

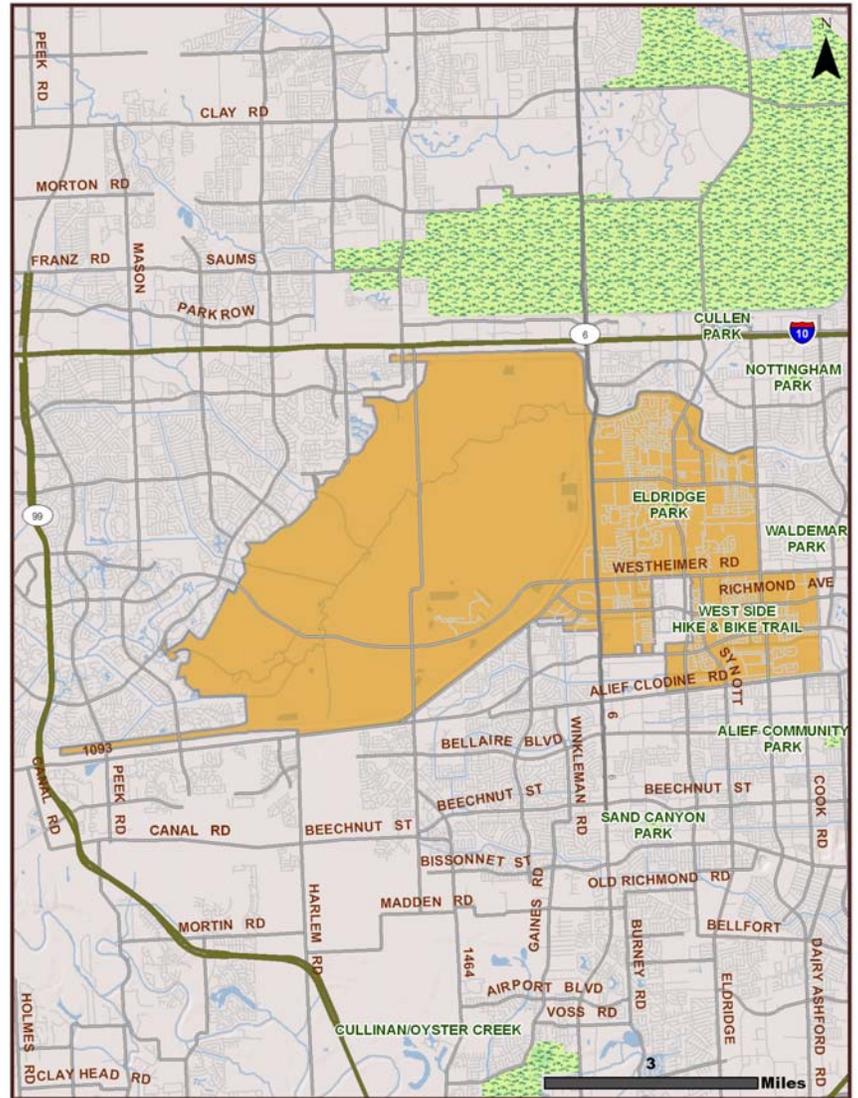
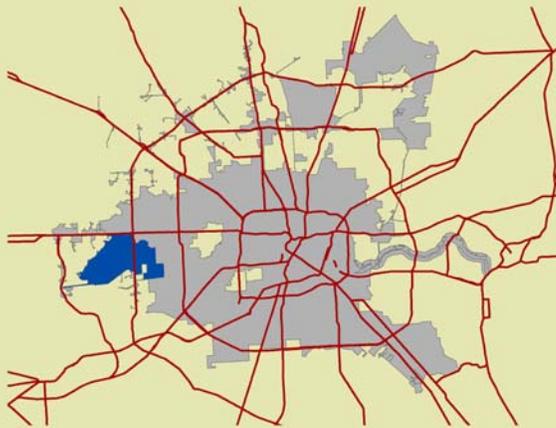
1999-2003



Community Health Profiles

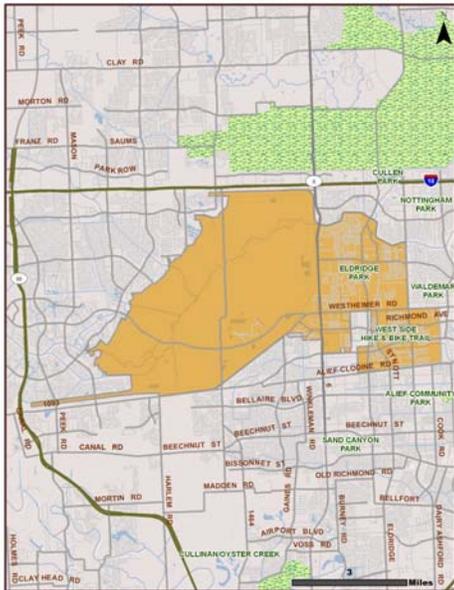


Eldridge-West Oaks Super Neighborhood



*Providing Health Information
for Community Action*

Introduction



This community health profile highlights important health issues facing the residents of the Eldridge-West Oaks Super Neighborhood.

