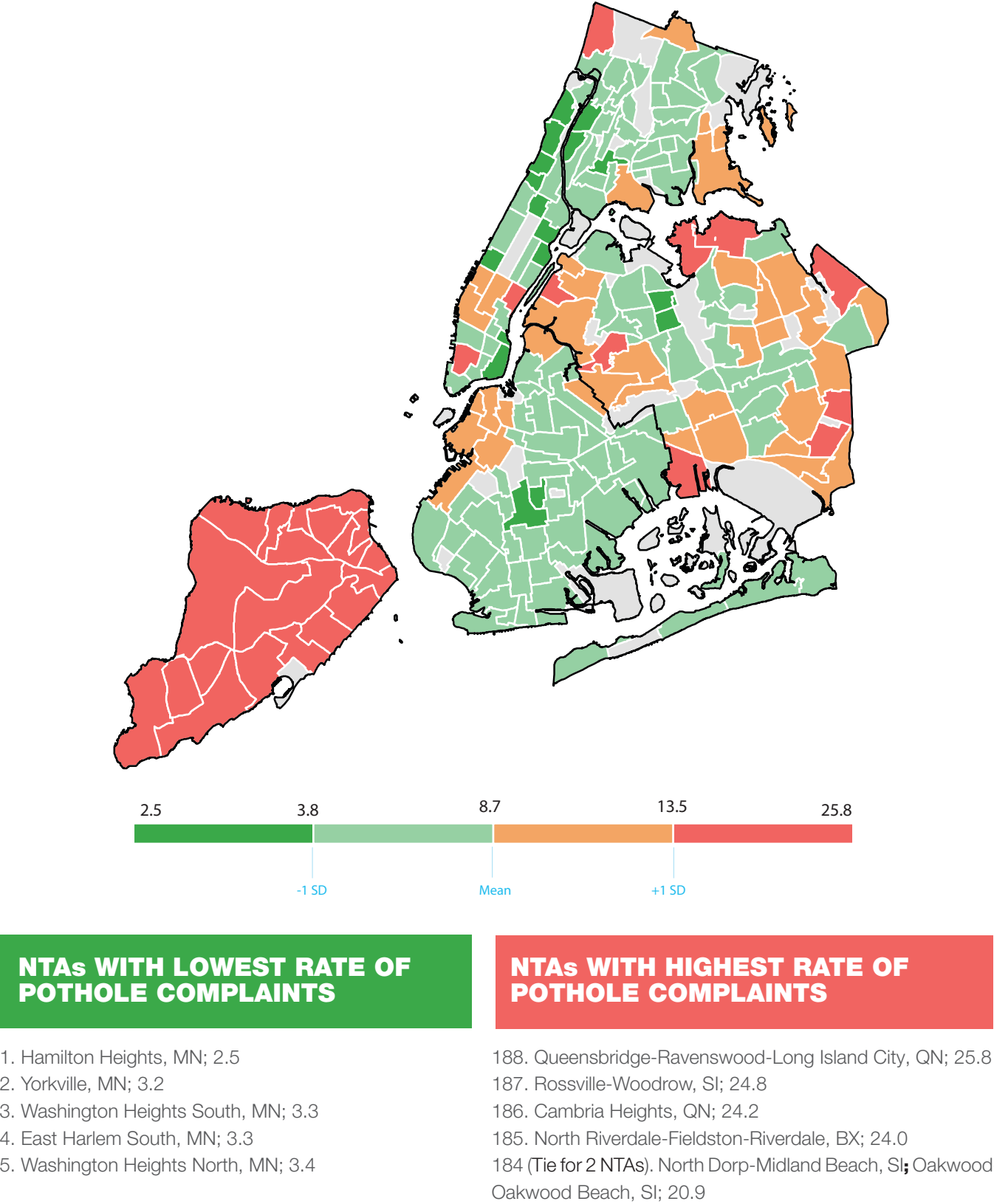
**Reasoning:** A good indicator for road conditions is the number of reported potholes since they affect the drivability of streets. Having poor quality streets can be both dangerous to drivers and pedestrians, as well as harmful to vehicles.

**Data Source:** American Community Survey, (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean number of pothole complaints per one thousand New York residents is 8.7, with the median at 7.5. The skewed nature of the data shows that a few NTA’s, primarily in Staten Island and Queens, have a much higher number of pothole complaints relative to the rest of New York City. This is likely due to the fact that the rate of car ownership and usage in Queens and Staten Island is greater than all other boroughs (NYC EDC, 2018).



