Introduction

Brooklyn, New York City’s biggest borough, holds a large number of citizens that suffer from serious health problems. These health problems include obesity, asthma, diabetes, and hypertension. Brooklyn has the second most hospitalized cases of asthma in NYC. Obesity is also a major health concern in Brooklyn; especially in its neighborhoods of color. Being overweight or obese increases the risk for other major health problems including diabetes, and hypertension. More than a ten percent (12%) of adults in Brooklyn have been diagnosed with diabetes as opposed to the 9% in New York City overall.

Research Question

To understand why there’s a huge disparity of health problems in neighborhoods of color compared to non-minority neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

We looked at the health problems such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure.

Materials & Methods

We have collected data on the following: accessibility to recreational facilities, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease rates.

Material was gathered from the Brooklyn District Public Health Office, The 2010 U.S Census, Bureau of Epidemiology Services, and the NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene.

Findings

NYC Community Health Survey 2010
Percentage over ever been told as having asthma by neighborhood

NYC Community Health Survey 2010
Percentage who have ever been told they had diabetes by neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Brooklyn</th>
<th>NYC</th>
<th>NYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racial and Ethnic Composition</td>
<td>White Including Hispanic</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Including Hispanic</td>
<td>36.3%</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn has a significant higher amount of recreation than does NYC as a whole and NYS.</td>
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Asthma Rate

50% of Hispanic adolescents in Brooklyn have been reported to have asthma that is higher than the rate for NYC(42.6%), and NYS(39.7%). 25% of black adults have reported to have asthma. This is higher than NYC and NYS.

Diabetes

6.4% of Brooklyn’s Population has Diabetes. Diabetes deaths in Brooklyn have shot up 62% over the past decade (2010). Low neighborhoods in Brooklyn such as East New York, Brownsville, Bushwick, and Crown Heights have double the percent of people with diabetes. These are areas of color and low income.

Percent living below poverty line

Brooklyn

22%

2nd highest compared to entire borough. Lower than the city and state average, but significantly higher than the nation’s average.

NYC

19%

NYS

14.3%

Conclusions

The health of the people of Brooklyn is in danger. Our investigation of the borough has shown how there is a correlation between low income neighborhoods and their access to recreational facilities along with their overall health. According to research that has been done in the years of 2007-08, within all the boroughs, Brooklyn has among the highest rates (behind the Bronx) for asthma, hypertension, and obesity. Since Brooklyn is the largest and has the highest population with a high % of minorities, it is more vulnerable to poor health environments and conditions. Overall our analysis shows that the built environment in Brooklyn’s neighborhoods influences disparity in obesity and other health related issues.

References