In Houston, a “super neighborhood” is a geographically defined area where residents, civic organizations, institutions and businesses work together to identify, plan, and set priorities to address the needs and concerns of their community. The boundaries of each super neighborhood rely on major physical features such as bayous or freeways to group together contiguous communities that share common physical characteristics, identity or infrastructure. Eldridge-West Oaks Super Neighborhood will hereinafter be referred to as “Eldridge-West Oaks”.

It is the intention of the Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS), in developing health profiles such as this, to promote a better understanding by local residents, community-based organizations, community leaders, medical providers, and the public health community of the unique character and circumstances of our various communities, and to draw attention to those matters that contribute to the greatest of health disparities among the citizens of our growing, culturally and ethnically diverse city.

This profile also represents an effort on the part of HDHHS to provide a “baseline” of indicators of health in our communities, against which future trends in conditions can be measured and monitored, and appropriate public health actions, taken.

We hope that this health profile will support these efforts in Eldridge-West Oaks and across the City of Houston.

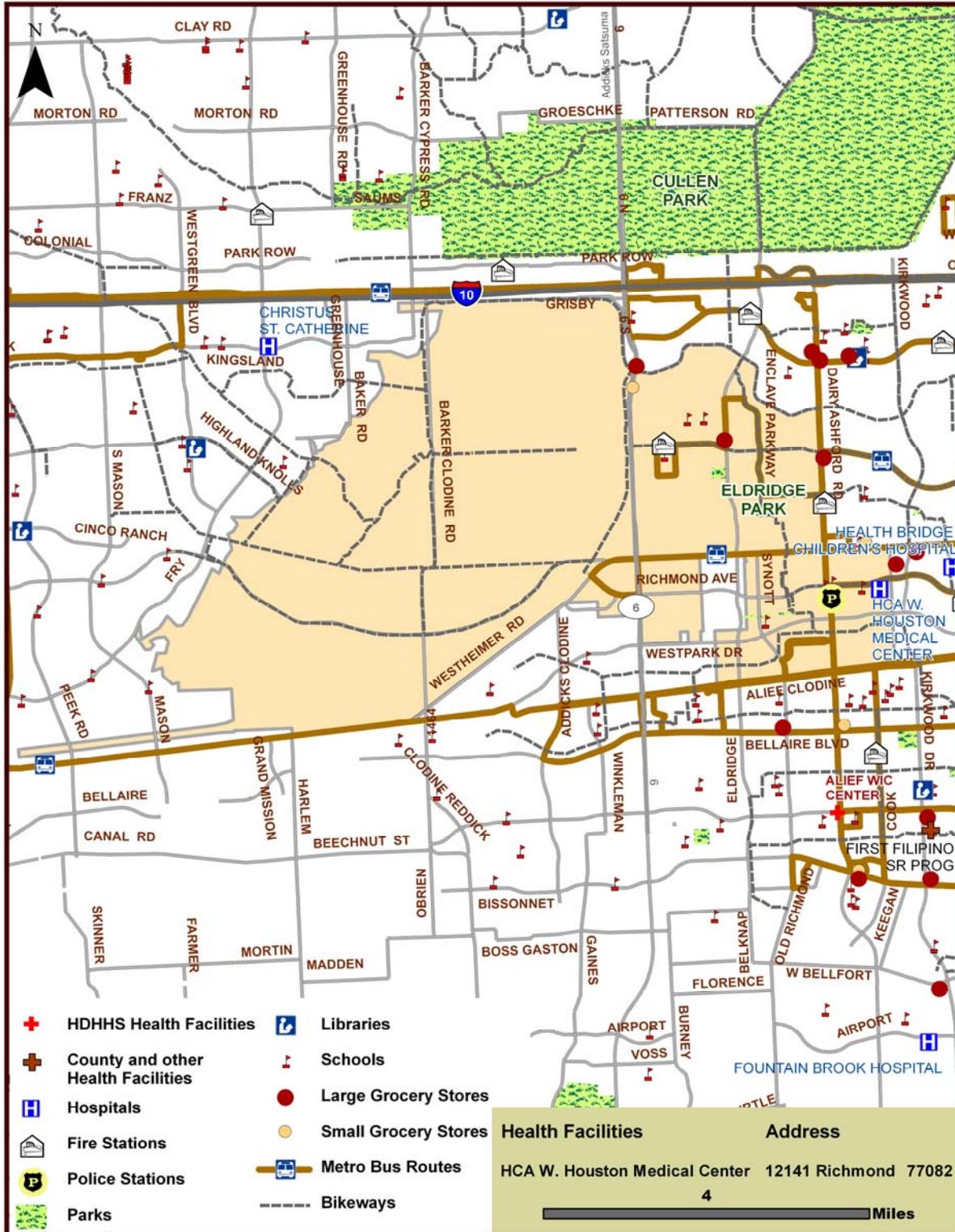
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Community Resources

