

# Community Health Profiles

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SECOND EDITION — 2006



## TAKE CARE Northwest Queens

*(Including Astoria,  
Long Island City, and  
Sunnyside)*

# Community Health Profile, Second Edition: Northwest Queens

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

- One in 5 Northwest Queens adults smokes, and smokers in this community are less likely to be trying to quit than smokers in NYC overall (page 6).
- Women in Northwest Queens are less likely to get regular Pap tests for cervical cancer than women in NYC overall (page 11).
- Northwest Queens has the second highest proportion of uninsured adults among all NYC neighborhoods, and foreign-born residents in this community are more likely to be without health insurance than those born in the U.S. (page 14).

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

## Northwest Queens at a Glance

### Population

Total number of people living in Northwest Queens in 2000:

**221,000**

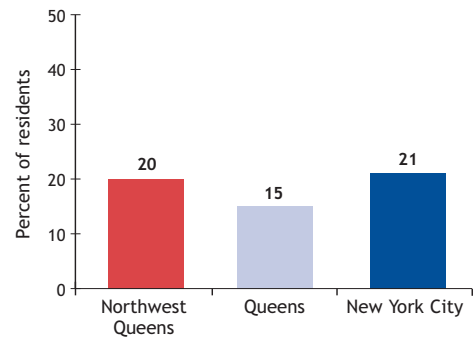
### Age

People in Northwest Queens are more likely to be middle-aged than in Queens and New York City overall

	Northwest Queens	Queens	NYC
0-17 years	19%	23%	24%
18-24 years	11%	9%	10%
25-44 years	39%	33%	33%
45-64 years	20%	22%	21%
65+ years	11%	13%	12%

### Poverty

In Northwest Queens, the percent of residents living below the poverty level is higher than in Queens overall



### Education

Three in 10 Northwest Queens residents aged 25 and older do not have a high school diploma

	Northwest Queens	Queens	NYC
Up to 8th grade	15%	11%	12%
Some high school, no diploma	14%	15%	16%
High school diploma	26%	28%	25%
Some college, no degree	19%	22%	20%
College graduate	26%	24%	27%

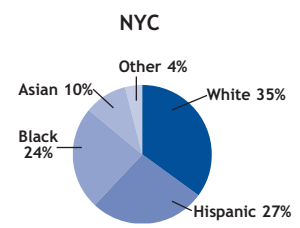
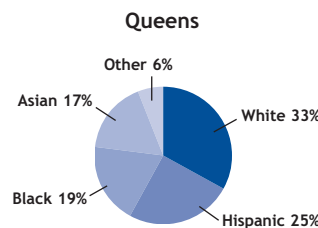
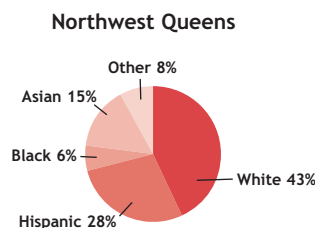
### Foreign-born

More than half of Northwest Queens residents were born outside the U.S.

Area	Percent
Northwest Queens	51%
Queens	46%
NYC	36%

### Race / Ethnicity

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



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

# Take Care Northwest Queens



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

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

## Take Care New York report card

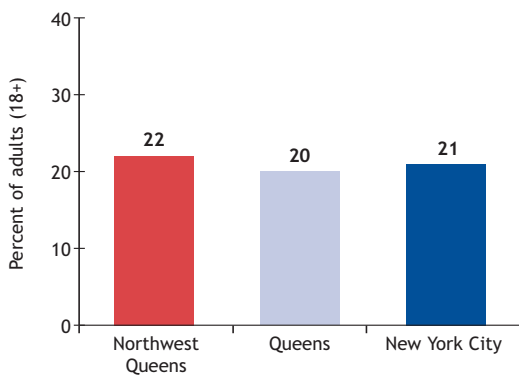
Northwest Queens ranks as average on nearly all indicators when compared to the 41 other NYC neighborhoods

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

## How Residents Rate Their Own Health

### Overall health

More than 1 in 5 adults in Northwest Queens consider themselves to be in fair or poor health



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

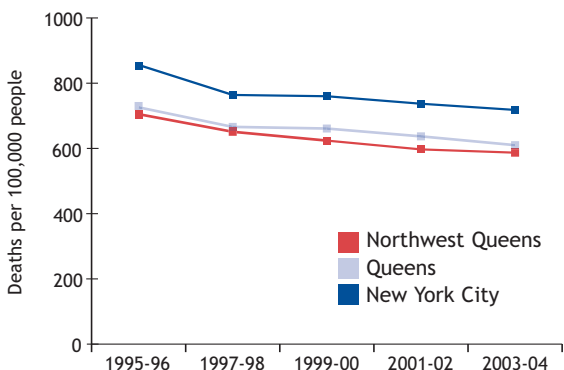
People are good at rating their own health. In general, when asked to rate their general health as excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor, those who say “fair” or “poor” are more likely to have health problems than those who report better health.

In Northwest Queens, more than one fifth of residents report being in fair or poor health (22%).

# Overall Death Rates in Northwest Queens

## Death rates

In Northwest Queens, death rates have dropped over the past 10 years and are lower than in NYC overall



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

The death rate in Northwest Queens has decreased by more than 15% in the past decade, mirroring the rate drop in New York City overall.

In 2003-2004, the average annual death rate in Northwest Queens was similar to the rate in Queens and more than 15% lower than in New York City overall (587/100,000 vs. 610/100,000 in Queens and 718/100,000 in NYC).

Throughout this profile, cause-specific death rates are provided for TCNY goals.

