

Part III Areas of Assessment

A. Focus on Community-Based Needs

1. Patterns of morbidity and mortality

According to New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDHMH), about one out of four people in Greenpoint believe to have bad health. The leading causes of death in this community are heart disease and cancer, followed by pneumonia, influenza, AIDS, chronic lung disease, stroke, drug related illness, diabetes, accidents, and injury. Premature death – before 75 years of age – is mainly caused by stroke, cancer, drugs, and AIDS. The main reason for hospitalization in Greenpoint is heart disease, followed by accidents and injuries, drug related illness, mental illness, cancer, alcoholism, pneumonia and influenza, stroke, diabetes and asthma (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, pp. 4-5).

The three main ethnicities in Greenpoint are: Polish and Hispanics of Dominican and Mexican descent. Statistics show that residents of Greenpoint, also called Little Poland, do not live healthy lives. One in six adults who live in Greenpoint smoke. Approximately 1 in 3 adults from Greenpoint get no physical activity and one out of five are obese. As a result, the number of people suffering of diabetes increases (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, pp.4-5).

The main causes of death in Bushwick and Williamsburg are cancer, heart disease, and HIV, followed by homicides and perinatal conditions. Fifteen percent of the deaths are due to cancer, another 15% of the population in these two areas are dying as a result of a heart disease, 14% of the residents in these neighborhoods die from HIV related conditions. Seven percent of

the people from Bushwick and Williamsburg die as a result of homicide and another 7% die because of perinatal conditions. Twenty percent of the residents from Bushwick and Williamsburg smoke (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, pp. 3-4).

Two major health problems specific to residents from Bushwick and Williamsburg are high cholesterol and high blood pressure. Also, lack of physical activity leads to obesity which in turn can lead to heart disease and diabetes. If 20% of the population of NYC is obese, there are 23% of people living in Brooklyn suffer of obesity, and 28% of the residents in Bushwick and Williamsburg are obese. Nine percent of the population of New York City have diabetes, 10% of the residents of Brooklyn are diagnosed with diabetes, and 14% of the people who live in Bushwick and Williamsburg have diabetes. In the United States 95% of diabetes cases are type 2 diabetes; there is a strong association between diabetes and obesity (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, p.5).

2. Demographics

There are about 124,449 people who live in Greenpoint. Sixty-two percent of this people are adults between 18 and 64 year old compared to New York City where 60% of the population belongs to this age category. Ten percent of the population consists of adults 65 years and older whereas New York City 12% of the population is represented by this age group. The rest of the population – 28% is represented by children; New York City has 24% children. Fifty-eight percent of the people from Greenpoint are whites, 31% are Hispanic, and 3% are African Americans (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, p. 5).

The total number of people living in Bushwick and Williamsburg is 194,300. The residents from these two neighborhoods are younger than those from the rest of New York City. Only 8%

of the population in Bushwick and Williamsburg are older than 65 years old; 33% are less than 17 years old, 12% are between 18 and 24 years old, 30% are between 25 and 44 years old, and 17% are between 45 and 64 years old. The majority of the population – 53% are Hispanics, 37% Black, 3% Asians, 4% White, and 3% other (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, p. 4-7).

The main religions in Greenpoint, Bushwick, and Williamsburg are Christian (Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox), Judaism, and Islam (Population of Brooklyn and other Quick Facts, 2014, p.2). The level of education in Greenpoint is different than the rest of the New York City. There are more people with doctorate and bachelor's in Greenpoint compared to the rest of New York City, but less people with a high school diploma in Greenpoint compared to New York City. As far as associate degrees and masters programs are concerned, there is no significant difference between Greenpoint and the rest of the New York City (City-data, 2014, pp. 7-10).

There are more people with High school diploma in Bushwick and Williamsburg compared to the rest of New York; there are less residents with bachelors and masters degrees in Bushwick and Williamsburg compared to the rest of New York (City-data, 2014, p. 5-6). The average income per household in Greenpoint was \$60,523 in 2011 compared to New York City average income of \$55,246 per year (City-data website). In Bushwick the average income for one household was \$33,933 compared to the average income per household in Williamsburg which was \$35,499 in 2011 (City-data, 2014, pp. 5-9).

3. Environmental

The population of Brooklyn can get help in case of a disaster by transporting the residents in evacuation zones. According to the New York City Office of Emergency Management

(NYCOEM) there are six evacuation zones in New York City. In Greenpoint, Bushwick and Williamsburg, the following buildings are to be used in case of emergency: Bushwick School for Social Justice located on 400 Irvin Ave, 11237, Intermediate School 383 1300 Greene Avenue 11237, and Junior High School 125 Stuyvesant Ave 11221 (York City Office of Emergency Management,2014, pp. 6-8).

In Greenpoint, the main reasons for children hospitalizations are asthma, injuries, and lead poisoning. Lead can cause neurologic, learning, and behavioral problems, and lowered intelligence. In Bushwick and Williamsburg 1.2 % of the children who were tested for lead poisoning had a blood lead level greater than or equal to 10 µg/ dL in 2004, compared to 1.1% in Brooklyn and 1.0% in New York City (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, pp. 3-5).