The health of a community depends to a great extent upon the availability and accessibility of its resources.

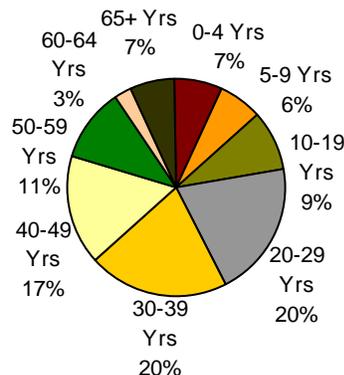


Eldridge-West Oaks at a Glance

The total population of Eldridge-West Oaks was 39,994, according to the 2000 census.*

Age

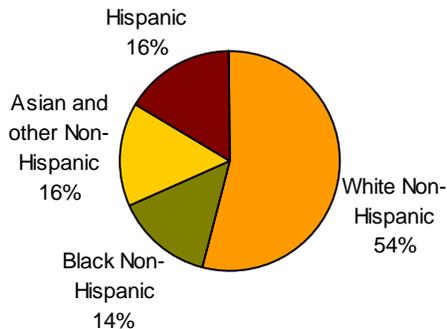
At the time of the 2000 census, 22% of Eldridge-West Oaks residents were under the age of 20. The majority (71%) were between 20 and 64 years of age, and 7% were 65 or older.



Race, Ethnicity, National Origin

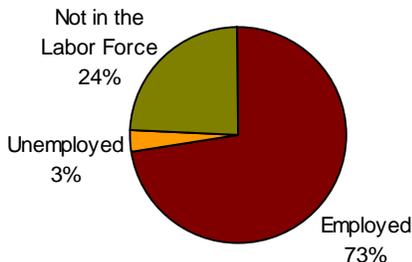
More than half of the residents in Eldridge-West Oaks were White. Sixteen percent were Hispanic; an equal proportion were Asian and other Non-Hispanics. Black represented 14% of the population.

Of the total population, 42% were native Texans; 27% were foreign born.



Employment

Nearly three-quarters of Eldridge-West Oaks residents, ages 16 and over, were employed in 1999.

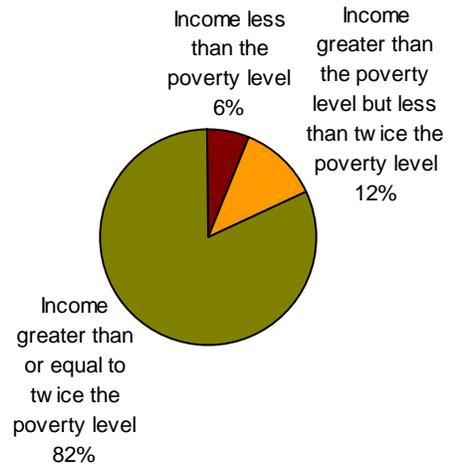


* Data Source: U.S. Census 2000. Total population was calculated from census block-level data using Summary File 1. For purposes of describing demographics using Summary File 3, the super neighborhood is defined by the following census geographies: Tracts 4514, 4515, 4516, 4517, 4519, 4520, 4544; and Tract 4518, Block Groups 1 & 3.

Poverty

Only 6% of the population in Eldridge-West Oaks was below the poverty level in 1999. Less than one-fifth (18%) of all residents in the super neighborhood had incomes less than twice the poverty level.

Of those living below the poverty level, 30% were children under 18 years of age; 6% were adults 65 and older.