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

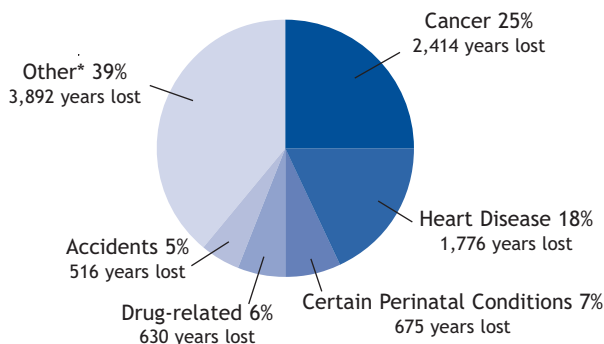
## Premature death

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

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

### Top 5 causes of years of potential life lost

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

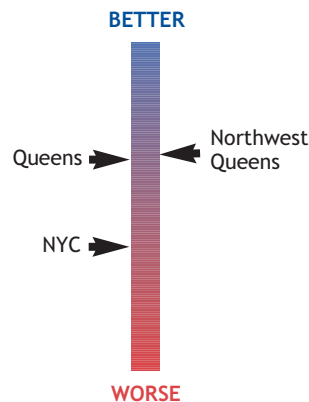


\*Other includes HIV-related (5%), Homicide (3%), Suicide (3%), Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (2%), Congenital Conditions (2%), and Other (24%).

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

### Death before age 75

The 2003-2004 average annual death rate for people younger than 75 years in Northwest Queens ranks 13th among 42 NYC neighborhoods



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



# Take Care New York Goals

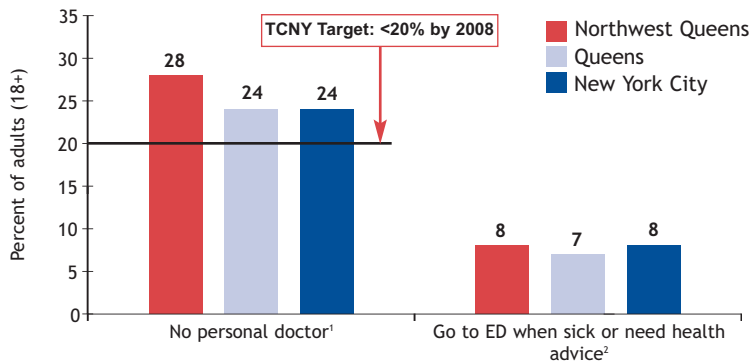
## GOAL 1 Have a Regular Doctor or Other Health Care Provider

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

Having a “medical home” — a personal doctor or other health care provider and a regular place of care other than the emergency department (ED) — is a critical component of good health care access. In Northwest Queens, almost 3 in 10 residents (28%) do not have a regular doctor, compared to the TCNY goal of less than 20%. In addition, nearly 1 in 10 Northwest Queens residents goes to the ED when they are sick or need health advice (8%).

### Access to care

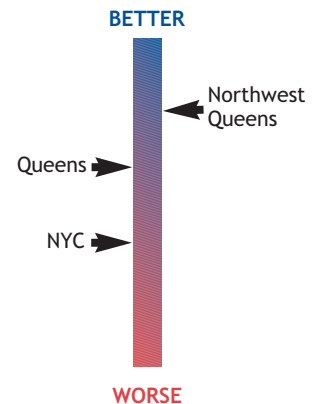
Without a primary provider, people may seek routine health care in the emergency department (ED)



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

### Avoidable hospitalizations

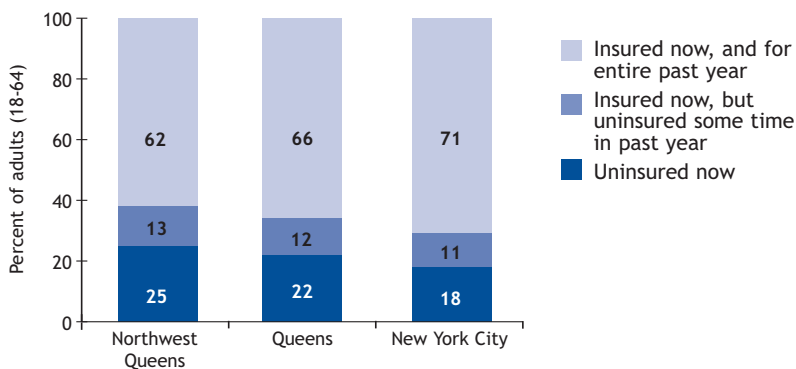
The 2004 avoidable hospitalization rate in Northwest Queens ranks 11th among 42 NYC neighborhoods



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

### Health insurance

Adults in Northwest Queens are more likely to be uninsured than those in NYC overall



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

Health insurance is important for access to health care. Northwest Queens adults are more likely to be currently uninsured than those in NYC overall (25% vs. 18%). In addition, another 13% of residents in this community went without health insurance at some time during the past year.

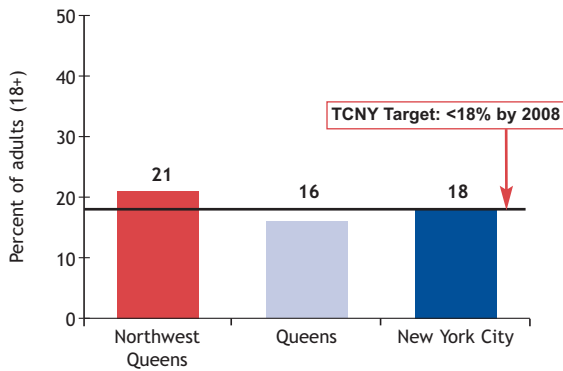


## GOAL 2 Be Tobacco-Free

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in New York City and the cause of many illnesses, including heart disease, stroke, emphysema, and lung cancer. One fifth of Northwest Queens residents (21%) currently smoke. Many methods to quit smoking are available, but smokers in Northwest Queens are less likely to be trying to kick the habit than those in Queens and NYC overall.

