Module 05: Public Health & Water Quality

April 2021

Student Pages - NYC Neighborhoods: Health and Wealth

Center for Urban Resilience

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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?

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

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.
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?

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?

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

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.