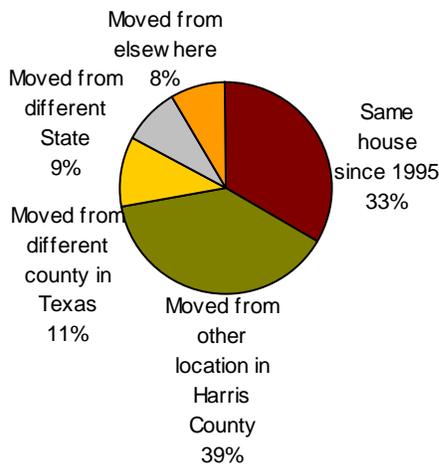
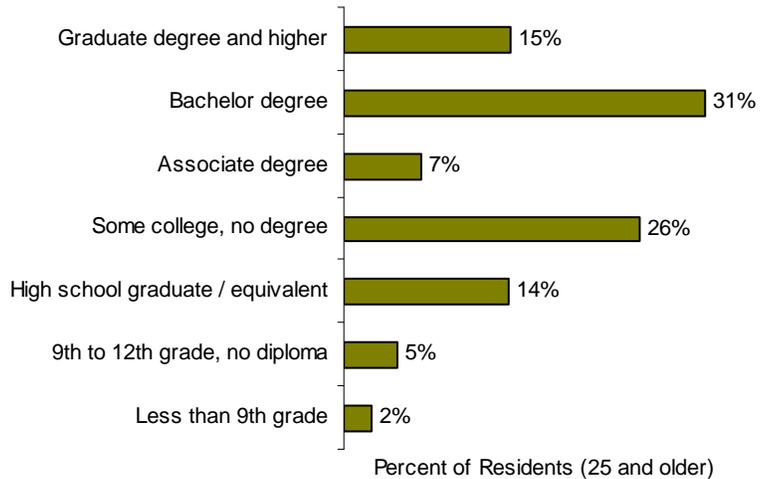


Education

Less than one-tenth (7%) of Eldridge-West Oaks residents, ages 25 and over, reported that they had not graduated from high school.

Fourteen percent of residents reported a high school diploma (or the equivalent) as their highest level of educational attainment.

Approximately 79% of residents had attained education beyond the high school level, with 53% earning a college degree.



Population Stability

One-third of the Eldridge-West Oaks residents had lived in the same house since 1995. More than one-third moved to Eldridge-West Oaks from other locations in Harris County between 1995 and 1999.

More than one-quarter (28%) of residents moved to the area from outside Harris County between 1995 and 1999.

Data Source: U.S. Census 2000, Summary File 3

Major Causes of Death

During the years 1999-2003, the residents of the super neighborhood had lower overall and cause-specific annual average mortality rates from leading causes than those of Houston as a whole. However, the mortality rate for stroke was higher in the community than Houston overall.

Leading Causes of Mortality, Eldridge-West Oaks, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

Rank	Cause of Death	Eldridge-West Oaks		Houston	Eldridge-West Oaks - Houston
		Deaths	Rates*	Rates*	Rates
	All Causes	972	760.5	898.2	-137.7
1	Heart Disease	253	214.5	262.0	-47.5
2	Cancer	242	186.5	197.6	-11.1
3	Stroke	108	89.3	76.0	13.3
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	33	29.5	31.9	-2.4
5	Accidents	46	24.5	34.8	-10.3
6	Alzheimer's Disease	23	--	20.5	--
7	Influenza and Pneumonia	19	--	20.0	--
8	Septicemia	15	--	18.1	--
9	Suicide	23	--	9.6	--
10	Diabetes Mellitus	11	--	28.0	--

Other Causes of Death of Particular Interest, Eldridge-West Oaks, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

Cause of Death	Eldridge-West Oaks		Houston	Eldridge-West Oaks - Houston
	Deaths	Rates*	Rates*	Rates
Coronary Heart Disease	167	142.5	174.1	-31.6
Bronchus-Lung Cancer	51	41.2	52.8	-11.6
Motor Vehicle Accident	18	--	13.2	--
Drug-Induced Cause	17	--	8.2	--
Firearm Related	7	--	7.4	--
Cervical Cancer	5	--	2.2	--

*Age-adjusted mortality rates: annual average deaths per 100,000 population; census 2000 populations as the denominators; age-adjusted to the 2000 US Standard Million; deaths with known age and disease information.

-- Numbers of deaths were too small for rate calculation.

Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census, 2000

Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)

Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) is an indicator of premature mortality. This indicator suggests social and economic loss owing to premature death. It also gives information on the specific causes of deaths affecting younger age groups.