### Residents who smoke

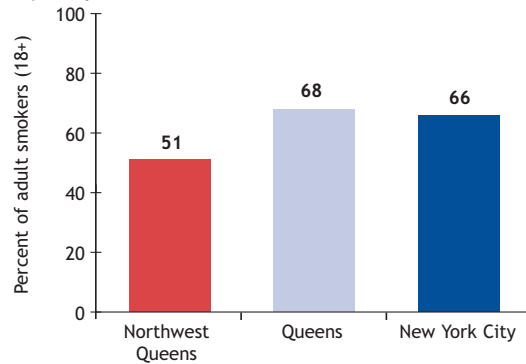
More than 1 in 5 adults in Northwest Queens smoke



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

### Attempts to quit smoking in the past year

Smokers in Northwest Queens are less likely to try to quit



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

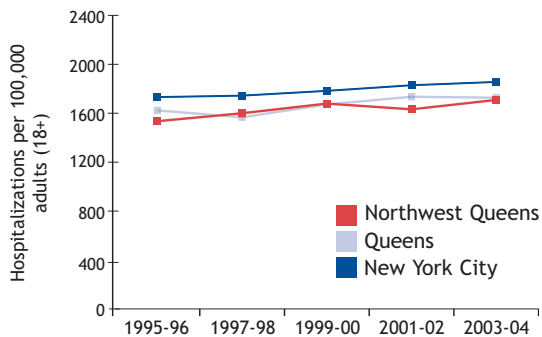


## GOAL 3 Keep Your Heart Healthy

Heart disease can cause severe illness and death. The heart disease hospitalization rate in Northwest Queens has increased by more than 10% in the past decade. Residents had an average annual heart disease hospitalization rate in 2003-2004 that was similar to both the Queens and NYC overall rates (1,709/100,000 vs. 1,727/100,000 in Queens and 1,856/100,000 in NYC). In contrast to hospitalizations, the heart disease death rate in Northwest Queens has decreased in the past 10 years. The 2003-2004 rate (280/100,000) was similar to the rates in Queens (288/100,000) and NYC overall (297/100,000).

### Heart disease hospitalizations

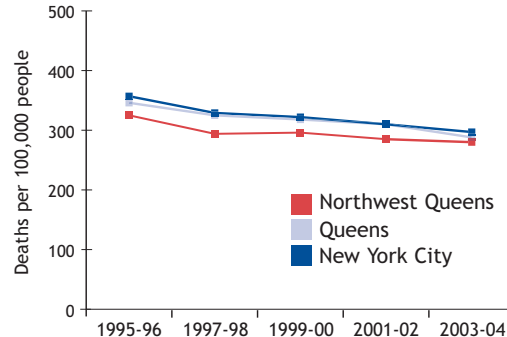
The heart disease hospitalization rate in Northwest Queens has increased in the past decade



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

### Deaths due to heart disease

The heart disease death rate in Northwest Queens has decreased in the past decade



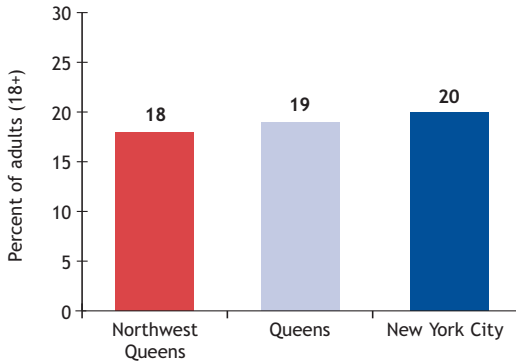
Rates are age-adjusted.  
Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning

**High blood pressure and high cholesterol.** Both of these conditions contribute to heart disease. In Northwest Queens, 23% of adults were told by a health care professional that they have high blood pressure (similar to 26% in Queens and NYC overall), and one quarter (25%) were told that they have high cholesterol (similar to 26% in Queens and NYC overall).

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

## Obesity

Nearly 1 in 5 adults in Northwest Queens is obese



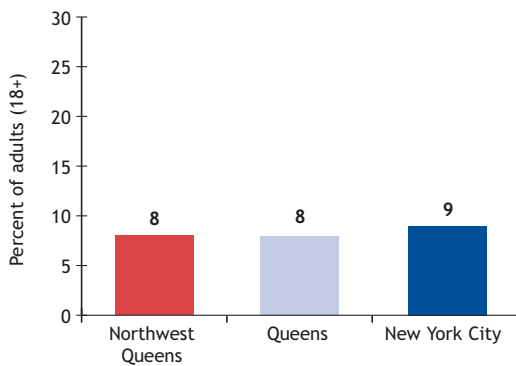
Obesity is defined as a body-mass-index (BMI) of 30 or greater. Percents are age-adjusted.  
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

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

Obesity can lead to a variety of health problems, including heart disease and diabetes. Rates of obesity are increasing rapidly in New York City and across the U.S., making it a major public health concern. In Northwest Queens, nearly one fifth of adults are obese (18%).

## Diabetes

One in 12 adults has diabetes in Northwest Queens



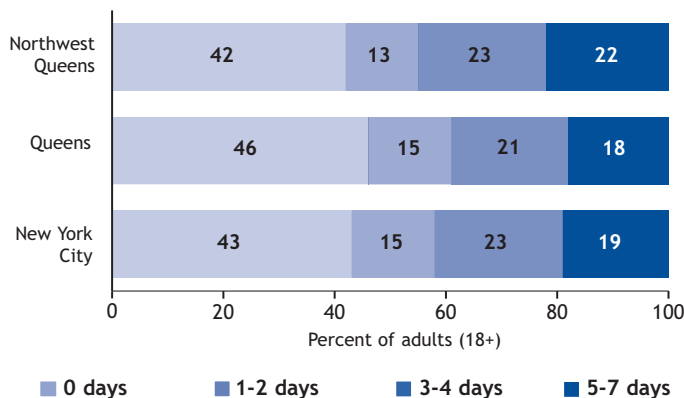
Percents are age-adjusted.  
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04

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

In Northwest Queens, 8% of adults have diabetes.