Map 40: Pothole Complaints

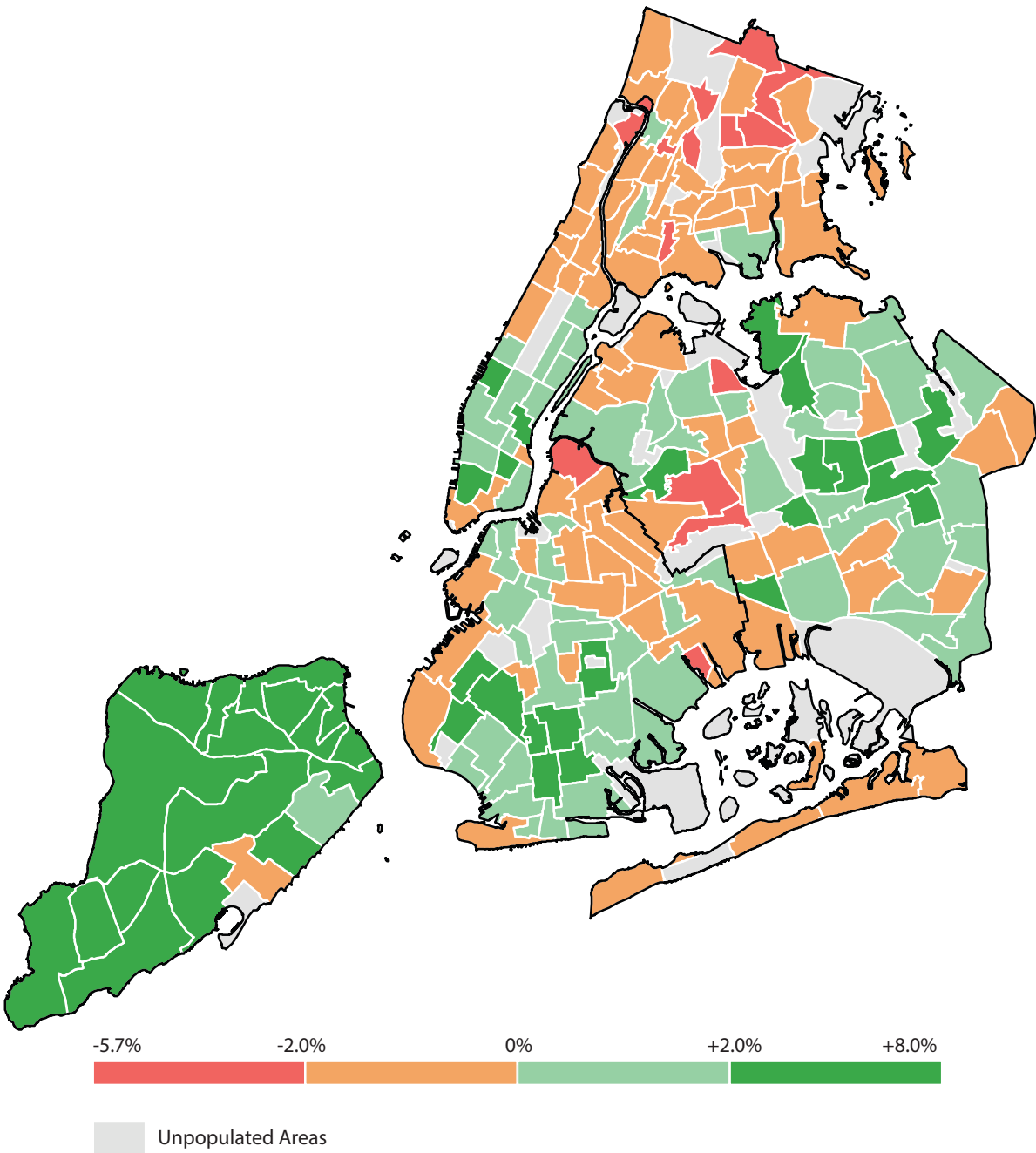




CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES OVER TIME

Overall, Core Infrastructure and Services scores have increased by half a percent since 2015, with just over half of the 188 NTAs seeing a positive change (52.1%). Many of the NTAs that saw a decline are in upper Manhattan and the Bronx, areas of the city that already score lower in this domain, specifically in internet subscriptions and commute time. This suggests that the City should invest in these areas so there is not further decline in future years. Despite lower than average scores in pothole complaints and commute time, Staten Island saw large improvements in the overall Core Infrastructure and Services domain.

Map 41: Core Infrastructure and Services Over Time



NTAs WITH LARGEST GROWTH IN CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

- 1. Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill, MN
- 2. Gramercy, MN
- 3. Battery Park City-Lower Manhattan, MN
- 4. West Village, MN
- 4. Lincoln Square, MN

NTAs WITH LARGEST DECLINE IN CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

- 188. Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City, QN
- 187. West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George, SI
- 186. Cambria Heights, QN
- 185. Rosswood-Woodrow, SI
- 184. Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills, SI

# 7. COMMUNITY VITALITY

## Summary

This domain is included in the NYC Well-Being Index for the first time in 2019. It was included because previous research found that social relationships and community engagement can directly impact mental and physical health as well as mortality rate (Umberson & Montez, 2010). Stress is commonly known to negatively impact physical and mental health, and social interaction and community engagement can lessen stress (Mayo Clinic, 2019) and act as a “stress-buffer” (Thoits, 2011). This domain was included to gauge residents’ connections to each other and the community.

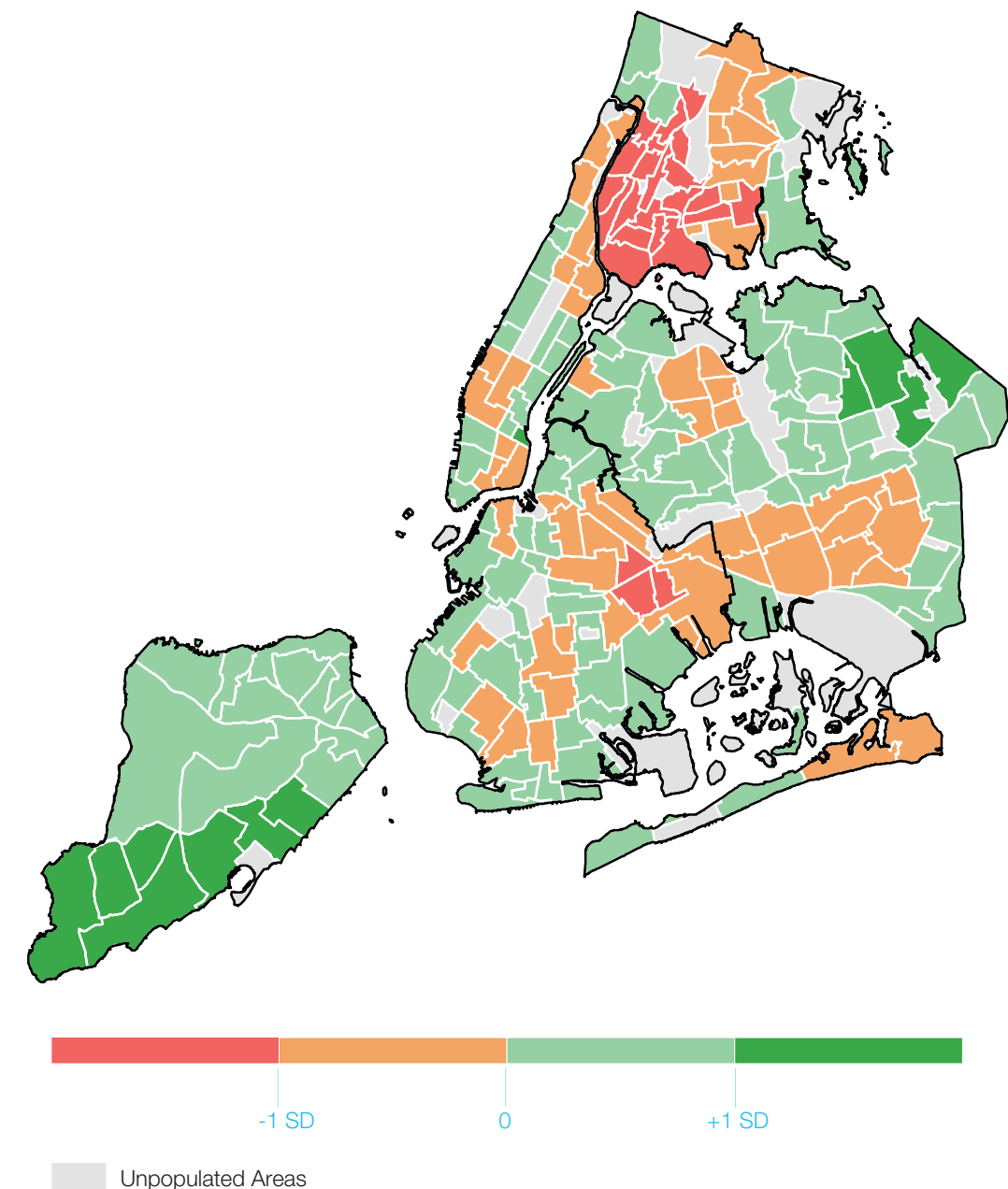
Four indicators were included in the Community Vitality domain:

- 1) Number of disconnected youth in a community
- 2) Voter turnout rate
- 3) Perception of how helpful neighbors are
- 4) Jail incarceration rate

A lower number of disconnected youth, higher voter turnout rate, higher perception of helpful neighbors, and lower jail incarceration rates all indicate greater well-being. Each of these contributes to the overall picture of community vitality in New York City.

As seen in Map 42, community vitality domain scores are not evenly distributed across the city. NTAs in Staten Island, and northeast Queens have the highest relative domain scores while most of the Bronx and central Brooklyn have the lowest. Staten Island has consistently high scores across all three indicators, which is reflected by the fact that the top five NTAs in this domain are all in Staten Island.