Leading Causes of Premature Death	YPLL Rate*	YPLL Rate**	Houston YPLL Rate**
Cancer	745.2	770.9	816.3
Accidents	660.0	625.8	779.0
Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Periods	439.1	--	-
Heart Disease	317.9	320.5	689.3
Suicide	239.7	--	-
Homicide	134.0	--	-
Congenital Disorders	104.5	--	-
Stroke	85.2	--	-
Chronic Liver Disease-Cirrhosis	62.7	--	-
Influenza and Pneumonia	41.8	--	-
Specific Causes of Interest			
Drug-Induced Cause	256.3	--	-
Motor Vehicle Accident	250.9	--	-
Coronary Heart Disease	218.2	222.6	376.1
Bronchus-Lung Cancer	129.7	--	-
Firearm Related	68.6	--	-

NOTE: Special cause of death categories may not be mutually exclusive.
 * Crude annual average YPLL per 100,000 population under age 65 years.
 ** Age-adjusted annual average YPLL per 100,000 population under age of 65, standardized for 2000 US Standard Million.
 -- Number of deaths too small for age-adjustment.
 - Houston data not presented because comparison data were not available for the community.

Differences in YPLL rates between Men and Women, 1999-2003

In the super neighborhood, premature deaths from accidents, heart disease, and suicide had higher impact on annual average YPLL rates among males than females, while cancer and perinatal period conditions were higher among females than in males.

Rate of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL Rate)

At every age of death, there is a certain number of years of "expected life" that are not lived, and are therefore "lost". The amount of lost years of life often differ by cause of death. Many people consider death before the age of 65 years as premature. More years of life were lost prematurely due to cancer, accidents, perinatal period conditions, heart disease, and suicide related deaths in this community than any other causes.

The age-adjusted annual average YPLL rates for cancer, accidents, and heart disease were lower in the super neighborhood than those in Houston as a whole. Comparison of other age-adjusted YPLL rates is not possible because of the relatively small number of deaths occurring before age 65 in Eldridge-West Oaks. YPLL is not reported where fewer than 5 deaths occurred.

Leading Causes of Premature Death §	Male YPLL Rates (number of deaths)	Female YPLL Rates (number of deaths)
Accidents	992.6 (25)	341.9 (12)
Cancer	496.8 (36)	982.7 (59)
Heart Disease	423.4 (27)	217.1 (14)
Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Periods	414.6 (6)	462.5 (7)
Suicide	306.0 (13)	176.2 (6)
Specific Causes of Interest		
Motor Vehicle Accident	398.1 (11)	110.1 (5)
Coronary Heart Disease	329.0 (20)	112.2 (9)
Drug-Induced Cause	245.7 (8)	266.4 (8)

§ Ranked by Male YPLL Rate
 Note: Annual average YPLL rates might be unstable due to small number of premature deaths.

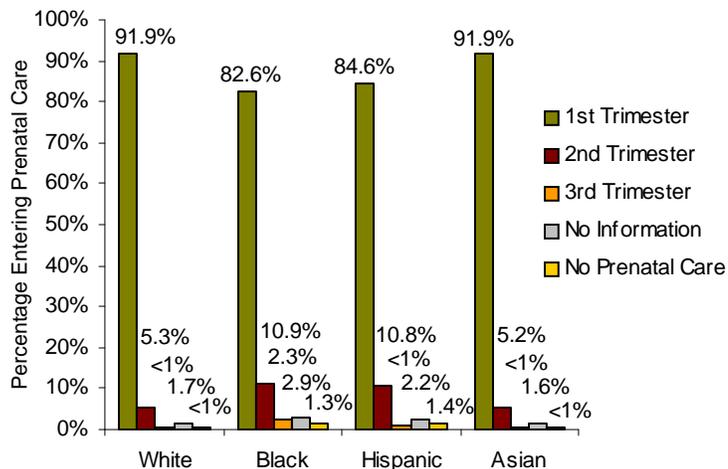
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census, 2000

Maternal and Child Health

Prenatal care is the care a woman gets during pregnancy. Both prenatal care and birth weight are good indicators of a newborn's chances of survival, growth, long term health, and psycho-social development.