## Days per week of recreational exercise

Less than half of Northwest Queens adults are meeting physical activity recommendations



Survey Question: On average, how many days per week do you exercise for at least 30 minutes? Percents are age-adjusted.  
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2003

Physical activity helps people maintain a healthy weight and strengthens the cardiovascular system. More than 4 in 10 Northwest Queens residents report doing no physical activity at all (42%). Less than half of residents in this community (45%) report exercising at least 3 days a week.

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Recommendations

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





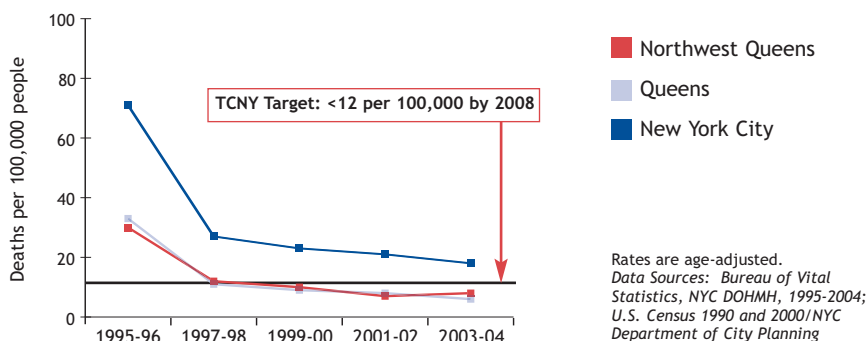
## GOAL 4 Know Your HIV Status

Wide disparities exist in HIV across New York City communities. In Northwest Queens, the rate of HIV diagnoses (34/100,000) and the rate of people living with HIV/AIDS (755/100,000) fall between the borough and NYC — higher than the Queens rates and lower than NYC overall.

The death rate due to HIV disease has dropped by more than 70% during the past decade in this community. In 2003-2004, the average annual HIV-related death rate in Northwest Queens was similar to the Queens rate and less than half the NYC overall rate (8/100,000 vs. 6/100,000 in Queens and 18/100,000 in NYC).

### Death rate due to HIV

HIV-related death rates in Northwest Queens have dropped dramatically in the past decade and remain lower than NYC overall



### HIV/AIDS in 2004

<b>Total HIV diagnoses per 100,000 people* (13+)</b>	
Northwest Queens	34
Queens	30
New York City	55

<b>% HIV diagnosed concurrently with AIDS** (13+)</b>	
Northwest Queens	31%
Queens	35%
New York City	29%

<b>People living with HIV/AIDS per 100,000 people* (13+)</b>	
Northwest Queens	755
Queens	680
New York City	1,419

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

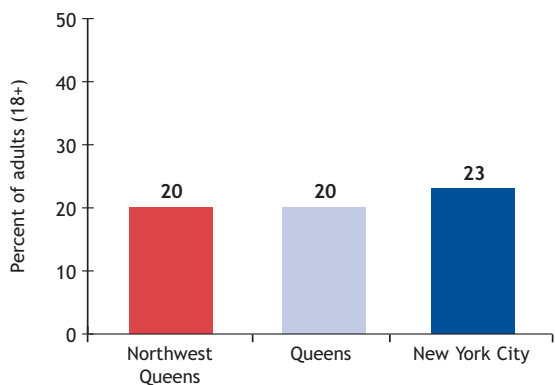
## HIV/AIDS testing and prevention

Everyone should know their HIV status. However, an estimated one quarter of New Yorkers living with HIV do not know they are infected, delaying treatment and increasing the risk that they will transmit the disease to others. Only 1 in 5 Northwest Queens residents (20%) has been tested for HIV in the past year. In addition, nearly one third of positive HIV test results (31%) are “late” diagnoses (HIV has already progressed to AIDS) in this community.

The most common way people get HIV is through sexual contact, and having multiple sex partners increases the risk of HIV. Condoms offer protection from HIV when engaging in sexual activities. Less than one quarter (24%) of Northwest Queens adults who had more than 1 sex partner in the past year reported using a condom at their last sexual encounter.

### HIV testing

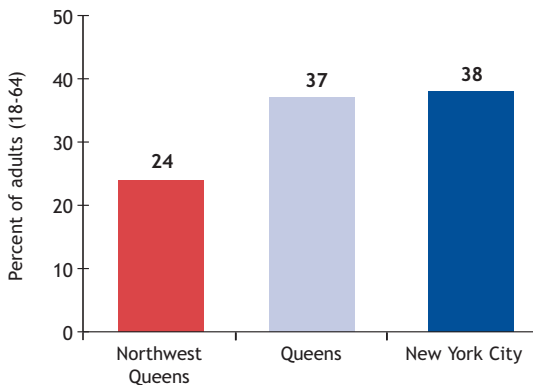
Only one fifth of Northwest Queens adults have had an HIV test in the past year