Map 42: Community Vitality



## NTAs WITH HIGHEST COMMUNITY VITALITY

1. Great Kills, SI
2. Oakwood-Oakwood Beach, SI
3. Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville, SI
4. Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville, SI
5. Rossville-Woodrow, SI

## NTAs WITH LOWEST COMMUNITY VITALITY

188. East Tremont, BX
188. Claremont-Bathgate, BX
- 186 (Tie for 2 NTAs). Belmont, BX; Morrisania-Melrose, BX
185. Melrose South-Mott Haven North, BX

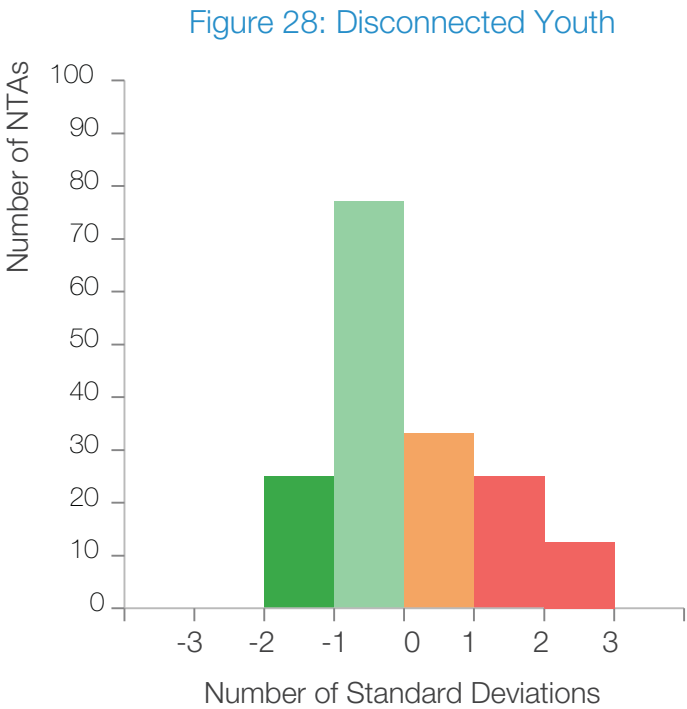
INDICATOR: DISCONNECTED YOUTH

**Definition:** The percentage of youth ages 18-24 who are not employed or enrolled in school.

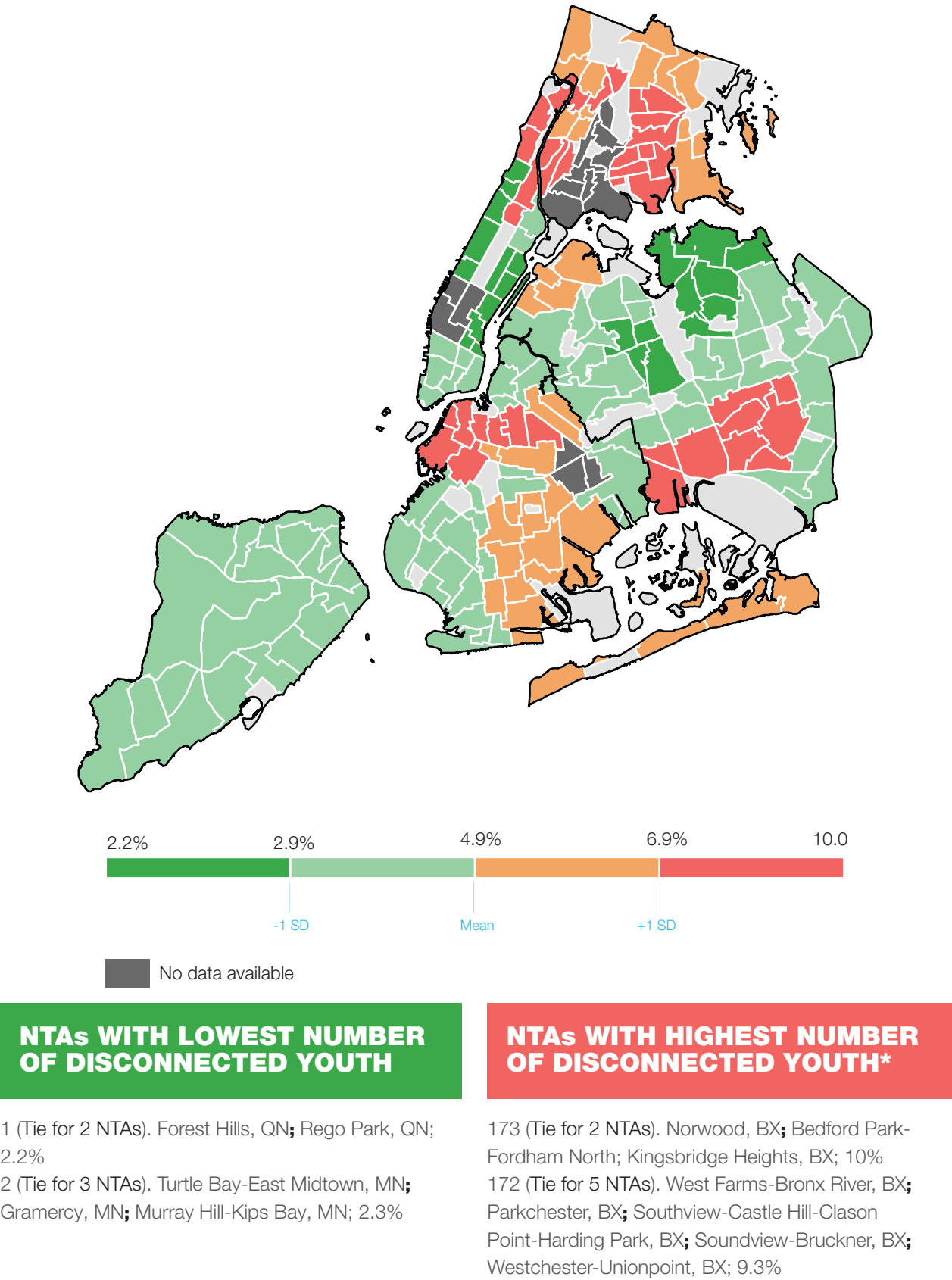
**Reasoning:** Disconnected youth have no association with a work or educational institution impeding their ability to grow socially and cognitively(Social Science Research Council, 2018). This in turn can cause youth to feel less optimistic about their current and prospective outlook on life (Gallup, 2019). Being disconnected is also associated with other measures of well-being, such as a greater likelihood of being uninsured, living in poverty, and being a teen mother (Burd-Sharps & Lewis, 2018). In recognition of this, in February 2019 Mayor de Blasio launched a Disconnected Youth Task Force to rejoin disconnected youth to the economy and their communities (The City of New York, 2019a).

**Data Source:** American Community Survey, (2013-2017 five-year estimates), collected at the census tract level.

**Results:** The mean percent of disconnected youth in a community is 4.9% and the median is 4.5%. While all NTAs in Staten Island have percentages of disconnected youth below the mean, there are pockets of high rates of disconnected youth across the other four boroughs. In the Bronx, all NTAs with data available have above average rates of disconnected youth, including the bottom eight NTAs. This signals that the Bronx is a high priority borough for interventions targeting disconnected youth.