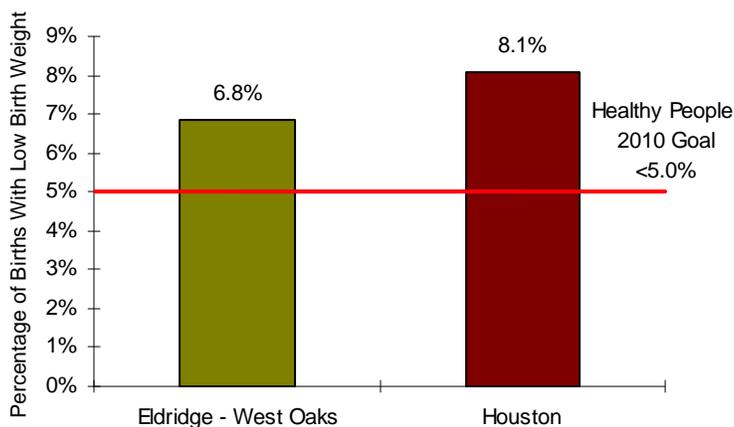
Entry into Prenatal Care by Trimester of Pregnancy, 1999-2003

A similarly high proportion of White women (91.9%) and Asian (91.9%) women entered prenatal care during the first trimester. A slightly lower proportion of Hispanic (84.6%) and Black (82.6%) women in Eldridge-West Oaks entered prenatal care during the first trimester. A small proportion of women in all groups entered prenatal care very late in their pregnancy, or received no care at all.



Low Birth Weight Births (LBWB), 1999-2003

Approximately 7% of live births in Eldridge-West Oaks were of low birth weight (2500 grams or less), which was less than Houston as a whole. Both were above the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 5% of live births being low weight.

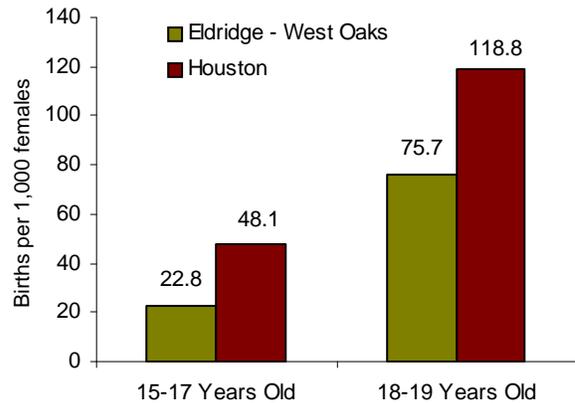
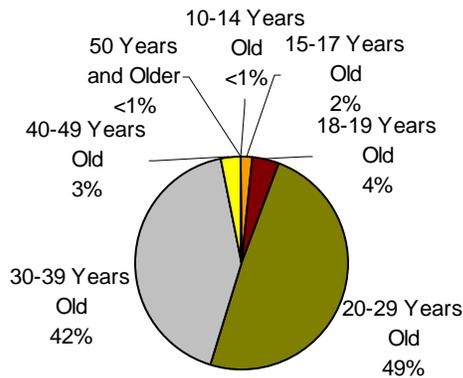


Low birth weight is a factor significantly related to infant mortality. Infants born with low birth weights are at increased risk for serious health problems and long term disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and respiratory, vision, and hearing problems. Low birth weight and infant mortality are therefore among the most important indicators of a community's health.

Data Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics, 1999-2003

Births to Teen Mothers

Teenage childbearing is associated with negative consequences for the children born of teen mothers. In addition, there are important social and economic costs to individuals as well as the society as a result of births to teenage mothers.

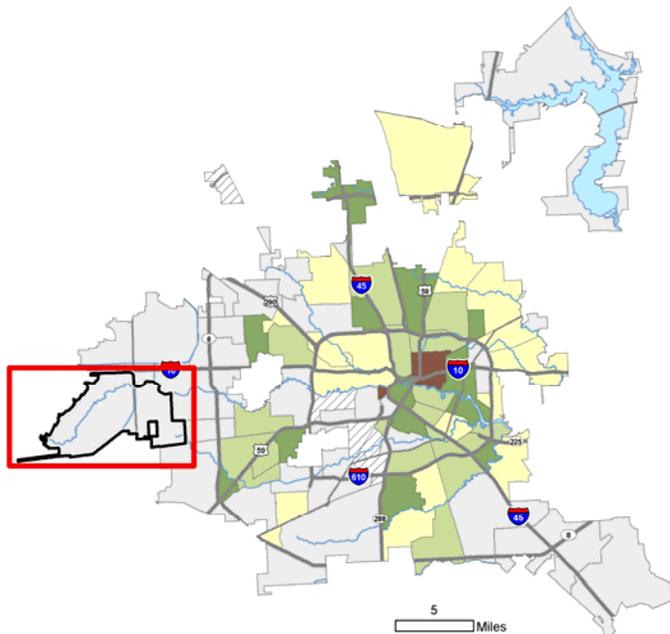


Births by Age of Mother, 1999-2003

A total of 3,348 births were recorded over the period 1999-2003 among mothers in Eldridge-West Oaks. One out of every 15 of these births was to a young mother (10-19 years of age).