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

### Condom use at last sexual encounter

Only 1 in 4 Northwest Queens adults with multiple sex partners used a condom



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

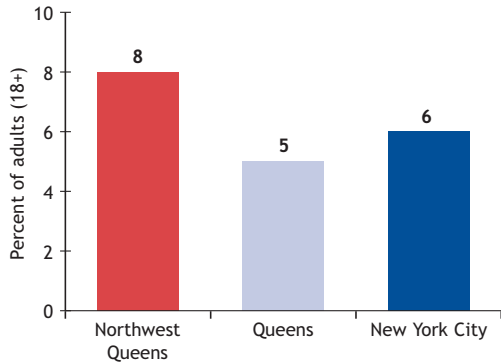




# GOAL 5 Get Help for Depression

## Psychological distress

One in 12 adults in Northwest Queens suffers from serious psychological distress



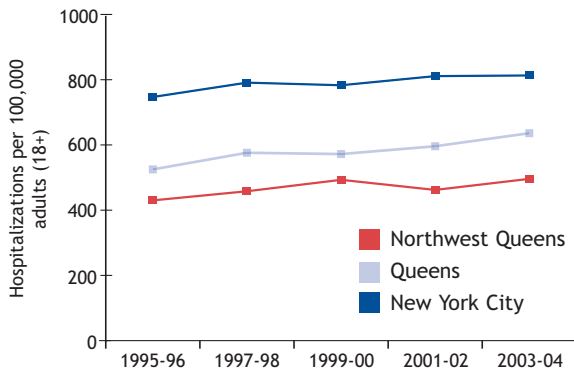
Serious psychological distress can be identified in individuals using Kessler's K6 scale, a validated measure consisting of 6 simple questions about mood. Percents are age-adjusted.  
Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03

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

In Northwest Queens, 8% of residents experience serious psychological distress.

## Mental illness

Hospitalizations for mental illness are lower in Northwest Queens



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

Hospitalization rates are one way to look at serious mental illness in a neighborhood. Residents in Northwest Queens have had a lower mental illness hospitalization rate over the past 10 years (excluding alcohol- or drug-related illness) than residents in Queens and in New York City overall. However, the mental illness hospitalization rate has increased by 15% during the past decade.

In 2003-2004, the community's average annual rate of mental illness hospitalizations (496/100,000) was lower than both the Queens rate (636/100,000) and the rate in New York City overall (813/100,000).

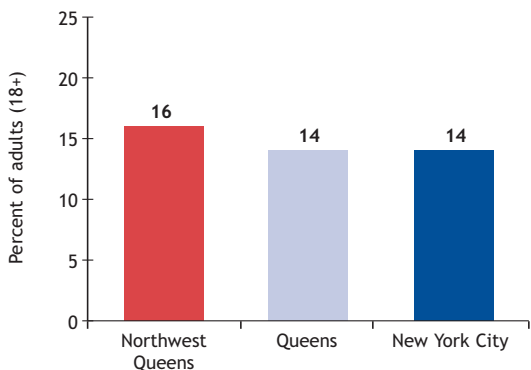
**Understanding hospitalizations and access to health care.** Hospitalization data are useful in understanding the burden that certain conditions place on the health care system, but not necessarily in measuring the exact extent of illness in a community. Variations in hospitalization rates may reflect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



# GOAL 6 Live Free of Dependence on Alcohol and Drugs

## Binge drinking

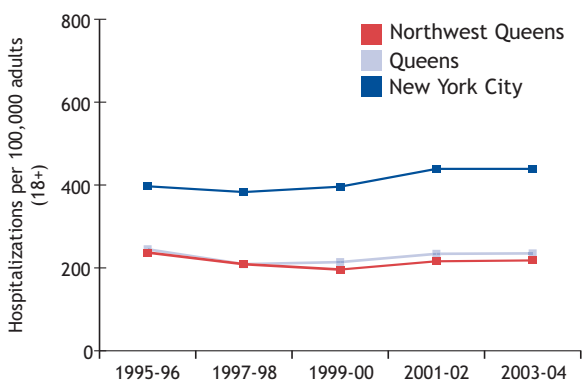
Nearly 1 in 6 adults in Northwest Queens engaged in binge drinking in the past month



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

## Alcohol-related hospitalizations

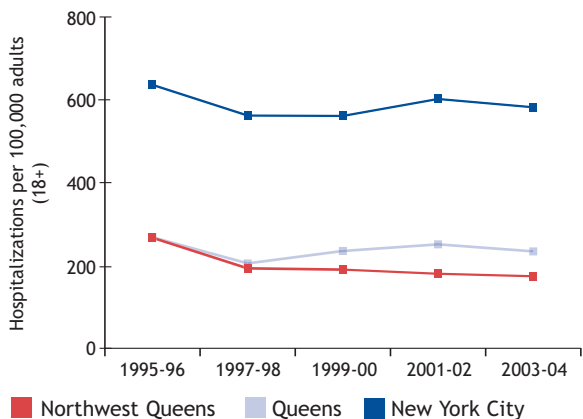
The alcohol-related hospitalization rate in Northwest Queens is lower than the NYC rate



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

## Drug-related hospitalizations

The drug-related hospitalization rate in Northwest Queens has decreased and remains lower than in NYC overall



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

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

Estimates of binge drinking represent the risk of immediate alcohol-related problems, such as alcohol-poisoning, injury and violence. In Northwest Queens, 16% of adults report engaging in at least one episode of binge drinking (defined as consuming 5 or more drinks on one occasion) in the past month.

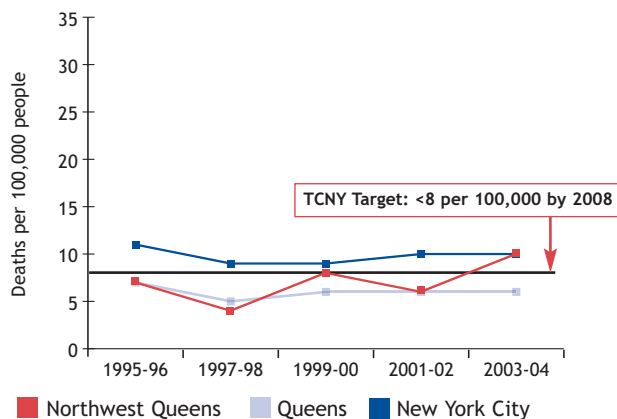
Alcohol-related hospitalizations reflect both acute and chronic (e.g., liver disease) consequences of alcohol abuse. In 2003-2004, the average annual alcohol-related hospitalization rate in Northwest Queens was similar to the Queens rate and lower than the rate in New York City overall (218/100,000 vs. 235/100,000 in Queens and 439/100,000 in NYC).