Map 43: Disconnected Youth



\*Data not available for all NTAs.

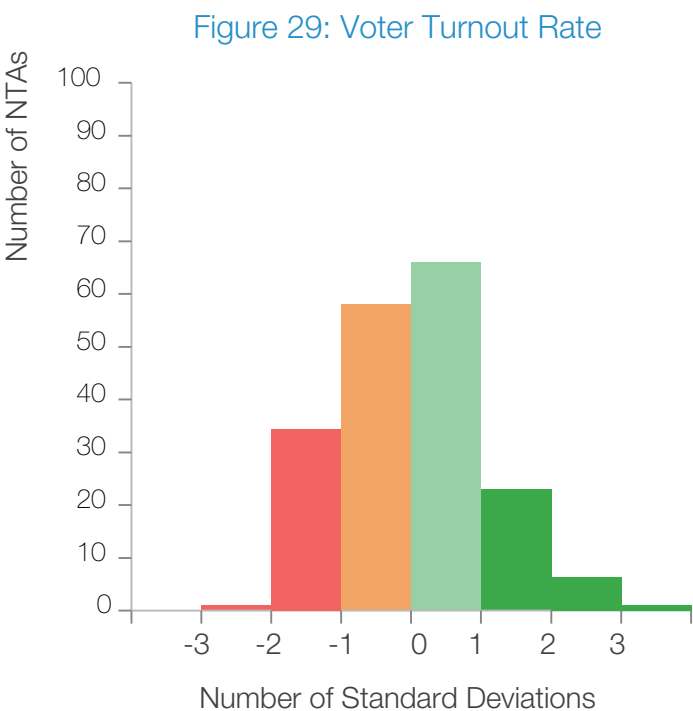
# INDICATOR: GENERAL ELECTION VOTER TURNOUT RATE

**Definition:** Voter turnout rate for the 2017 general election for eligible, registered voters.

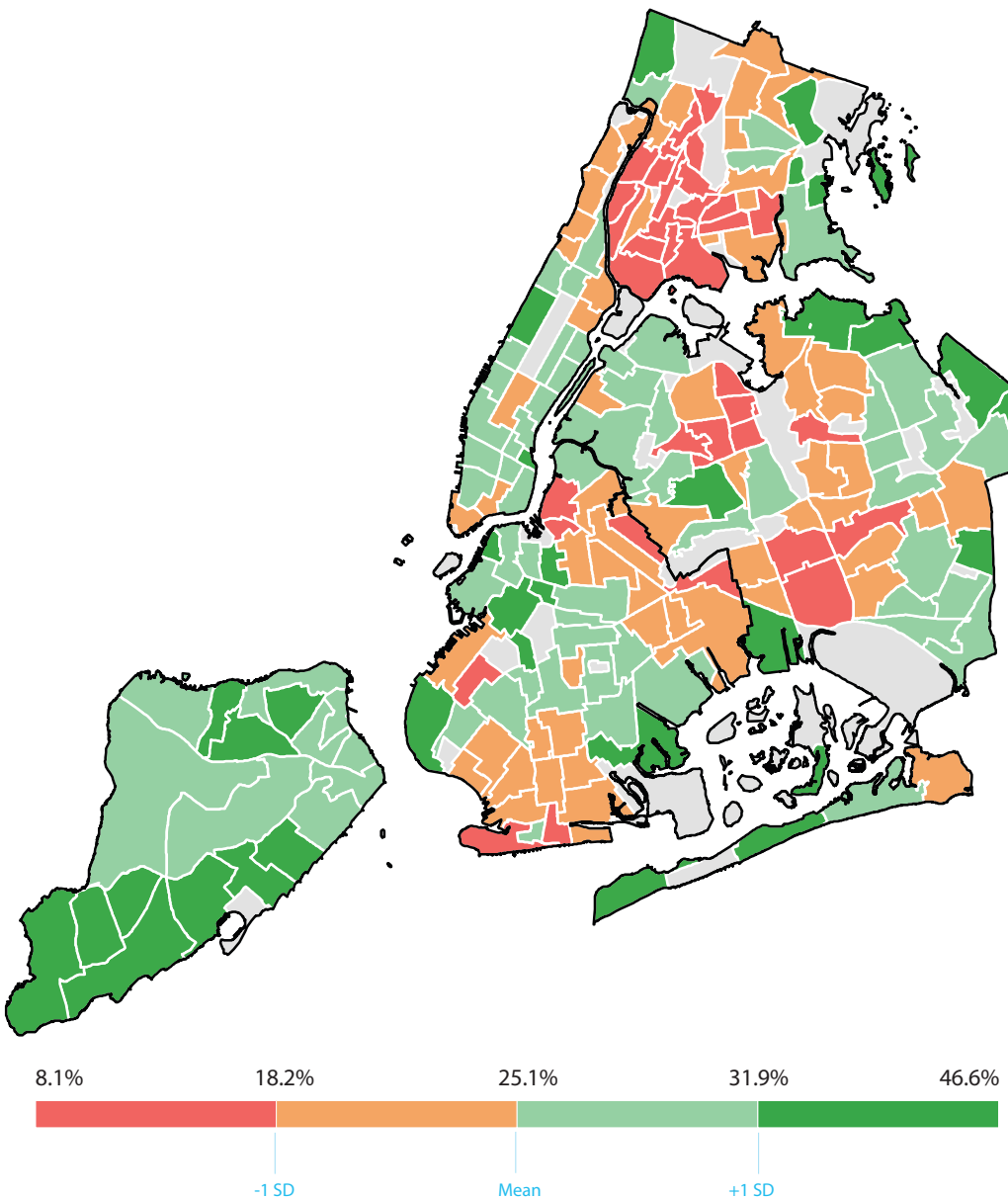
**Reasoning:** Voter registration has been used as an indicator of community vitality in other studies such as the ACT Rochester report (2019). A study conducted by researchers at Pennsylvania State University found that voter turnout rate was a good measure of community vitality noting that voting, and political participation in general, can reflect community activism as well as interest in the well-being and success of a community (Grigsby, 2001).

**Data Source:** The Board of Elections 2017, collected at the NTA level.

**Results:** The median voter turnout rate is 25.2% and the mean voter turnout rate is 25.1% NTAs are normally distributed, but there is a very wide range from 8.1% to 46.6%. Barriers to voting in New York City might partially explain this low turnout. For example, when the data for this indicator were collected, there was no early voting in New York City . New York has no same day voter registration and a person must vote in the district they reside in, which often is not where they work. Since voting hours often overlap the workday, voting can be a challenge for New Yorkers (Morales-Doyle, 2018).



