Community Assessment of Ridgewood (West Central Queens)

Tatsiana Navitskaya

New York City College of Technology

The City University of New York

 [Ridgewood](http://queens.about.com/od/neighborhoods/p/ridgewood.htm) bordering Bushwick, Brooklyn, has changed as much over the last 100 years as neighborhood in Queens could. It is home today to a melting pot of immigrants. The neighborhood's yellow-brick building, built to last by German immigrants years ago, is still beautiful, in spite of some rough treatment in spots.

(1)Community development/services:

 All Ridgewood schools are located within the geographical confines of Community Schools District 24.

1. Schools:

 Elementary Schools:

* Public School 068 Cambridge

 59-09 Saint Felix Avenue, Queens, NY, 11385

* Public School 81 Q Jean Paul Richter

599 Cypress Avenue, Queens, NY, 11385

* Public School 088 Seneca

60-85 Catalpa Avenue, Queens, NY, 11385

* Public School 91 Richard Arkwright

68-10 Central Avenue, Queens, NY, 11385

 Junior High - Intermediate Schools:

* Intermediate School 093 Ridgewood

66-56 Forest Avenue, Queens, NY, 11385

* Intermediate School 077

976 Seneca Avenue, Queens, NY, 11385

* Intermediate School 119 The Glendale

74-01 78th Avenue, Ridgewood, NY, 11385

 High Schools:

* Grover Cleveland High School

21-27 Himrod Street, Queens, NY, 11385

 Learners and Leaders School:

* Learners and Leaders School

378 Seneca Avenue, 11385, Queens, NY, 11385

 Private Schools:

* [St Pancras School](http://www.usa.com/private-school/st-pancras-school-ridgewood-ny-00925128.html?nv=11385-ny-private-schools)
6820 Myrtle Ave
Ridgewood, NY 11385
Regular Elementary or Secondary School

Religious Orientation

* [Redeemer Lutheran School](http://www.usa.com/private-school/redeemer-lutheran-school-ridgewood-ny-00938465.html?nv=11385-ny-private-schools)
6926 Cooper Ave
Ridgewood, NY 11385
Regular Elementary or Secondary School

Religious Orientation

* [St Matthias School](http://www.usa.com/private-school/st-matthias-school-ridgewood-ny-00925649.html?nv=11385-ny-private-schools)
5825 Catalpa Ave
Ridgewood, NY 11385
Regular Elementary or Secondary School

Religious Orientation

1. Type of schools:
* 8 Elementary Schools
* 4 Junior High Schools
* 1 High School
* 1 School for leaders
* 3 Private Schools with religious orientation with Pre-K to 8th grade level
1. Types of community groups and places to meet:
* Churches (over 15 churches):

Catholic Churches:

* St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church

58-15 Catalpa Avenue, Ridgewood, NY  11385

* Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Roman Catholic Church
62-81 60th Place at Bleecker Street
Ridgewood, NY  11385

 Presbyterian Churches:

* **United Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood**

68-59 60 Lane, Ridgewood, NY 11385

* Ridgewood Presbyterian Church

59-14 70th Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

 Christ Tabernacle:

* Christ Tabernacle

64-34 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385

 Coptic Orthodox Churces:

* St. Mary and St. Antonios Coptic Orthodox Church

Ridgewood, NY 11385

 Baptist Churches:

* Maranatha Romanian Baptist Church

61-16 68th Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

## Iglesia Bautista Evangelica Quichua Sinai

681 Seneca Ave Ridgewood NY 11386

 Lutheran Churches:

Covenant Lutheran Church

68-59 60 ln., Ridgewood, NY 11385

 1 Islamic Center:

Albanian American Islamic Center of Queens
7224 Myrtle Ave,
Ridgewood, NY 11385, USA

 1 Jewish Center:

* Forest Park Jewish Center Inc (Retreat Houses)
9045 Myrtle Ave
Ridgewood, NY 11385

 1 Synagogue:

* [Congregation Beit Aharon](http://www.google.com/maps/place?source=uds&q=synagogues&cid=15531155005490031626)

55-39 Myrtle Avenue

Ridgewood, NY 11385

* United States
* Queens Community Board 5
61-23 Myrtle Avenue
Glendale, NY 11385
Phone: 718.366.1834

Chair: Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
District Manager: Gary Giordano
Board Meeting: Second Wednesday, 7:30pm
Cabinet Meeting: First Wednesday of every other month, 10:00am

* Community Advocacy Center

657 Fairview Ave., Ridgewood, New York, 11385

President of Community Advocacy Center Robert Rothermel

* 3 Senior Centers:
* Glenridge Senior Center

Summerfield St,Ridgewood, NY 11385

* Peter Cardella Senior Citizen Center

6852 Fresh Pond Road

Flushing, NY 11385

* Ridgewood Older Adult Center

59-12 70th Ave

Ridgewood, NY 11385

All Ridgewood Senior Citizen Centers provide a variety of services, including Meals On Wheels, information to seniors living in and around Ridgewood.