The drug-related hospitalization rate in Northwest Queens has decreased by 35% in the past decade. In 2003-2004, the rate (174/100,000) was lower than in Queens (234/100,000) and New York City overall (595/100,000).

The 2003-2004 death rate due to drugs in Northwest Queens (10/100,000) was more than 65% higher than the Queens overall rate (6/100,000) and same as the rate in NYC overall.

## Drug-related deaths

The drug-related death rate is higher in Northwest Queens than in Queens overall



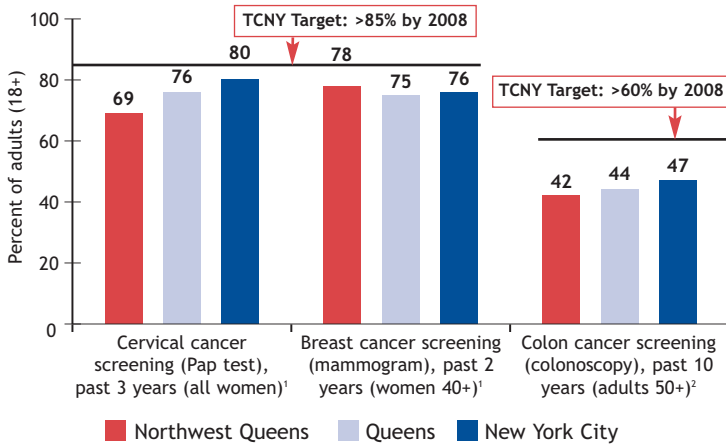
Rates are age-adjusted. Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004; U.S. Census 1990 and 2000/NYC Department of City Planning



# GOAL 7 Get Checked for Cancer

## Cancer screenings

In Northwest Queens, cancer screening is lower than TCNY targets



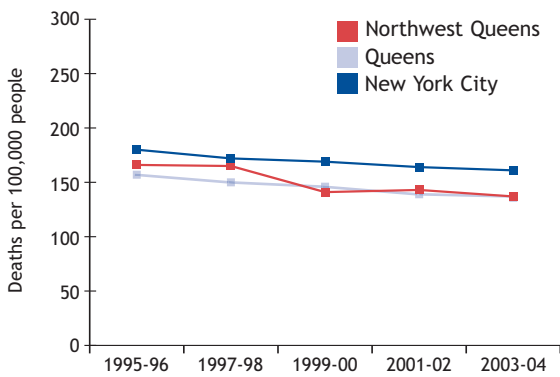
Percents are age-adjusted.  
Data Sources: <sup>1</sup>NYC Community Health Survey 2002 & 2004, <sup>2</sup>NYC Community Health Survey 2003-04

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

Women in Northwest Queens are less likely to get Pap tests for cervical cancer than women in NYC overall (69% vs. 80%). In addition, the percent of women in this community who have had a timely mammogram for breast cancer is below the TCNY target of more than 85%. Similarly, only about 4 in 10 adults aged 50 and older in Northwest Queens have had a colonoscopy in the past 10 years.

## Cancer deaths

The death rate due to cancer is lower in Northwest Queens than in NYC overall



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

The death rate due to cancer has decreased in Northwest Queens during the past decade. The 2003-2004 average annual cancer death rate was the same as the Queens rate and 15% lower than the NYC overall rate (137/100,000 vs. 161/100,000 in NYC).

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

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

Highest cancer death rates in Northwest Queens (2003-2004)					
MEN			WOMEN		
Type of Cancer	DEATHS / 100,000 PEOPLE		Type of Cancer	DEATHS / 100,000 PEOPLE	
	Northwest Queens	NYC		Northwest Queens	NYC
Lung, trachea, bronchus	45	51	Lung, trachea, bronchus	24	28
Colorectal	22	23	Breast	20	26
Prostate	18	25	Colorectal	14	17
Pancreas	15	12	Blood-related	11	12
Blood-related	13	18	Pancreas	7	9

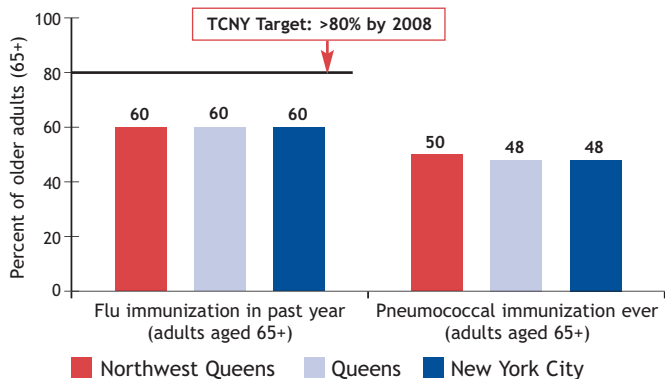
Rates are age-adjusted. Data Sources: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 2003-2004; U.S. Census 2000/NYC Department of City Planning



## GOAL 8 Get the Immunizations You Need

### Immunizations

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



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

Immunizations are not just for kids. Of all the deaths that could have been prevented by vaccination, 99% occur in adults. **Take Care New York** has set a target that more than 80% of adults aged 65 and older will get an annual flu (influenza) shot by 2008. The Northwest Queens flu immunization rate among older adults falls short of the TCNY target by 25%.

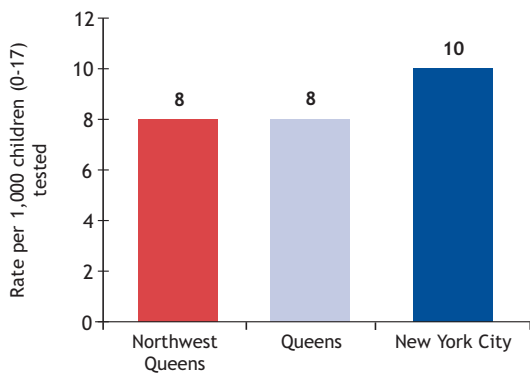
Immunization rates for pneumonia are lower than those for flu across NYC. Only half of older adults in Northwest Queens have ever received the pneumococcal vaccine, which protects against one common cause of pneumonia.