Map 44: General Election Voter Turnout Rate



## NTAs WITH HIGHEST ELECTION VOTER TURNOUT RATE

1. Breezy Point-Bell Harbor- Rockaway Park-Broad Channel, QN; 46.6%
2. Westerleigh, SI; 43.3%
3. New Brighton-Silver Lake, SI; 40.7%
3. Windsor Terrace, BK; 40.7%
5. Great Kills, SI; 40.4%

## NTAs WITH LOWEST ELECTION VOTER TURNOUT RATE

188. Williamsburg, BK; 8.1%
187. East Elmhurst, QN; 11.9%
186. Cypress-Hills-City Line, BX; 12.5%
185. Fordham South, BX; 13.1%
184. North Corona, QN; 14.6%

# INDICATOR: HELPFUL NEIGHBORS

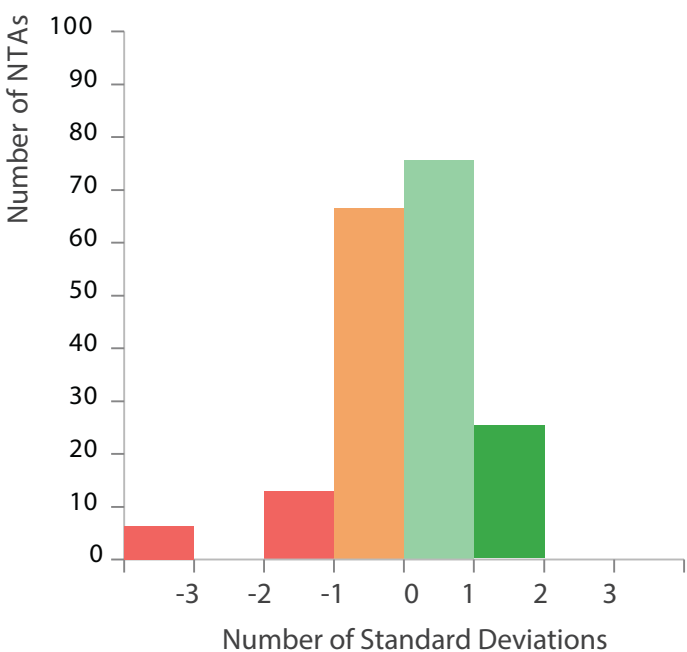
**Definition:** The percentage of adults ages 18 and older who report they ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ that people around their neighborhood are willing to help their neighbors.

**Reasoning:** A strong indicator of community vitality and individual well-being is the sense of community created by neighbor interactions. A Rutgers University (2014) study found an association between low levels of contact with neighbors and decreased measures of life satisfaction. Community engagement and social interactions with neighbors can also improve mental health outcomes and prevent or reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, which can lead to depression (SuicideLine, 2018).

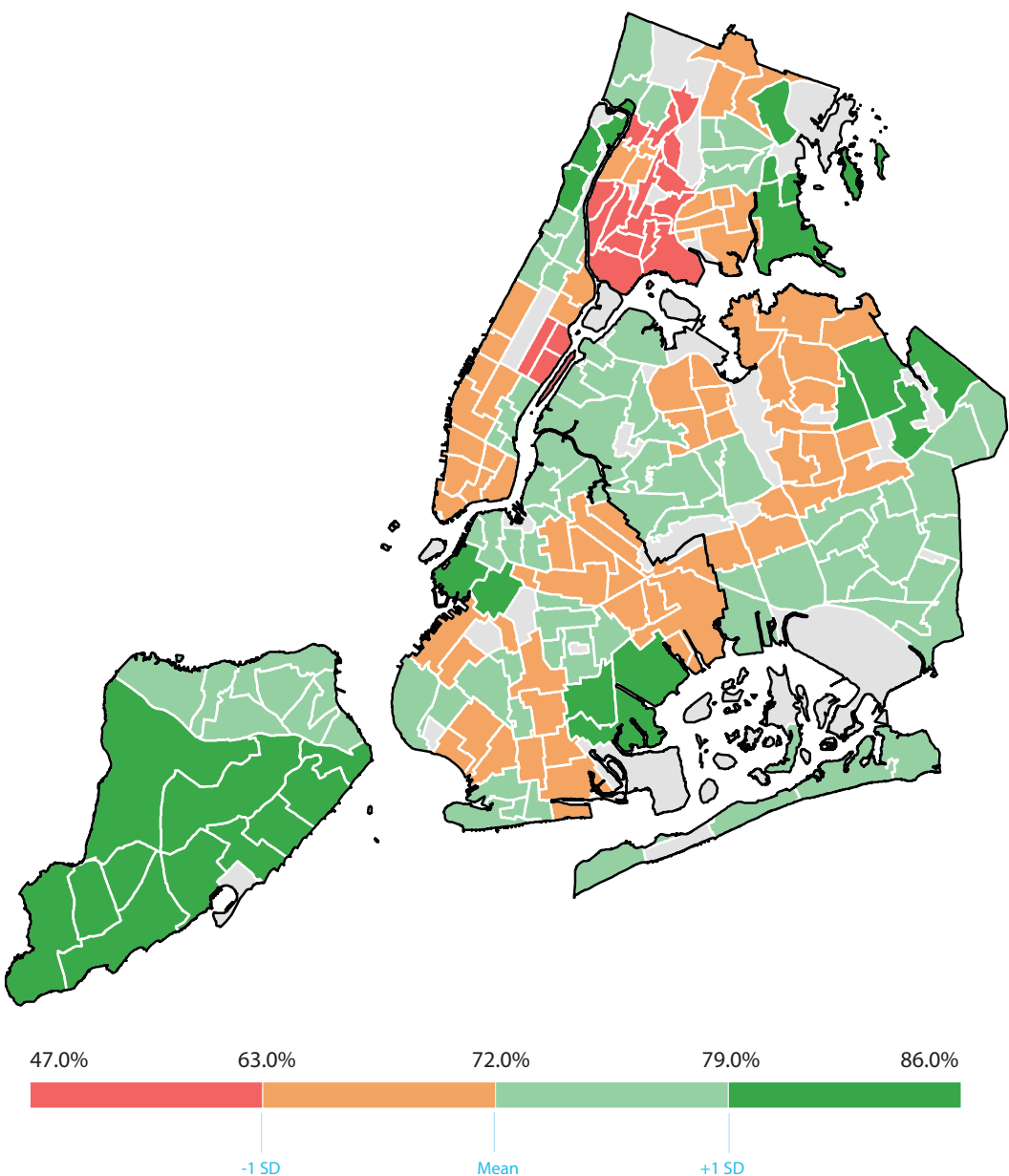
**Data Source:** Community Health Survey, 2015-2016 (published in the 2018 CHS report), collected at the Community District level.

**Results:** The mean NTA has 72.1% of people who ‘strongly agree’ or ‘somewhat agree’ that their neighbors are helpful. The NTAs with the highest percentage of people agreeing that their neighbors are helpful are in Staten Island and Queens. The five NTAs with the lowest percent of people who think their neighbor is helpful are all in the Bronx and score ten percentage points lower than the next closest NTA. One explanation for this discrepancy could be the structure of housing in the boroughs. There are more single-family homes in Staten Island and Queens, as well as higher rates of homeownership (Furman Center, 2019). In the other three boroughs, there are more apartment-style buildings (NYC Rent Guidelines Board, 2018). People who live in close proximity in apartment-style buildings are more likely to have noise complaints (Kerr, 2019) which among other factors could alter their perceptions of their neighbor (Levine, 2018).

