Bronx Community Health Dashboard: 
Housing and Health

Last Updated: 1/29/2019

See end of presentation for more information about this project and links to data sources.
Housing and health: lead

Tested for lead | Elevated blood lead levels
The percent of children tested for lead by age 3 years remains the highest in the Bronx

Children younger than 6 years have the most rapidly developing nervous systems, making them particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning.

Lead poisoning can cause seizures, developmental delay, hyperactivity, behavioral disorders, hearing loss, and anemia. Even low blood lead levels can have long-term effects on a child’s IQ.

More than 85% of children in the Bronx have been tested for lead

It is important for children at risk of exposure to undergo blood tests for lead, as many people with lead poisoning show mild symptoms or even no symptoms at all. Lead testing is the first step towards eliminating lead from a child’s environment.
Rates of elevated blood lead levels among children less than 6 have declined in all 5 NYC boroughs (among those tested)

Data source: New York City Healthy Homes Program (2005-2016), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal; Blood lead levels of 15 mcg/dL or greater are considered elevated.
Rates of elevated blood lead levels among tested children less than 6 years old are highest in Fordham–Bronx Pk and Northeast Bronx

1. Crotona - Tremont
2. Fordham – Bronx Pk
3. High Bridge - Morrisania
4. Hunts Point – Mott Haven
5. Kingsbridge - Riverdale
6. Northeast Bronx
7. Pelham – Throgs Neck

Data source: New York City Healthy Homes Program (2016), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal.
Housing and health: other hazards

Homes with mice or rats | Homes with cockroaches | Homes with mold | Homes with leaks | Homes with 3 or more maintenance deficiencies
More homes had mice or rats in the Bronx than any other NYC borough

Exposure to mice or rats in the home increases risk of developing asthma and exacerbating established asthma.

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (1999-2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, University Heights/Fordham is the sub-borough with the highest percent of homes with mice or rats in the building.

Percent of households that reported mice or rats in their building in the past 90 days:

- University Heights/Fordham: 49.2%
- Highbridge/South Concourse: 48.0%
- Mott Haven/Hunts Point: 39.7%
- Morrisania/East Tremont: 36.3%
- Pelham Parkway: 36.1%
- Riverdale/Kingsbridge: 27.7%
- Soundview/Parkchester: 21.8%
- Throgs Neck/Co-op City: 20.0%
- Williamsbridge/Baychester: 15.3%
- Throgs Neck/Co-op City: 4.8%
- NYC Overall: 18.5%

The percent of homes with cockroaches has decreased in all 5 NYC boroughs since 2008; and remains highest in the Bronx.

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (2008-2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal

Exposure to cockroaches in the home increases risk of asthma development or exacerbation.
Within the Bronx, University Heights/Fordham is the sub-borough with the highest percent of homes with cockroaches.

1. Highbridge/South Concourse
2. Kingsbridge Heights/Mosholu
3. Morrisania/East Tremont
4. Mott Haven/Hunts Point
5. Pelham Parkway
6. Riverdale/Kingsbridge
7. Soundview/Parkchester
8. Throgs Neck/Co-op City
9. University Heights/Fordham
10. Williamsbridge/Baychester

Percent of households that reported seeing at least one cockroach daily over the last month:

- University Heights/Fordham: 47.0%
- Highbridge/South Concourse: 44.4%
- Kingsbridge Heights/Mosholu: 42.7%
- Morrisania/East Tremont: 42.1%
- Mott Haven/Hunts Point: 39.9%
- Pelham Parkway: 38.2%
- Riverdale/Kingsbridge: 34.5%
- Soundview/Parkchester: 24.3%
- Williamsbridge/Baychester: 20.9%
- Throgs Neck/Co-op City: 12.9%
- NYC Overall: 23.2%

More adults report mold in their home in the Bronx than any other NYC borough

Exposure to mold in the home increases risk of asthma development or exacerbation.

Data source: New York City Community Health Survey (2012), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, Fordham–Bronx Park is the United Hospital Fund neighborhood with the highest percent of adults reporting mold in the home.

Data source: New York City Community Health Survey (2012), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
The percent of homes with leaks remains highest in the Bronx

Leaks can lead to mold.

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (1999-2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, Highbridge/South Concourse is the sub-borough with the highest percent of homes with leaks.

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
The percent of homes with 3 or more maintenance deficiencies remains highest in the Bronx

Maintenance deficiencies include any of the following:
1. Heating equipment malfunction
2. Supplemental heat required
3. Presence of mice or rats
4. Cracks/holes in interior walls/ceilings
5. Floor holes
6. Broken plaster and peeling paint
7. Water leakage

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (1999-2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, Highbridge/South Concourse is the sub-borough with the highest percent of homes with 3 or more maintenance deficiencies.