* Health Clubs:
* New Olympia Health Club,

65-06 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
open Monday thru Saturday 6 AM to 11 PM
Houses a meditation room

* Health Club: [American Physique](http://www.americanphysique.com/)

1661 Weirfield St., Ridgewood, NY 11385

* Lucille Roberts a fitness club for women

54-32 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

* Ridgewood YMCA

69-02 64th Street
Ridgewood, 11385

* 2 Public Library:
* Glendale Public Library

78-60 73rd Place

Ridgewood, NY 11385

* Ridgewood Public Library

20-12 Madison Street

Ridgewood, NY 11385

1. Political offices:
* Ridgewood Democratic Club
6070 Putnam Ave.
Ridgewood, NY 11385 Phone:(718) 821-9807

### Old Glory Republican Club Inc

71-20 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

* Friends of Senator Serf Maltese

71-20 Myrtle Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385

### Friends of Senator Maltese

7120 Myrtle Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

 74.94% of the people in Ridgewood, NY are registered as Democrats, 24.41% are registered Republican, remaining are independent.

1. Community events:
* Churches, schools, parks, and sport clubs carry out various community events and welcome everyone who is willing to participate.
1. Sense of community pride:
* Residents who were born and raised in Ridgewood are proud of it and enjoy living here and serving its community.

(2) Environment

a) Air quality:

* Air quality in Ridgewood is good. The air quality index falls in between 35-40. Overall, the quality of air is only slightly worse than New York air quality index but better than the United States mean air quality index.

b) Boundaries:

* The heart of Ridgewood is along Myrtle Avenue, Fresh Pond Road, and Forest Avenue. Southwest is [Bushwick](http://forgotten-ny.com/2001/02/bushwick-brooklyn/) Avenue, along mixed-use Cypress and Wyckoff Avenues
* The western edge is industrial Flushing Avenue.
* The north is Metropolitan Avenue and [Maspeth](http://queens.about.com/od/neighborhoods/p/maspeth.htm) and [Middle Village](http://queens.about.com/cs/neighborhoods/p/middle_village.htm).
* The LIRR tracks east of Fresh Pond Road separate Ridgewood from [Glendale](http://www.forgotten-ny.com/STREET%20SCENES/glendale/glendale.html).

c) Fumes:

* In 2009 total suspended particulate (TSP) marked 43.4 mcg/cub.meter, average level of lead in TSP marked 0.0158 mcg/cub.meter, average carbon monoxide was 0.53 ppm ( much higher than US mean CO – 0.36 ppm), average sulfur dioxide was 0.0035 ppm ( higher than US mean sulfur dioxide – 0.0022 ppm), average nitrogen dioxide was 0.0219 ppm ( higher than US mean nitrogen dioxide – 0.0091 ppm), average ozone was 0.042 ppm ( comparable with US mean ozone of 0.047 ppm), average particulate matter marker was 11.3 mcg/cub.meter in Ridgewood.

d) Geographies:

* Ridgewoodis located in [Queens County](http://newyork.hometownlocator.com/ny/queens/index.cfm) at latitude 40.7001 and longitude -73.9057. The elevation is 75 feet. Queens County is in the Eastern time zone (GMT -5).

e) industrial/factory areas:

* Ridgewood does not house industrial or factory areas, however, it western border is industrial area that includes warehouses and companies with different areas of specialization.

f) parks:

* Maria Hernandez Park

Irving Ave., Kinickerbocker Ave. Bet. Starr St. And Suydam St.,

Ridgewood, NY 11385

Acres: 6.87

Park contains basketball courts, fitness paths, playgrounds, water fountains, fitness equipment, handball courts, spray showers, eateries, and bathrooms. Its hours of operation from 6 a. m. till 1 a. m.