Figure 30: Helpful Neighbors



Map 45: Helpful Neighbors



## NTAs WITH HIGHEST % OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEIR NEIGHBOR IS HELPFUL

1 (Tie for 10 NTAs). Great Kills, SI; Oakland Gardens, QN; Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck, QN; Bayside-Bayside Hills, QN; Auburndale, QN; Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville, SI; Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville, SI; Oakwood-Oakwood Beach, SI; Rossville-Woodrow, SI; Arden Heights, SI; 86%

## NTAs WITH LOWEST % OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEIR NEIGHBOR IS HELPFUL

188. Williamsburg, BK; 8.1%  
187. East Elmhurst, QN; 11.9%  
186. Cypress-Hills-City Line, BX; 12.5%  
185. Fordham South, BX; 13.1%  
184. North Corona, QN; 14.6%



# INDICATOR: JAIL INCARCERATION

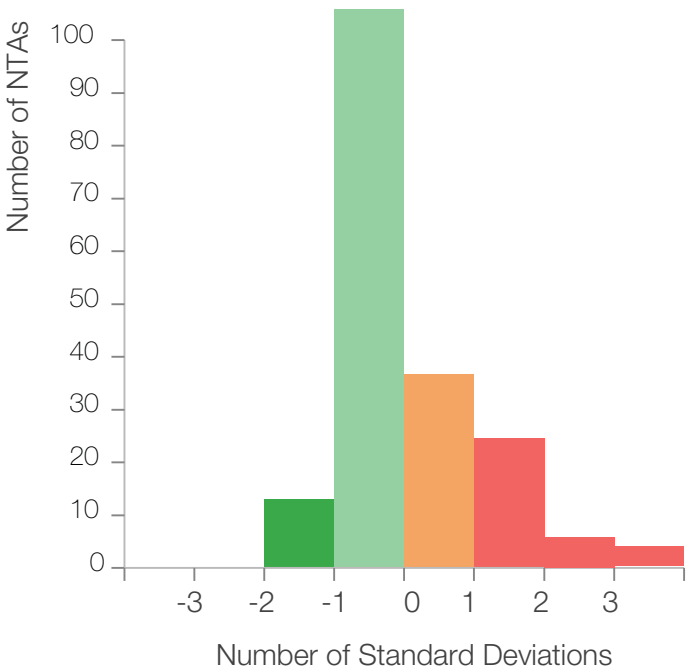
**Definition:** Rate of residents admitted to local jails (not including prisons) per 100,000 adults aged 16 and older

**Reasoning:** The effects of high rates of incarceration expand beyond the lives of those incarcerated. Studies have shown that high levels of incarceration have negative impacts on morbidity and mortality of the larger community (Weidner and Schultz, 2019). Family members of incarcerated persons can often suffer from a host of mental health issues as well as financial burdens (Martin, 2017). Children of incarcerated individuals are at higher risk of having learning disabilities, behavior problems and speech or language delays (Turney, 2014).

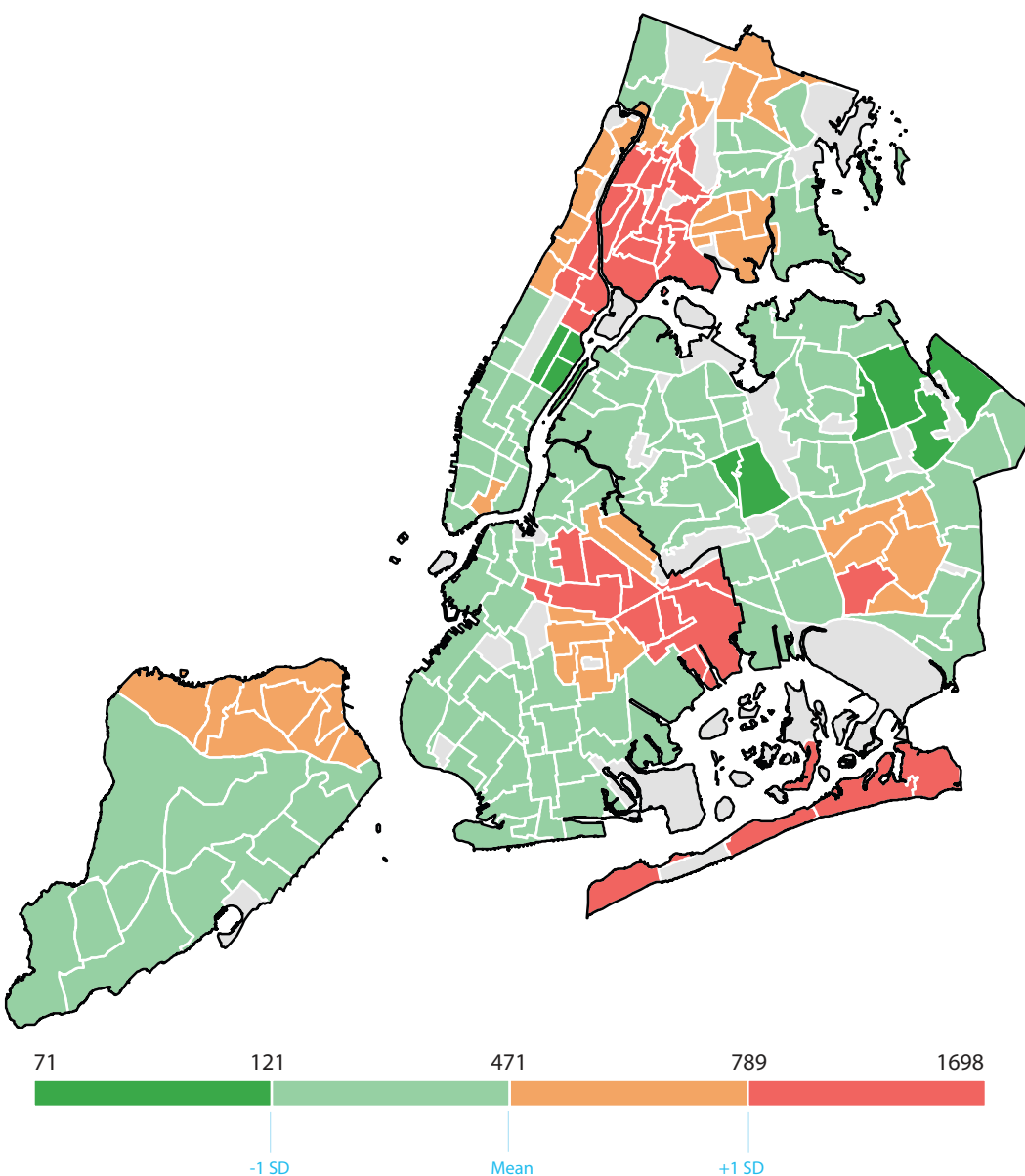
**Data Source:** Community Health Survey, 2015-2016 (published in the 2018 CHS report), collected at the Community District level.

**Results:** The average number of jail incarcerations per 100,000 people ages 16 and older for NTAs in New York City is 471, while the median is 372. This explains the right skew distribution seen in Figure 31. There are fairly large inequalities in incarceration rates, with a range of 71 to 1,698 incarcerations per 100,000 adults. Seven NTAs are more than two SDs above the mean, in Brooklyn and northern Manhattan, and the Bronx. While pockets of high incarceration rates in each borough exist, jail admissions across the city overall dropped by almost 50% between 2014 and 2019 (Crane-Newman, 2019).