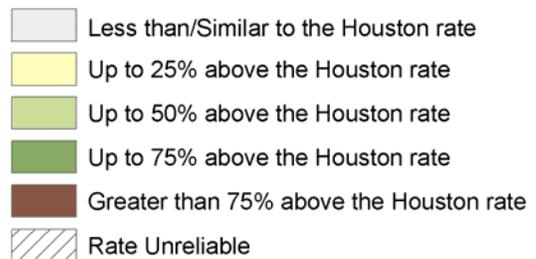
Births to Teen Mothers, 1999-2003

The annual average birth rate for 15-17 year-old teens in Eldridge-West Oaks (22.8 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 years) was 53% lower than the rate in Houston overall. The birth rate among 18-19 year-old females in Eldridge-West Oaks was 36% lower than the total Houston rate.



Births to Teen Mothers by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

Eldridge-West Oaks was among the neighborhoods in Houston with the lowest annual average rates of births to teen mothers (15-17 years of age).



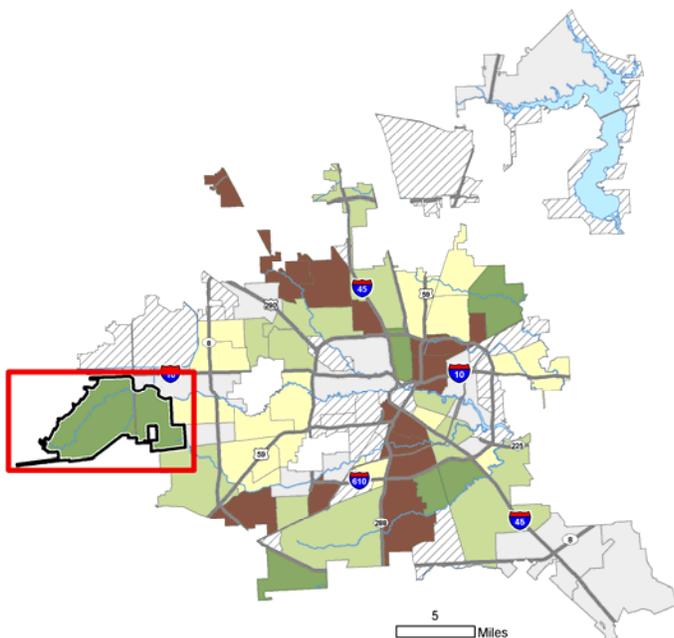
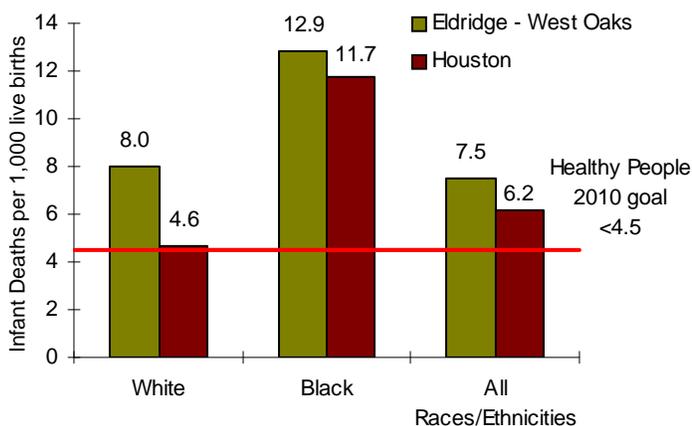
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census 2000

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality annual average rate is the death of infants in the first year of life. It is one of the most important indicators of the health of a community. The Healthy People 2010 goal is to eliminate disparities among racial and ethnic groups with infant mortality rates (IMR) above the national average. The targeted groups are African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native and Puerto Rican populations.

Infant Mortality Rate, 1999-2003

The annual average infant mortality rate in Eldridge-West Oaks was 21% higher than Houston's IMR and 67% higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal of 4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Forty-four percent (44%) of all infant deaths were among Whites in this community. The annual average IMR among Whites was 74% higher than that of Whites in Houston overall. Also, the annual average IMR among Blacks in Eldridge-West Oaks was 10% higher than that of Blacks in Houston as a whole. Infant mortality rate among other races/ethnicities was not reported due to small number of infant deaths.



Infant Mortality Rate by Super Neighborhood 1999-2003

Eldridge-West Oaks was among the neighborhoods with high annual average infant mortality rates.

