

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

The Town of Dover participated in a community health assessment which included Brookline, Dedham, Needham, Dover, Waltham, Wellesley, Dover and Westwood. Interviews were conducted with residents and professionals in Dover, yielding rich information about the health of Dover residents.

Overall, Dover compares extremely 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>
Dover	11,591	\$153,918	2.9%	3.4%	702
CHNA 18	309,560		4.5%		2,783
Massachusetts	6,436,940		9.3%	34.2%	839

Summary Data

General Health Status

Dover has lower rates of mortality, diabetes, smoking, hypertension, adult obesity, asthma and motor vehicle-related ER visits than the State.

Demographics

Dover has a higher percentage of White residents, a lower percentage of Black, Asian and Hispanic residents than CHNA 18 as a whole.

Dover has a higher percentage of residents age 19 and younger and a lower percentage of those age 65+ than other CHNA 18 towns and Massachusetts communities as a whole.

The most significant community strengths identified were:

- Community involvement
- Adequate resources
- Adequate green space

Top Health Concerns

- Mental Health (especially social isolation and depression/anxiety)
- Financial strain

Spotlight Health Issue: Mental Health

Summary

- Dover has a lower percentage of hospitalizations for substance abuse or opioid-related injuries than Massachusetts as a whole
- Dover has a lower rate of Emergency Department visits related to alcohol and substance abuse than the state.
- While the percentage of unemployed Dover residents has more than doubled since 1999-2001, it still remains substantially lower than the state.

Selected Interviewee Comments

"For seniors, transportation is a big issue because there is no public transportation in Dover"
COA staff

"People in Dover are proud - they are not as willing to accept help for themselves, but very willing to help others"
Local pastor

"Prescription drugs are readily available, it goes "straight through the line"- at the schools there is some sharing and dealing"
Police officer

" There are the economic "haves and have nots", and the "have nots" are frowned upon"
Local pastor

"Seniors 80 and older are "cash poor and house rich"....they are watching what they spend their money on, it is changing their retirement plans"
COA staff

"I worry about kids being pushed to be over achievers so they suffer from anxiety"
Church elder

The West Suburban Community Health Network Area (CHNA) 18 is a regional coalition of public, non-profit, and private organizations working together to build healthier communities. For more information about CHNA 18, email: administrator@chna18.org. To view additional more extensive data, visit our website at www.chna18.org.