* Joseph F. Mafera Park

65 Pl. Bet. Shaler Ave. And the Rail Yards, Ridgewood, NY, 11385

Acres: 5.40

Park contains basketball courts, playgrounds, water fountains, handball courts, eateries, and bathrooms, roller hockey, baseball fields. Its hours of operation from 6 a. m. till 1 a. m.

# Forest Park (it is the largest park nearby located out of the boundaries of Ridgewood)

# Myrtle Ave., Union Turnpike, Park Lane South bet.

# Brooklyn-Queens County Line and Park Lane, Queens, NY

# Acres: 543.53

# With a series of small hills and 165 acres of trees, the park is an agrarian delight. Park goers interested in exploring Forest Park’s natural settings firsthand often travel to its eastern portion, which abounds in hiking trails and bridle paths. Horses can be hired from one of two private stables in order to cover more ground from a higher perspective.

# Forest Park contains an athlete’s playground for softball, baseball, tennis, bocce, and handball. The 110-acre, par 67 golf course was modeled after Scottish links and maintains its reputation as one of the City’s most challenging golf courses.

Western portion of Forest Park includes non-sports-related highlights. The George Seuffert, Sr. Bandshell, which can accommodate 3,500 people, hosts free concerts throughout the warm season.Park’s hours of operation from 6 a. m. till 1 a. m.

(3) Health :

1. Hospitals:
* [Wyckoff Heights Medical Center](http://www.wyckoffhospital.org/)
1. Stockholm Street, Brooklyn, NY.

ER entrance at Stanhope Street and Wyckoff Avenue.

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center Located in an ethnically diverse residential neighborhood directly on the border of northern Brooklyn and western Queens, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center is a 350-bed teaching hospital. A dedicated staff of 1,800 physicians, nurses and support personnel represent thirty-five distinct languages and cultures.

1. Clinics and Medical Offices (over 40)
* Myrtle Pediatrics

[5716 Myrtle Avenue](https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&oi=plus&q=https://maps.google.com/maps?ie%3DUTF8%26cid%3D17408731996420552352%26q%3DMyrtle%2BPediatrics%26iwloc%3DA%26gl%3DUS%26hl%3Den-US) Ridgewood, NY 11385

* [Edit details](https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&oi=plus&q=https://maps.google.com/maps/place?cid%3D17408731996420552352%26mode%3Dedit%26ved%3D0CA4QgQY%26sa%3DX%26ei%3DDoHRT8ryII3n8QbVhaWDCg%26gl%3DUS%26hl%3Den-US%26ep%3Dpluspage-hover)

(718) 381-8049

Hours of operation: M-F 1-5pm, Sat 9am -10pm.

* Ridgewood Communicare Health Center
769 Onderdonk Avenue
(between Woodbine St. & Madison St.)
Ridgewood, NY 11385
718-334-6190

Hours of operation:

M, T, W, F 8-4:30 pm; Th 11- 7pm; Sat, Sun - closed

* Ridgewood Dialysis Center

Specialty Outpatient Clinic, Medical Doctor's Office

385 Seneca Ave

Ridgewood, NY 11385

Hours of operation: M-Sat 5 am – 11pm. Sun – closed.

* Advanced Physical Therapy

Doctor's Office

6642 Forest Ave

Ridgewood, NY 11385

1. 3 Adult Day Care Programs:

## [Bushwick](http://www.yellowbook.com/profile/bushwick_1856757964.html?classid=2709)

5925 67th Ave
Ridgewood, NY 11385-4440

* [Daywatch Day Care](http://www.yellowbook.com/profile/daywatch-day-care_1504194503.html?classid=2709)

20 Saint John’s Rd
Ridgewood, NY 11385-2339

Ridgewood houses variety of medical offices with different areas of expertise, such as dermatology, plastic surgery, ophthalmologist, internal medicine, physical therapy, pediatrics, and dialysis. Residents of Ridgewood have a good access to medical care due to various hours of operation of medical offices and clinics, as well as availability of hospital and emergency room of the hospital functioning 24/7.