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
More than two-thirds of Bronx renter-occupied units have at least one maintenance deficiency

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, Throgs Neck/Co-op City is the sub-borough with the highest percent of renter-occupied homes with no maintenance deficiencies

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
The percent of homes using supplemental heat has increased in all 5 NYC boroughs; and remains highest in the Bronx.

Exposure to supplemental heat in the home may increase risk of development or exacerbation of asthma.

Examples of supplemental heat include space heaters or using the oven for heat.

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (1999-2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, University Heights/Fordham is the sub-borough with the highest percent of homes using supplemental heat.

Percent of homes using supplemental heat as of 2014:

- 4.6%
- 9%
- 13%
- 17%
- 21%
- 42.6%

Data source: New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey (2014), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Housing and health: exposure to tobacco smoke

Exposed to secondhand smoke within the home (children) | Exposed to secondhand smoke within the home (adults)
The Bronx has the second highest percent of children who are exposed to any second-hand smoke in the home.

The bar chart shows the percent of children up to 12 years old who are exposed to any second-hand smoke in the home. The data is from the New York City Child Health, Emotional Wellness and Development Survey, 2015. The chart indicates that the Bronx has the highest percentage at 9.0%, followed by Brooklyn at 9.7%. Manhattan has the lowest percentage at 4.9%. Staten Island has an estimate of 4.0% but it is marked as unreliable due to small numbers. Male and Female categories are also shown, with the Bronx having 10.7% and Staten Island having 7.4% for males, and 10.7% and 7.4% for females respectively. 


* Estimate for Staten Island is unreliable due to small numbers.
Despite the Bronx not having the highest smoking prevalence, the percent of adults reporting second-hand smoke is highest in the Bronx compared to other NYC boroughs.

Exposure to second-hand smoke in the home is a risk factor for asthma and lung cancer.

Data source: New York City Community Health Survey (2004-2012), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, South Bronx is the United Hospital Fund neighborhood with the highest percent of adults reporting second-hand smoke in the home.

1. Fordham – Bronx Pk
2. Kingsbridge - Riverdale
3. Pelham – Throgs Neck
4. South Bronx

Data source: New York City Community Health Survey (2012), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Housing and health: crowding, affordability and stable housing

Did not have a regular place to live (children) | Homes with crowding | Owner-occupied homes | Rental Burden
More children did not have a regular place to live in the prior year in the Bronx than any other NYC borough

Regular place to live does not include living in a family shelter, public place, car or abandoned building or temporarily living with family or friends.


* Estimates for Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island are potentially unreliable due to small numbers.
The Bronx has the highest percent of households with crowding

Crowded housing units can promote flu transmission and psychological stress.

Data source: American Community Survey (2011-2015), data from New York City DOHMH Environment & Health Data Portal
Within the Bronx, Fordham South is the neighborhood tabulation area with the highest percent of crowded homes.

The Bronx has the lowest percent of owner-occupied homes, which suggests housing instability.

Within the Bronx, Fordham South, West Concourse and Mount Hope have the lowest rates of home-ownership.
Since 2005, the percent of Bronx residents with severe rental burden has slightly increased

Severe rental burden defined as spending ≥50% of pre-tax household income on rent

Data source: American Community Survey
Over one-third of Bronx residents have severe rental burden, with female and minority residents more likely to have a severe burden.

Severe rental burden defined as spending ≥50% of pre-tax household income on rent.

While Staten Island has the highest rental burden, it also has the lowest proportion of residents who rent (22% vs. 70% in the Bronx).

Data source: IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, 2016 ACS 5-year estimates.
In the Bronx, children and those living below the FPL are more likely to have severe rental burden.

Severe rental burden defined as spending ≥50% of pre-tax household income on rent.

Poverty groups categorized based on family income as a percentage of the federal poverty level (FPL):
- Highest poverty: <100% FPL
- High poverty: ≥100-200% FPL
- Medium Poverty: ≥200-400% FPL
- Low Poverty: ≥400-600% FPL
- Lowest Poverty: ≥600% FPL

Data source: IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, 2016 ACS 5-year estimates.
The percent of residents with severe rental burden varies across the Bronx

Severe rental burden defined as spending ≥50% of pre-tax household income on rent

Data source: American Community Survey Microdata obtained from IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota: 2012-2016. PUMA stands for Public Use Microdata Area and is created by the US Census Bureau; they approximately correspond to NYC Community Districts. See https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/data-maps/nyc-population/census2010/puma_cd_map.pdf for more information.
About the Community Health Dashboard Project

- The goal of the project is to provide Bronx-specific data on risk factors and health outcomes with an emphasis on presenting data on trends, socio-demographic differences (e.g., by age, sex, race/ethnicity, etc.) and sub-county/neighborhood level data.

- Data will be periodically updated as new data becomes available.

- Produced by Montefiore’s Office of Community & Population Health using publicly-available data sources.

- For more information please contact us at OCPHDept@montefiore.org.
Links to data sources

- New York City Community Health Survey: https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/epiquery/CHS/CHSXIndex.html