## GOAL 9 Make Your Home Safe and Healthy

### Childhood lead poisoning

Lead poisoning among young children continues to be a problem



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

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

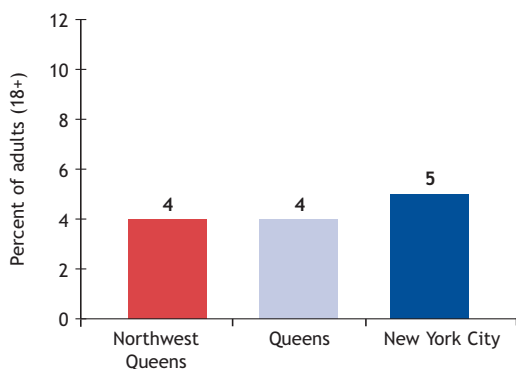
Childhood lead poisoning is a health problem that may be associated with decreased intelligence, learning and behavioral problems, and delayed growth and development. While the number of lead-poisoned children (0-17 years old) in New York City has declined dramatically over the past decade, the Health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

In 2004, 71 children in Northwest Queens (8/1,000) were newly identified with lead poisoning (defined as a blood lead level greater than or equal to 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ).

## Asthma in Adults and Children

### Asthma

Fewer than 1 in 20 adults in Northwest Queens suffers from asthma



Percents are age-adjusted.

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

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

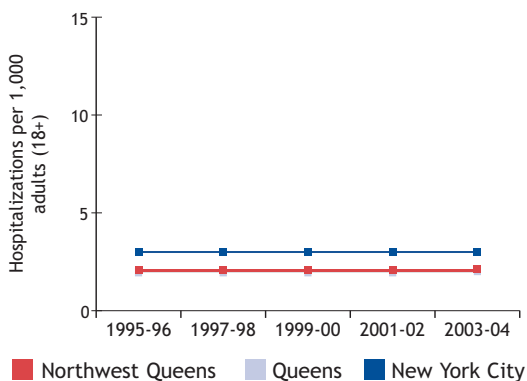
Many adults in Northwest Queens report having asthma (4%).

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

Asthma hospitalization rates for adults in Northwest Queens are lower than in NYC overall (2/1,000 vs. 3/1,000). The rate among children (0-17 years old) has declined nearly 60% in the past decade, and the 2003-2004 rate was lower than both the Queens and NYC overall rates (3/1,000 vs. 4/1,000 in Queens and 6/1,000 in NYC).

### Adult asthma hospitalizations

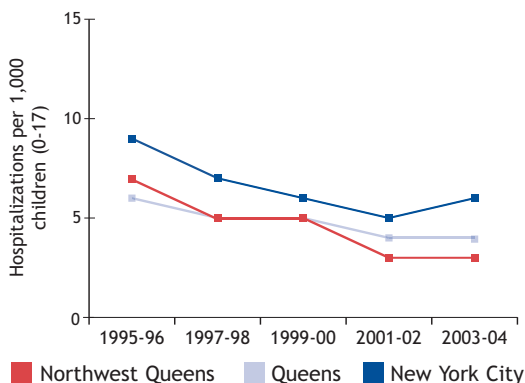
Rates of asthma hospitalization are lower in Northwest Queens than in NYC overall



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

### Child asthma hospitalizations

The child asthma hospitalization rate has decreased and remains lower in Northwest Queens



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

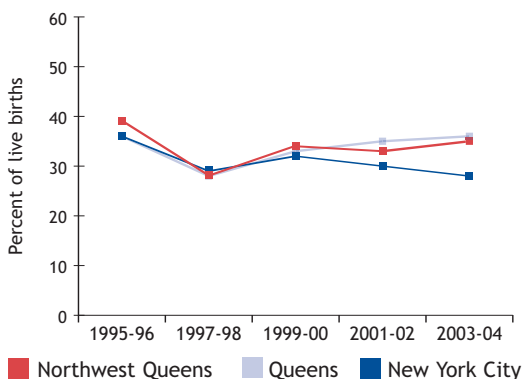
## TAKE CARE NEW YORK Goal 10 Have a Healthy Baby

The health of babies depends on the health of mothers. Good health care for pregnant women includes high quality prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of pregnancy. The average annual percent of women who received late or no prenatal care has declined in Northwest Queens in the past decade and was higher in 2003-2004 than the percent in NYC overall (35% vs. 28%).

Teenage mothers and their babies face a number of risks. Pregnant teens are more likely to be poor and not complete high school than other teens, and they are more likely to have babies born with low birthweight than older women. The birth rate to teenage mothers has decreased over the past 10 years by nearly 20% in Northwest Queens. In 2003-2004, the average annual teen birth rate in this community (60/1,000) was 20% lower than in NYC overall (75/1,000).