(4) Health disparities:

* Lack of health insurance - One in four adults is currently uninsured or went without insurance at some time during the past year
* Cancer screenings - Women are less likely to get cancer screenings for breast and cervical cancer than women in NYC overall. In addition, less than half of adults aged 50 and older in West Central Queens have had a colonoscopy in the past 10 years. The highest cancer-related death rates among men in West Central Queens are due to lung, colon, and prostate cancers. Among women, lung, breast, and blood-related (such as lymphoid) cancers are the top 3 causes of cancer-related death.
* Falls among the elderly - Hospitalizations for falls among older adults, as well as related hip fractures, are more common in West Central Queens and NYC overall

(5) Housing (age, condition, gardens, quality, vacancy) (1 point)

The urban neighborhood of Ridgewood is known for its [brick and stone two-story buildings](http://queens.about.com/library/weekly/ridgewood/bl-ridgewood1.htm) from the early 20th century, which give it a more Brooklyn than Queens look. There are more official [historic districts in Ridgewood](http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/NY/Queens/districts.html) than anywhere else in Queens. Stockholm Street is the only brick-paved block in Queens. The [Greater Ridgewood Historical Society](http://www.onderdonkhouse.org) is headquarted in the [Vander Ende-Onderdonk House](http://queens.about.com/library/weekly/ridgewood/bl-ridgewood10.htm), a Dutch colonial farmhouse built in 1709 and one of the oldest structures in Queens.

1. Age:
* The median age of Ridgewood NY, real estate is 76 years. The houses were built between 1999-2005 include 3.29 %.
1. Condition:
* Majority of the houses are old but well-kept and in a good condition.
1. Gardens:
* Majority of houses have small private back yards and there are trees planted in front of the entrances of the town houses of Ridgewood.
1. Quality:
* The quality of houses is good. All houses have electricity, heating, gas, warm and cold water.
* The median home value in Ridgewood, NY is $465,500. Home appreciation is -0.97% over the last year.
1. Vacancy:
* Renters make up 61.47% of the Ridgewood population; 6.12% of houses and apartments in Ridgewood are unoccupied

(6) People :

1. Age:
* The median age of Ridgewood population is 37. People in the age group 1-5, 6-11, 12-17 year of age are about 8.5 %, 18 -24 years of age are about 10.5%, 25-34 years of age 16.5 %, 35-44 year of age 12 %, 45-54 are 12.8 %, 55-64 are 9.1%, 65 -74 are 5.3 %, 75-84 are 3.4 %, 85 and more 1.4 %.
1. Dress:
* People of Ridgewood are wearing casual clothing that has to be clean and neat. Slight variation in fashion can be noticed between different nationalities; however, the variations are all within the limits of existing American fashion.
1. Socioeconomic status:
* Unemployment rate: 8.40 %

Ridgewood population represented by lower class and middle class families with 52 % of residents having less than 50 k household income and 48 % having higher than 50 k household income.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ESTIMATED HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME** |  |  |
| **Income Less Than 15K** | **15.69%** | **12.10%** |
| **Income between 15K and 25K** | **10.87%** | **10.18%** |
| **Income between 25K and 35K** | **10.74%** | **10.56%** |
| **Income between 35K and 50K** | **15.91%** | **14.98%** |
| **Income between 50K and 75K** | **20.74%** | **19.53%** |
| **Income between 75K and 100K** | **11.41%** | **12.52%** |
| **Income between 100K and 150K** | **10.33%** | **12.14%** |
| **Income between 150K and 250K** | **2.70%** | **3.91%** |
| **Income between 250K and 500K** | **1.40%** | **3.34%** |
| **Income greater than 500K** | **0.21%** | **0.75%** |
| **POPULATION BY OCCUPATION** |  |  |
| **Management, Business, and Financial Operations** | **8.06%** | **13.81%** |
| **Professional and Related Occupations** | **13.49%** | **22.68%** |
| **Service** | **17.28%** | **14.51%** |
| **Sales and Office** | **23.50%** | **25.22%** |
| **Farming, Fishing, and Forestry** | **0.08%** | **0.68%** |
| **Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance** | **12.24%** | **9.37%** |
| **Production, Transportation, and Material Moving** | **17.12%** | **15.86%** |

1. Gender:
* male population is 49.05 %, female population is 50.95 %

 43.42% of people in Ridgewood NY, are married and 8.06% are divorced. The average household size is 2.88 people. 49.16% of people are married, with children. 48.46% have children, but are single

 e) Population density:

* The 2011 Ridgewood NY, population is 99,954. There are 22,518 people per square mile, which is very high level of population density in comparison to 87 people per square mile in US overall.