According to Free Williamsburg website, if we compare Greenpoint, Bushwick and Williamsburg, Bushwick has the greatest number of rodents (Free Williamsburg, 2014, pp. 5-12). Also, the website of NYCDHMH informs us that Bushwick and Williamsburg are more infested by rats, mice, and bugs, compared to the rest of New York City (New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2011, pp. 3-9).

4. Public services

Several public services are available for residents of Greenpoint, Bushwick and Williamsburg. These comprise: public libraries, precincts, postal offices, and public transportation, including bridges.

Some examples of libraries include: Brooklyn Public Library - Greenpoint Library, located at 107 Norman Ave Brooklyn, NY 11222 , phone number (718) 349-8504, Brooklyn Public

Library - Bushwick Library which is at 340 Bushwick Ave Brooklyn, NY 11206, phone number (718) 602-1348, Brooklyn Public Library - Williamsburgh Library located at 240 Division Ave Brooklyn, NY 11211, phone number (718) 302-3485, and Brooklyn Public Library - DeKalb Library at 790 Bushwick Ave Brooklyn, NY 11221, phone number (718) 455-3898 (Yelp.com, 2014, pp 3-7).

Two examples of precincts are: New York Police Department (NYPD) 94th precinct located at 100 Meserole Ave Brooklyn, NY 11222, phone number (718) 383-3879 and NYPD 90th Precinct situated on 211 Union Ave Brooklyn, NY 11211 phone number (718) 963-5311. Three examples of bridges are: Kosciuszko Bridge Brooklyn-Queens Expressway Brooklyn, John Jay Byrne Bridge in Greenpoint, NY 11222, and Williamsburg Bridge Brooklyn (Yelp.com, 2014, pp 3-7).

Examples of post offices are: United States Post Office (USPO) located on 66 Meserole Ave Brooklyn, NY 11222, phone number (718) 389-1512, USPO on 263 S 4th St Brooklyn, NY 11211, phone number (718) 387-2832, US Postal Service on 47 Debevoise St Brooklyn, NY 11206, phone number (718) 388-6967, USPO located in Wyckoff Heights, 86 Wyckoff Ave Brooklyn, NY 11237, phone number (718) 386-3629, 20, and USPO - Bushwick Station on 1369 Broadway Brooklyn, NY 11221, phone number (718) 602-3111 (Yelp.com, 2014, pp 3-7).

Other public services and places are: McGuinness Boulevard Brooklyn in 11222 area, phone number (718) 963-8000, Deluxe Passport Express on 57 Lee Ave Brooklyn, NY 11211 phone number (212) 280-6240, Office Of Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez located at 266 Broadway New York, NY 11211, phone number (718) 599-3658, Expedite Passport and Visa situated at 197 Williamsburg St W Brooklyn, NY 11211, phone number (718) 782-4700 (Yelp.com, 2014, pp 3-7).

Subway transit in Greenpoint, Bushwick and Williamsburg can be accessed by using G, J, L, M, and Z trains. According to the Metropolitan Transit Authority website there are one hundred buses routes in Brooklyn. Greenpoint, Bushwick and Williamsburg provide their residents with over twenty bus routes (Metropolitan Transit Authority, 2014, pp. 1-10)

5. Aesthetics

Greenpoint, Bushwick and Williamsburg are housing a large variety of parks, art galleries, museums, and movie theaters. All parks are operated by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Two examples of museums are: Greenpoint Monitor Museum in Williamsburg, The City Reliquary on The 370 Metropolitan Avenue (City reliquary, 2009, p. 1) Some examples of parks include: Cooper Park located between Olive Street and Morgan Avenue, Grand Ferry Park on Grand Street, East River Park on Montgomery Street, Bushwick Playground, located on Knickerbocker Avenue between Woodbine Street and Putnam Avenue. Additional parks include: Corlears Hook Park on Jackson Street, Mcgolrick Park on Russell Street. Other examples of parks are: Green Central Knoll Park, located between Flushing and Central Avenues and Knoll and Evergreen Streets and Sternberg Park on Lorimer Street between Montrose Avenue and Boerum Street (NYC Parks. Find a Park, 2012, pp. 1-5).

Other recreational centers are: Metropolitan Recreation Center on Bedford Avenue, Marcy Playground on Myrtle Avenue, Bushwick Park and Pool, located on Flushing Avenue, and Heisser Triangle located at the intersections of Knickerbocker and Myrtle Avenues and Bleecker Street. Hope Gardens Multi Service Center is a building located on Wilson Street and Linden Boulevard that serves as an elderly bingo game building, an after-school program for children from kindergarten to fifth grade, a site for karate classes, and a summer day camp for local children.

Irving Square Park is bound by Wilson and Knickerbocker Avenues and Halsey and Weirfield Streets. Maria Hernandez Park is a municipal park is located between Knickerbocker and Irving Avenues Ridgewood Bushwick. Youth Center is a youth activity place located between Gates Avenue and Palmetto Street (Weinmann,G., & Weinmann, J., 2014, pp. 6-9)

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