Figure 31: Jail Incarceration



Map 46: Jail Incarceration



NTAs WITH LOWEST INCARCERATION RATE	NTAs WITH HIGHEST INCARCERATION RATE
1 (Tie for 3 NTAs). Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill, MN; Yorkville, MN; Lenox Hill – Roosevelt Island, MN; 71 2 (Tie for 2 NTAs). Forest Hills, QN; Rego Park, QN; 102	188 (Tie for 3 NTAs). East New York (Pennsylvania Ave), BK; Brownsville, BK; Ocean Hill, BK; 1698 187 (Tie for 2 NTAs). Central Harlem North-Polo Grounds, MN; Central Harlem South, MN; 1347

**COMMUNITY VITALITY OVER TIME**

This domain is new to the 2019 report, and comparison over time is not possible. The Helpful Neighbor indicator was only recently included in the 2018 Community Health Survey, and there is no comparable indicator from previous years. Similarly, Election Voter Turnout Rate data was collected and published by the Board of Elections only for 2017, and data for Disconnected Youth is also not available prior to 2019. Finally, data for the Jail Incarceration indicator is published in both the 2018 and 2015 Community Health Profiles Reports, however rates of incarceration were measured differently in each year and therefore cannot be compared. For these reasons, comparison over time is unfortunately not possible for this domain.

# TOP AND BOTTOM NTAS BY DOMAIN AND BOROUGH

## BRONX

### TOP 5 NTAs

### BOTTOM 5 NTAs

OVERALL	1 Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge 2 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 3 Co-op City 4 Pelham Bay-Country Club-City Island 5 Schuylerville-Throgs Neck-Edgewater Park	1 East Tremont 2 Belmont 3 Claremont-Bathgate 4 Mott Haven-Port Morris 5 Hunts Point
ECONOMIC SECURITY	1 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 2 Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge 3 Pelham Bay-Country Club-City Island 4 Allerton-Pelham Gardens 5 Schuylerville-Throgs Neck-Edgewater Park	1 Claremont-Bathgate 2 East Tremont 3 Fordham South 4 Mott Haven-Port Morris 5 Belmont
HEALTH	1 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 2 Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge 3 Pelham Bay-Country Club-City Island 4 Van Cortlandt Village 5 Allerton-Pelham Gardens	1 Crotona Park East 2 Hunts Point 3 Fordham South 4 West Concourse 5 Longwood
EDUCATION	1 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 2 Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge 3 Pelham Parkway 4 Pelham Bay-Country Club-City Island 5 Co-op City	1 Hunts Point 2 Belmont 3 East Tremont 4 Fordham South 5 Longwood
HOUSING	1 Co-op City 2 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 3 Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge 4 Pelham Bay-Country Club-City Island 5 Schuylerville-Throgs Neck-Edgewater Park	1 Belmont 2 Fordham South 3 West Farms-Bronx River 4 Highbridge 5 Soundview-Bruckner
PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	1 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 2 Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge 3 Co-op City 4 Woodlawn-Wakefield 5 Eastchester-Edenwald-Baychester	1 Melrose South-Mott Haven North 2 Mott Haven-Port Morris 3 Longwood 4 Hunts Point 5 Crotona Park East
CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	1 Van Nest-Morris Park-Westchester Square 2 Pelham Parkway 3 Schuylerville-Throgs Neck-Edgewater Park 4 Allerton-Pelham Gardens 5 Parkchester	1 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 2 Hunts Point 3 Claremont-Bathgate 4 Mott Haven-Port Morris 5 Co-op City
COMMUNITY VITALITY	1 North Riverdale-Fieldston-Riverdale 2 Co-op City 3 Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge 4 Pelham Bay-Country Club-City Island 5 Schuylerville-Throgs Neck-Edgewater Park	1 East Tremont 2 Claremont-Bathgate 3 Belmont 4 Morrisania-Melrose 5 Melrose South-Mott Haven North

# BROOKLYN

## TOP 5 NTAs

## BOTTOM 5 NTAs

OVERALL	1 Windsor Terrace 2 Park Slope-Gowanus 3 Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill 4 Carroll Gardens-Columbia Street-Red Hook 5 Bay Ridge	1 Brownsville 2 East New York (Pennsylvania Ave) 3 Ocean Hill 4 East New York 5 Stuyvesant Heights
ECONOMIC SECURITY	1 Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill 2 Park Slope-Gowanus 3 Windsor Terrace 4 Prospect Heights 5 Georgetown-Marine Park-Bergen Beach-Mill Basin	1 Brownsville 2 Seagate-Coney Island 3 East New York (Pennsylvania Ave) 4 Williamsburg 5 Bedford
HEALTH	1 Williamsburg 2 North Side-South Side 3 Windsor Terrace 4 Greenpoint 5 Borough Park	1 Brownsville 2 Ocean Hill 3 Stuyvesant Heights 4 Erasmus 5 Crown Heights North
EDUCATION	1 Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill 2 Windsor Terrace 3 Park Slope-Gowanus 4 Prospect Heights 5 Greenpoint	1 Brownsville 2 East New York (Pennsylvania Ave) 3 East New York 4 Seagate-Coney Island 5 Bushwick South
HOUSING	1 Windsor Terrace 2 Park Slope-Gowanus 3 Carroll Gardens-Columbia Street-Red Hook 4 Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill 5 DUMBO-Vinegar Hill-Downtown Brooklyn-Boerum Hill	1 Williamsburg 2 Borough Park 3 Sunset Park East 4 Cypress Hills-City Line 5 Bushwick North
PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	1 Bath Beach 2 Dyker Heights 3 Bensonhurst West 4 Kensington-Ocean Parkway 5 Bay Ridge	1 Ocean Hill 2 Brownsville 3 Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill 4 East New York (Pennsylvania Ave) 5 DUMBO-Vinegar Hill-Downtown Brooklyn-Boerum Hill
CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	1 Brooklyn Heights-Cobble Hill 2 Prospect Heights 3 Park Slope-Gowanus 4 North Side-South Side 5 Windsor Terrace	1 Starrett City 2 Williamsburg 3 Brownsville 4 Seagate-Coney Island 5 Brighton Beach
COMMUNITY VITALITY	1 Borough Park 2 Kensington-Ocean Parkway 3 Bay Ridge 4 Windsor Terrace 5 Ocean Parkway South	1 Brownsville 2 East New York (Pennsylvania Ave) 3 Ocean Hill 4 Bedford 5 Stuyvesant Heights