#####  f) Race

* 60.03% of people are white, 2.48% are black, 5.92% are Asian, 0.34% are Native American, and 31.23% claim 'Other'.45.61% of the people in Ridgewood ,NY, claim Hispanic ethnicity (meaning 54.39% are non-hispanic). Hispanic residents are represented by Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central Americans, and South Americans. Asian residents are represented by the Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, and other Asians. Among whites the Irish, Italians, Polish, Albanians, Germans are in majority.
1. Religion:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Religion** | **Ridgewood, NY** | **United States** |
| **Percent Religious** | **44.97%** | **48.34%** |
| **Catholic** | **26.65%** | **21.76%** |
| **LDS** | **0.30%** | **1.66%** |
| **Baptist** | **0.84%** | **8.38%** |
| **Episcopalian** | **0.56%** | **0.53%** |
| **Pentecostal** | **0.51%** | **1.78%** |
| **Lutheran** | **0.51%** | **2.49%** |
| **Methodist** | **0.51%** | **2.98%** |
| **Presbyterian** | **0.32%** | **1.07%** |
| **Other Christian** | **2.57%** | **5.20%** |
| **Jewish** | **9.63%** | **1.81%** |
| **Eastern** | **0.00%** | **0.05%** |
| **Islam** | **2.57%** | **0.64%** |

(7) Safety services :

1. EMS:
* Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps Inc.

503 Onderdonk Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

The Corps' general hours of operation are from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight, most days of the week. There are also many nights when there are 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m. crews.

* Senior Care EMS

6315 Traffic Ave

Ridgewood, NY 11385

* Wyckoff Hospital EMS

374 Stockholm Street

Brooklyn, NY, 11385

1. Fire department houses:
* Fire Department -Engine 291
5607 Metropolitan Ave
Ridgewood, NY 11385
1. Police:
* 104th Precinct of NYPD
64-2 Catalpa Ave, Queens, NY, 11385 tel. (718) 386-3004.
The 104th Precinct is located in the northwest section of Queens, covering the areas of Ridgewood, Glendale, Middle Village and Maspeth. There are 60 Houses of Worship and 18 cemeteries, of all faiths located within this command (including most of Ridgewood, plus Glendale, Middle Village, and Maspeth).

Reported in 2011: 2 murder (5 in 2001), 14 rapes (15 in 2001), 262 robberies (359 in 2001), 250 felonious assaults (262 in 2001), 402 burglaries (790 in 2001).

1. Shelters:

Ridgewood does not have shelters for homeless or women and children. Listed shelters are the nearby shelters for those who are in need in case of disaster or life crisis.

* Covenant House New York - Queens Community Resource Center

159-17 Hillside Avenue

Queens, NY 11433

* [Women With A Cause, Inc](http://www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/cgi-bin/id/shelter.cgi?shelter=11849)
Queens, NY 11432

(8) Shopping/common areas:

a) Types of eateries/restaurants: Pizzerias, Chinese restaurants, polish restaurants, Mexican restaurants, Bosnian restaurants, German restaurants. The prices are reasonable. Pizzerias and Chinese restaurants are offering lower prices and other restaurants are offering decent meal starting from 10 $.

* [Bona Polish Restaurant](http://queens.about.com/cs/restaurantreviews/gr/rr_bona.htm)

71-24 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385.

* Joe's Pizzeria

66-53 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385.

* Bosna-Express
1. Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY, 11385.

b)Stores:

* Small stores (more Mom and Pop than chains) line Myrtle Avenue and Fresh Pond Road. Key Foods, Stop and Shop supermarkets are available and are both located in the heart of Ridgewood. There is great variety of foods sold and prices are reasonable. Majority of the stores are selling fresh fruits and vegetables.

Ridgewood has many small eateries, restaurants, food stores. Therefore, residents have an easy access to great variety of foods.

c)Theatres:

* Regal Cinemas Atlas Park Stadium 8

80-28 Cooper Ave, Glendale, 11385, NY.

Admission tickets: $13-17 per person.