### Prenatal care

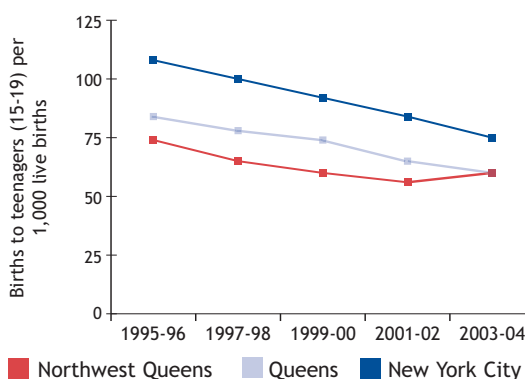
Mothers in Northwest Queens are more likely to receive late or no prenatal care than those in New York City overall



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

### Teenage mothers

The birth rate to teenage mothers (15-19 years) is lower in Northwest Queens than in NYC overall

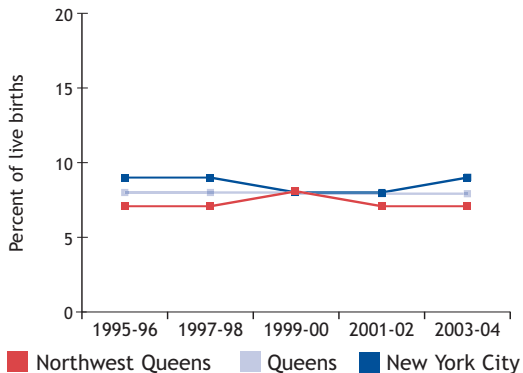


Data Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC DOHMH, 1995-2004

Babies born with low birthweight tend to have more health problems than others. In 2003-2004, the average percent of babies born with low birthweight in Northwest Queens was 7% — lower than in Queens (8%) and NYC overall (9%). Infant mortality (the death of babies in the first year of life) has declined over the past 10 years in NYC. The 2002-2004 rate in Northwest Queens was 5/1,000, similar to both Queens and NYC overall.

### Low birthweight

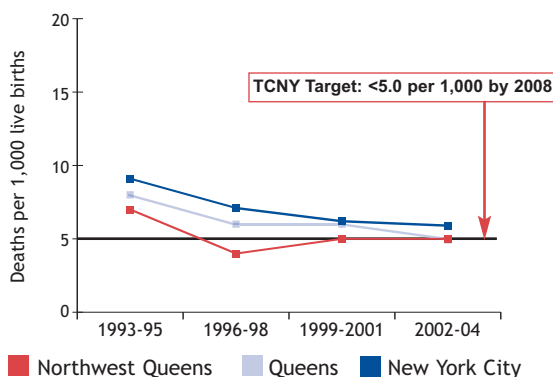
Low-birthweight babies are less common in Northwest Queens



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

### Infant mortality rate (IMR)

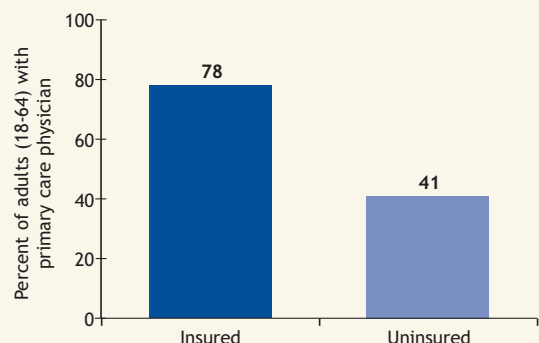
The IMR is similar in Northwest Queens and NYC overall



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

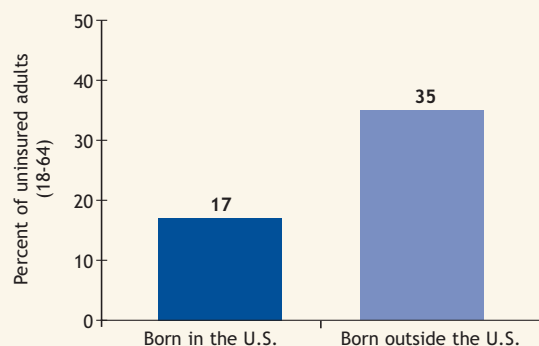
## Neighborhood Health Highlight: The Uninsured

Uninsured residents are less likely to have a regular doctor in Northwest Queens



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

Foreign-born residents are more likely to be uninsured in Northwest Queens



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

Every New York City neighborhood has different health concerns. Here we highlight the uninsured in Northwest Queens.

One quarter of Northwest Queens adults (25%) do not have health insurance, making it the neighborhood with the second highest proportion of uninsured adults in New York City. Lack of health insurance can lead to poor access to care, which can threaten good health. In fact, those without insurance in Northwest Queens are significantly less likely to have a primary care physician than those with insurance (78% vs. 41%).

In Northwest Queens, individuals born outside the U.S. are twice as likely to be uninsured as those born in the U.S. (35% vs. 17%). Northwest Queens has the third highest proportion of foreign born residents (51%) among all NYC neighborhoods, and most recent immigrants are not eligible for public health insurance because of their immigration status.

### TAKING ACTION

Free and low cost health insurance is available through Medicaid and Family Health Plus for eligible low-income groups. Despite this, 37% of Northwest Queens residents living below the poverty level are uninsured.

For information on finding affordable or free health insurance, call 311.



## Technical notes

### Analyses

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

### Data sources

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

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

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

### Neighborhood Definitions

The 42 NYC neighborhoods are based on the United Hospital Fund definitions of neighborhood, which are specified by zip code. For a complete listing of all 42 neighborhoods and their zip codes, go to [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health). The zip codes included in analyses of Northwest Queens are 11101, 11102, 11103, 11104, 11105, 11106, and 11109. Please note that some neighborhoods were combined for statistical purposes in the CHS 2002, CHS 2003 and CHS 2004 datasets to make a total of 33 (2002) or 34 (2003, 2004) neighborhoods. Northwest Queens statistics from the 2003 and 2004 individual-year datasets include data from the neighboring communities in West Queens, including Corona, Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Maspeth, and Woodside.

### Avoidable Hospitalizations

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

### Significance Testing

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

### TCNY report card

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

*Cover Photograph: 38th Street, Queens. Photo by Dejana Selenic. Maps by Susan Resnick.*

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# Community Health Profile for Northwest Queens

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

## NEW IN THE SECOND EDITION:

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

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

Web: [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health)  
Click on "My Community's Health"

Email: [profiles@health.nyc.gov](mailto:profiles@health.nyc.gov)

Mail:

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

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

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