

## West Suburban Community Health Network (CHNA) 18 Community Needs Assessment – Dedham Supplement

The Town of Dedham participated in a community health assessment which included Dedham, Dover, Needham, Dedham, Waltham, Wellesley, Weston and Westwood. 100 interviews were conducted, including seven with residents and professionals in Dedham, yielding rich information about the health of Dedham citizens.

Overall, Dedham compares favorably with the other communities in CHNA 18 and with the state of Massachusetts with respect to community health status.

	<i>Population (2005)</i>	<i>Median Income (2000)</i>	<i>% Below Poverty Line (2000)</i>	<i>% of children getting free or reduced price lunch (2010-11)</i>	<i>Population per square mile (2011)</i>
Dedham	23,681	\$61,699	4.6%	23.2%	2,376
<i>CHNA 18</i>	<i>309,560</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>2,783</i>
<i>Massachusetts</i>	<i>6,436,940</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>9.3%</i>	<i>34.2%</i>	<i>839</i>

### Summary Data

#### General Health Status

Dedham has the same rate of mortality, smoking, hypertension, adult obesity and HIV/AIDS as the state overall.

Dedham has a higher rate of diabetes, teen births, motor vehicle ER visits and pediatric asthma than the State.

#### Demographics

Dedham has a lower percentage of Black, Hispanic and Asian residents than CHNA 18 and the State of Massachusetts.

Dedham has higher percentage of people below 200% of the poverty line than most CHNA 18 communities, though still lower than the State.

Dedham has a higher percentage of people 65+ and a higher percentage of residents over 80 years old than the State.

#### Community Strengths

The most important community strength noted by respondents was community involvement.

#### Top Health Concerns

Mental Health, especially substance abuse

Financial strain

## Spotlight Health Issue: Mental Health

### Summary

- Dedham has a higher rate (6.5%) of adults reporting more than 15 days poor mental health in the last month than other CHNA 18 communities (4.7%), though still lower than the State (8.9%).
- Dedham has a higher rate of substance-abuse related hospitalizations than the State.
- The percentage of unemployed residents in Dedham is significantly higher than other CHNA 18 communities and the rest of the State, and has more than doubled since 1999-2001.

### Selected Interviewee Comments

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*"Civic and community groups engage people and keep them aware"*  
police chief

*"There are trails and fields -people have access to passive recreation"*  
municipal employee

*"People tend to know each other...it is an active community and people get involved"*  
municipal employee

*"Cost of healthcare from a personal and town perspective...the prices keep going up and up"*  
municipal employee

*"Other towns have trouble getting people to run for office, we never have that problem..it's a good thing to have so many people involved."*  
municipal employee

*"Real estate values are dropping. It's an issue for seniors trying to stay in the own homes with the high taxes"*  
town selectman