(9) Transportation (availability, avenues/ highways, modes/types) (1 point)

1. Availability:
* The M line runs elevated through central Ridgewood (Fresh Pond Road, Forest Avenue, and Seneca Avenue stations) and cuts across Brooklyn to lower Manhattan. At Myrtle/Wyckoff subway station transfer to the L train is available, and L train traverses Williamsburg on its way to Manhattan's Union Square (less than 45 minutes total). At the end of the M train is the [Fresh Pond Yard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresh_Pond_Yard), a storage yard for the M train.
* The Ridgewood Terminal at that station serves the [B13](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B13_%28New_York_City_bus%29), [B26](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B26_%28New_York_City_bus%29), [B52](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B52_%28New_York_City_bus%29), [B54](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B54_%28New_York_City_bus%29), [Q55](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q55_%28New_York_City_bus%29), and [Q58](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q58_%28New_York_City_bus%29) bus lines. The [B20](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B20_%28New_York_City_bus%29), [B38](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B38_%28New_York_City_bus%29), [Q39](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q39_%28New_York_City_bus%29) and [Q54](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Q54_%28New_York_City_bus%29) bus lines also serve Ridgewood. In addition, the neighborhood is home to the large [Fresh Pond Bus Depot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresh_Pond_Bus_Depot), which services many of the buses that run throughout Brooklyn and Queens.
1. Avenues/highways:
* The main avenues of Ridgewood are Myrtle Avenue, Central Avenue, Metropolitan Avenue, Flushing Avenue, Forest Avenue, Fresh Pond Road
* Along the border with Brooklyn is the Jackie Robinson Parkway, which is a short route to the Van Wyck Expressway and Grand Central Parkway.

 All roads in Ridgewood are well-paved and clearly marked, which makes it easy to access various areas of Ridgewood.

1. Modes/types:
* Buses
* subway trains
* Private cars.

 However, the main avenues are narrow and often get jammed at rush hours. The roads do not have bicycle paths, so riding a bicycle can be extremely dangerous on the streets of Ridgewood.

(10) Overall status of the community:

 After thorough assessment of Ridgewood community, I came to the conclusion that overall status of the community is good. There are plenty of places where people can meet to socialize, for instance, churches, ethnical and religious centers, libraries, restaurants, sport clubs, senior centers, and parks. Ridgewood is home for people with various ethnicities that co-exist side by side enriching the culture of one another.

 The town takes care of its younger generation by having plenty of elementary and intermediate public and private schools in the neighborhood. However, [Grover Cleveland High School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grover_Cleveland_High_School_%28New_York_City%29) is the only high school in Ridgewood, and is the zoned public high school to most of Ridgewood. Over the last couple of years there has been serious debate as to whether this high school as well as a number of other schools should be closed down due to low scores and gang violence in and surrounding the school. To this day however, it still remains as the only public high school in the neighborhood. Having a very high level of population density, more high schools are needed for this area.

 Ridgewood residents enjoy the great variety of stores and restaurants with fairly affordable prices and great selection of various types of foods. The houses of the community are in a good condition, and electricity, heating, and water services provided to them. The neighborhood is covered with well-functioning public transportation system including buses and subway. Ridgewood roads are well-maintained and linked to major expressways that are connecting New York City Boroughs.

 The environment of Ridgewood is relatively good. The air contains harmful fumes; however, its levels are within normal limits and are not linked to health problems of the neighborhood. More attention should be given to the air pollution due to the fact that 29 % of premature deaths in this area are related to cancer. The streets of Ridgewood are clean and neat. Majority of households are involved in city garbage recycling program, and the garbage is taken away by Sanitation Department once a week every Friday morning.

 Ridgewood police station, fire department houses, and EMS services are on guard and making the town safer place to live in. The absence of shelters for homeless people as well as for women and children is a problem that yet to be solved. In my opinion, the town with the population density of 22,518 people per square mile has to have shelters.

 Ridgewood houses variety of medical offices with different areas of expertise, such as dermatology, plastic surgery, ophthalmology, internal medicine, physical therapy, pediatrics, and dialysis. Residents of Ridgewood have a good access to medical care due to various hours of operation of medical offices and clinics, as well as availability of hospital and emergency room of the hospital functioning 24/7.

 (11) Areas of weakness and strengths:

 Ridgewood has its areas of weakness and strength. High population density makes this community more vulnerable in case of disease outbreak. Also, lack of shelters for homeless and women and children is a weakness that needs to be addressed by the Community Health Nurses.

 More high schools are needed in the neighborhood for its younger members to continue their education. Though, availability of many elementary and middle schools in the neighborhood is definitely a plus.

 Immunization among older adults is a problem that has to be addressed accordingly. Less than half of older adults in West Central Queens have ever received the pneumococcal vaccine, which protects against one common cause of pneumonia.