# MANHATTAN

## TOP 5 NTAs

## BOTTOM 5 NTAs

OVERALL	1 Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill 2 Lincoln Square 3 Lenox Hill-Roosevelt Island 4 Yorkville 5 West Village	1 East Harlem North 2 Central Harlem North-Polo Grounds 3 East Harlem South 4 Manhattanville 5 Marble Hill-Inwood
ECONOMIC SECURITY	1 Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill 2 Battery Park City-Lower Manhattan 3 Turtle Bay-East Midtown 4 SoHo-TriBeCa-Civic Center-Little Italy 5 West Village	1 East Harlem North 2 Central Harlem North-Polo Grounds 3 East Harlem South 4 Lower East Side 5 Manhattanville
HEALTH	1 Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill 2 Lincoln Square 3 Lenox Hill-Roosevelt Island 4 Murray Hill-Kips Bay 5 Turtle Bay-East Midtown	1 East Harlem North 2 East Harlem South 3 Hamilton Heights 4 Washington Heights South 5 Manhattanville
EDUCATION	1 Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill 2 Stuyvesant Town-Cooper Village 3 West Village 4 SoHo-TriBeCa-Civic Center-Little Italy 5 Turtle Bay-East Midtown	1 East Harlem North 2 Manhattanville 3 Marble Hill-Inwood 4 Central Harlem North-Polo Grounds 5 Hamilton Heights
HOUSING	1 Lincoln Square 2 Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill 3 Upper West Side 4 Lenox Hill-Roosevelt Island 5 Yorkville	1 Manhattanville 2 Marble Hill-Inwood 3 Washington Heights North 4 Chinatown 5 Hamilton Heights
PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	1 Yorkville 2 Upper West Side 3 Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill 4 Lenox Hill-Roosevelt Island 5 Lincoln Square	1 Midtown-Midtown South 2 Clinton 3 Hudson Yards-Chelsea-Flatiron-Union Square 4 SoHo-TriBeCa-Civic Center-Little Italy 5 East Harlem North
CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	1 Upper East Side-Carnegie Hill 2 Gramercy 3 Battery Park City-Lower Manhattan 4 West Village 5 Lincoln Square	1 Lower East Side 2 Marble Hill-Inwood 3 Chinatown 4 East Harlem North 5 Manhattanville
COMMUNITY VITALITY	1 Stuyvesant Town-Cooper Village 2 Gramercy 3 Upper West Side 4 Turtle Bay-East Midtown 5 Murray Hill-Kips Bay	1 Central Harlem North-Polo Grounds 2 Central Harlem South 3 East Harlem North 4 East Harlem South 5 Midtown-Midtown South

# QUEENS

## TOP 5 NTAs

## BOTTOM 5 NTAs

OVERALL	1 Ft. Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview 2 Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck 3 Oakland Gardens 4 Bayside-Bayside Hills 5 Forest Hills	1 Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City 2 South Jamaica 3 Jamaica 4 Far Rockaway-Bayswater 5 Hammels-Arverne-Edgemere
ECONOMIC SECURITY	1 Rosedale 2 Whitestone 3 Glen Oaks-Floral Park-New Hyde Park 4 Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck 5 Cambria Heights	1 Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City 2 South Jamaica 3 Hammels-Arverne-Edgemere 4 Jamaica 5 Pomonok-Flushing Heights-Hillcrest
HEALTH	1 Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck 2 Bayside-Bayside Hills 3 Fresh Meadows-Utopia 4 Kew Gardens Hills 5 Ft. Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview	1 Hammels-Arverne-Edgemere 2 South Jamaica 3 Hollis 4 Far Rockaway-Bayswater 5 Baisley Park
EDUCATION	1 Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck 2 Oakland Gardens 3 Ft. Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview 4 Fresh Meadows-Utopia 5 Forest Hills	1 Far Rockaway-Bayswater 2 Hammels-Arverne-Edgemere 3 South Jamaica 4 Baisley Park 5 Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City
HOUSING	1 Ft. Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview 2 Glen Oaks-Floral Park-New Hyde Park 3 Cambria Heights 4 Lindenwood-Howard Beach 5 Forest Hills	1 North Corona 2 Corona 3 East Elmhurst 4 Jamaica 5 Elmhurst
PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	1 Middle Village 2 Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck 3 Oakland Gardens 4 Rego Park 5 Fresh Meadows-Utopia	1 Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City 2 Jamaica 3 Far Rockaway-Bayswater 4 Jackson Heights 5 Ozone Park
CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	1 Woodside 2 Elmhurst-Maspeth 3 Steinway 4 Hunters Point-Sunnyside-West Maspeth 5 Forest Hills	1 Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City 2 Cambria Heights 3 Hammels-Arverne-Edgemere 4 Laurelton 5 Springfield Gardens North
COMMUNITY VITALITY	1 Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck 2 Oakland Gardens 3 Bayside-Bayside Hills 4 Auburndale 5 Ft. Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview	1 Jamaica 2 South Jamaica 3 Baisley Park 4 Hollis 5 South Ozone Park

# STATEN ISLAND

## TOP 5 NTAs

## BOTTOM 5 NTAs

OVERALL	1 Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville 2 Arden Heights 3 Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville 4 Rossville-Woodrow 5 Westerleigh	1 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 2 Stapleton-Rosebank 3 Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills 4 Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville 5 Port Richmond
ECONOMIC SECURITY	1 Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville 2 Rossville-Woodrow 3 Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville 4 Todt Hill-Emerson Hill-Heartland Village-Lighthouse Hill 5 Arden Heights	1 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 2 Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills 3 Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville 4 Stapleton-Rosebank 5 Grasmere-Arrochar-Ft. Wadsworth
HEALTH	1 Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville 2 Rossville-Woodrow 3 New Springville-Bloomfield-Travis 4 Arden Heights 5 Great Kills	1 Port Richmond 2 Stapleton-Rosebank 3 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 4 Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville 5 New Brighton-Silver Lake
EDUCATION	1 Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville 2 Great Kills 3 Todt Hill-Emerson Hill-Heartland Village-Lighthouse Hill 4 Arden Heights 5 Westerleigh	1 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 2 Stapleton-Rosebank 3 Port Richmond 4 Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville 5 Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills
HOUSING	1 Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville 2 Arden Heights 3 Westerleigh 4 Rossville-Woodrow 5 New Dorp-Midland Beach	1 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 2 Old Town-Dongan Hills-South Beach 3 New Springville-Bloomfield-Travis 4 Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville 5 Todt Hill-Emerson Hill-Heartland Village-Lighthouse Hill
PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	1 New Springville-Bloomfield-Travis 2 Rossville-Woodrow 3 Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville 4 Great Kills 5 Oakwood-Oakwood Beach	1 Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills 2 New Brighton-Silver Lake 3 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 4 Stapleton-Rosebank 5 Grasmere-Arrochar-Ft. Wadsworth
CORE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	1 Westerleigh 2 Todt Hill-Emerson Hill-Heartland Village-Lighthouse Hill 3 New Springville-Bloomfield-Travis 4 Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville 5 Grasmere-Arrochar-Ft. Wadsworth	1 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 2 Rossville-Woodrow 3 Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills 4 Oakwood-Oakwood Beach 5 New Dorp-Midland Beach
COMMUNITY VITALITY	1 Great Kills 2 Oakwood-Oakwood Beach 3 Charleston-Richmond Valley-Tottenville 4 Annadale-Huguenot-Prince's Bay-Eltingville 5 Rossville-Woodrow	1 Mariner's Harbor-Arlington-Port Ivory-Graniteville 2 Stapleton-Rosebank 3 Grymes Hill-Clifton-Fox Hills 4 West New Brighton-New Brighton-St. George 5 Port Richmond



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