

Name: Teacher Version _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

Activity 9.3: NYC Neighborhoods – Health and Wealth

Look at the graph titled, “Wealth and Diabetes.”

1. Which neighborhood suffers most from diabetes, proportionally? Which neighborhoods suffer the least? Looking at their median incomes, do your answers match your general statement on the relationship between wealth and health? If not, how do you need to change your statement to incorporate this new information?

Williamsburg-Bushwick suffers the most with 18%. Four neighborhoods, Kingsbridge-Riverdale, Downtown-Heights-Slope, Upper East Side, and Lower Manhattan suffer the least with 4% each.

2. Using the spreadsheet, find the neighborhoods Northeast Bronx and Borough Park. What is similar about them? What is different?

Northeast Bronx has a median household income of \$39,559. Fourteen percent of its population suffers from diabetes. Borough Park has a median income of \$31,801. Six percent of its population suffers from diabetes

3. Draw a line between the two plot points from question 2. Does this line match with the general trend line that fits the whole graph? Does it match with your general statement on the relationship between health and wealth? What factors might be affecting the rate of diabetes in these neighborhoods.

The line shows an upward slope, indicating that as median income increases in these two neighborhoods, so too does percentage of population that suffer from diabetes. This runs counter to the general statement that as median income increases, public illness decreases. This shows that several factors can affect this outcome, including demographics - a higher percentage of elderly in Northeast Bronx, for example.

Look at the graph and corresponding spreadsheet titled, “Asthma Hospitalizations.”

1. Which neighborhood suffers the most from asthma? Which the least? Looking at their median incomes, do your answers match your general statement on the relationship between wealth and health? If not, how do you need to change your statement to incorporate this new information?

East Harlem suffers the most with 18%. Borough Park suffers the least with 1%; Yes, it should.

2. Look at the graph. How many neighborhoods suffer from childhood hospitalization rates of 4 per 1,000 children? What is the range of their median incomes?

6 neighborhoods, with a range of incomes from \$39,559 to \$85,999

3. Why might these neighborhoods, despite differences in income, experience similar rates of childhood asthma hospitalizations?

Think back to the factors: newer homes with less indoor hazards, presence of polluting factories and major thoroughfares, access to hospitals and quality care.

Do you think neighborhood wealth causes public health problems like diabetes and asthma? Or do you think neighborhood wealth tends to correlate with other neighborhood characteristics that cause the health problems? Explain your response.

Neighborhoods with lower incomes are less likely to have healthy food, less likely to have green space and more likely to have poor air quality. These other factors are what actually cause the various health problems.