 Even though, the houses in Ridgewood are in a good condition, but many of them are old and the cases of lead poisoning are not uncommon. Lead poisoning among young children continues to be a problem. In 2004, sixty children in West Central Queens were newly identified with lead poisoning. More attention should be given to this problem by the Community Health Nurses through parent’s education and primary prevention and early treatment.

 The primary cause of premature death in West Central Queens is cancer. Cancer causes the most years of potential life lost in West Central Queens and includes 29% of all potential causes of premature death. Women are less likely to get cancer screenings for breast and cervical cancer than women in NYC overall. In addition, less than half of adults aged 50 and older in West Central Queens have had a colonoscopy in the past 10 years. The highest cancer-related death rates among men in West Central Queens are due to lung, colon, and prostate cancers. Among women, lung, breast, and blood-related (such as lymphoid) cancers are the top 3 causes of cancer-related death. Therefore, all health care providers should focus on prevention and early diagnosis of various types of cancer.

 However, Ridgewood community has a great access to medical services, but one in four adults is currently uninsured or went without insurance at some time during the past year. This puts many adults at risk of diagnosing the disease when the treatment prognosis is rather poor or will require long rehabilitation period after treatment.

 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 in 6 West Central Queens residents (17%) currently smokes. That is a high percentage of people putting themselves and their significant others through second hand smoking at risk of developing various chronicle diseases.

 According to the New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (2006), the death rate in West Central Queens has decreased by more than 10% in the past decade, mirroring the rate drop in New York City overall. In 2003-2004, the average annual death rate in West Central Queens was similar to the Queens rate and more than 10% lower than New York City overall.

 HIV-related death rates in West Central Queens have dropped dramatically in the past decade and remain lower than NYC overall. In 2002- 2004 infant mortality rate in West Central Queens was lower than in NYC overall. Adults in West Central Queens are less likely to report having asthma than those in New York City overall.

 In 2003-2004, the community’s average annual rate of mental illness hospitalization was lower than both the Queens rate and rate in New York City overall. In 2003-2004, the average annual alcohol-related hospitalization rate in West Central Queens was lower than in Queens and in New York City overall. The drug-related hospitalization rate in 2003-2004 was slightly higher than in Queens but lower than the rate in New York City overall.

 (12) Two (2) ways in which the role of the Community Health Nurse may help to maximize the health of the community.

 Community Health Nurse plays an important role in helping to maximize the health of the community through identifying the health problems of the community and trying to allocate all resources to solve these problems.

 The primary role of Community Health Nurse is a health educator. The Community Health Nurse will increase awareness of health issues through health education of Ridgewood community creating strong foundation for its health promotion and lifestyle changes. The educational needs of the community will be assessed and individual and group educational strategies will be provided by the nurse. To decrease the death rate from cancer in Ridgewood, the Community Health Nurses will have to focus on prevention and early diagnosis of cancer. The community population will be educated about causes of various types of cancer and its signs and symptoms. Cancer screening will be encouraged and facilitated by health care providers. Smoking quitting programs will be reinforced in the community, as smoking is one of the known factors that puts people at risk of developing cancer. The Community Health Nurse might have to develop educational displays or flyers, or write educational articles for the community newsletter or website.

 Community Health Nurses will have to work with local, state, and federal government to advocate and successfully introduce new health-promotion programs in the community of Ridgewood. For example, nurses may initiate a health promotion program aimed at increasing physical activity levels of residents and reducing the incidence of overweight and obesity by teaching healthy eating habits. The role of the Community Health Nurse as an advocate includes helping individuals obtain needed services or care whether in the hospital, a long-term care facility, or at home. In the advocate role, Community Health Nurse will use the knowledge of the health care system and awareness of safe and effective care practices to facilitate appropriate and timely intervention. Advocacy is especially indicated when dealing with vulnerable populations, such older adults, children, or the homeless, who may not have the ability to speak for themselves or may lack the knowledge or awareness of what constitutes safe care. Thus, the Community Health Nurse will have to advocate for opening more high schools in Ridgewood, so that those students who leave in this area can go the local schools and would not have to travel to another borough to continue their education. Another issue the Community Health Nurse will have to advocate for in Ridgewood community is creation of shelters for women and children and homeless people as a backup plan in case of natural disaster in this neighborhood.

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