

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

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

Overall, Wellesley 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>
Wellesley	26,975	\$113,686	3.8%	4.0%	2,693
<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

Wellesley has lower rates of mortality, diabetes, smoking, hypertension, adult obesity, HIV/AIDS, teen births and motor vehicle-related ED visits than the State. It has a significantly higher multiple birth rate than both the state and other CHNA 18 communities.

Demographics

Wellesley has a lower percentage of Black and Hispanic residents and a higher percentage of Asian residents than the State.

Wellesley has a greater percentage of young people under age 19 than do other towns in CHNA 18 and the State.

Community Strengths

The most frequent community strengths noted were:

- Community involvement
- Strong collaborations
- Strong schools

- **Top Health Concerns**
- Mental Health (especially depression/anxiety, academic stress and substance abuse)
- Financial Strain

Spotlight Health Issue: Mental Health

Summary

- Wellesley has a higher rate of ED visits related to alcohol/substance abuse than the State.
- 4.3% of Wellesley adults report experience more than 15 days of poor mental health in a month, as compared to close to nine percent of adults in Massachusetts.
- Wellesley has a lower percentage of hospitalizations for substance abuse or opioid-related injuries than Massachusetts as a whole
- While the percentage of unemployed Wellesley residents has more than doubled since 1999-2001, it still remains substantially lower than the state

Selected Interviewee Comments

“Wellesley is a warm and welcoming place where people are willing to go the extra mile and volunteer their time”

Clergyperson

“People don't realize dads have lost jobs and are trying to maintain the facade that they are okay”

Recreation provider

“People are very proactive in identifying issues, sharing resources and working together”

Police officer

“There seems to be a constant, accelerating, unrealistically high level of expectation for performance”

Mental health provider

There's a decline of strong shared norms for parenting kids and a loss in confidence among parents in asserting themselves with their kids”

Mental health provider

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.