- Less than/Similar to the Healthy People 2010 goal
- Up to 25% above Healthy People 2010 goal
- Up to 50% above Healthy People 2010 goal
- Up to 75% above Healthy People 2010 goal
- Greater than 75% above Healthy People 2010 goal
- Rate Unreliable

Data Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics

Leading Causes of

Much of the information on health issues that the super neighborhood residents face on a daily basis is not readily available. The leading causes of hospitalization provide a partial picture of those conditions.

Principal Diagnosis, Multiple Level Clinical Classification of ICD 9	Counts
1 Complications of pregnancy; childbirth; and the puerperium	2318
Complications mainly related to pregnancy	648
Indications for care in pregnancy; labor; and delivery	580
Complications during labor	535
2 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	2130
Liveborn	2078
Other perinatal conditions	24
Short gestation; low birth weight; and fetal growth retardation	12
3 Diseases of the circulatory system	1789
Diseases of the heart	1175
Cerebrovascular disease	307
Diseases of arteries; arterioles; and capillaries	149
4 Diseases of the digestive system	1068
Lower gastrointestinal disorders	309
Biliary tract disease	144
Upper gastrointestinal disorders	124
5 Injury and poisoning	998
Fractures	323
Complications	273
Poisoning	258
6 Neoplasms	779
Benign neoplasms	262
Secondary malignancies	94
Maintenance chemotherapy; radiotherapy	73
7 Diseases of the respiratory system	741
Respiratory infections	370
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchiectasis	101
Asthma	78

In Eldridge-West Oaks, during the years 1999-2002, the most common causes of hospitalization were related to issues of childbirth and perinatal period conditions, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, digestive disorders, or injury and poisoning.

Note that only the most common conditions are listed under each major category of diagnosis, and that the sum of these counts may not equal the total counts for the category.

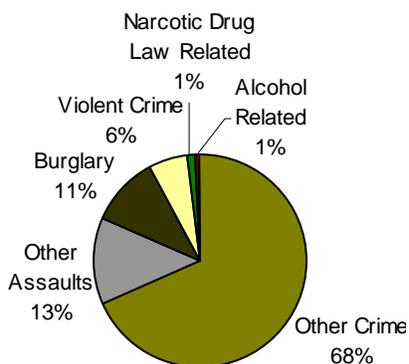
8 Mental disorders	591
Affective disorders	281
Alcohol and substance-related mental disorders	106
Other mental conditions	50
9 Diseases of the genitourinary system	564
Diseases of the urinary system	272
Diseases of female genital organs	258
Diseases of male genital organs	34
10 Symptoms; signs; and ill-defined conditions and factors influencing health status	561
Factors influencing health care	368
Symptoms; signs; and ill-defined conditions	193

Data Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Health Care Information Collection

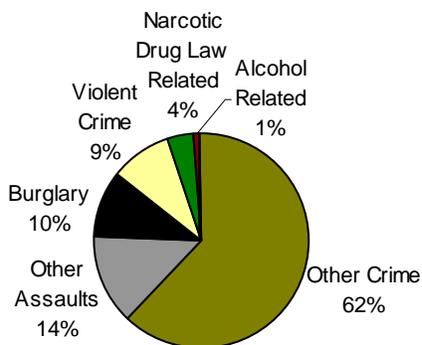
Crime

The crime rate in urban areas is of concern to the residents, law enforcement and the local government. Crimes place stress on the residents of neighborhoods and affect their well-being. Of particular concern are violent crimes that threaten residents' lives, such as those involving firearms.

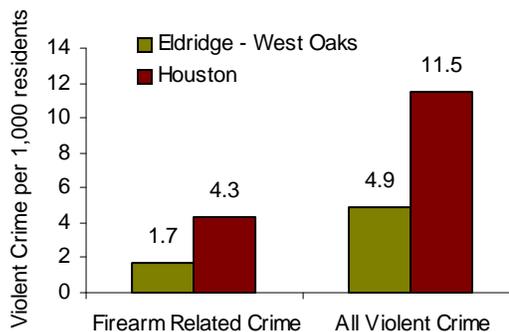
Overview of Crime, 1999-2003



Crime in Eldridge-West Oaks



Crime in Houston

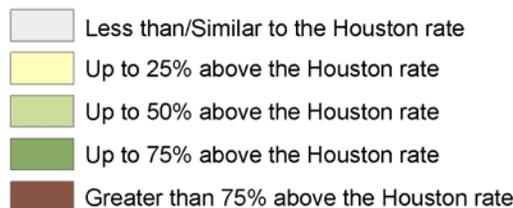
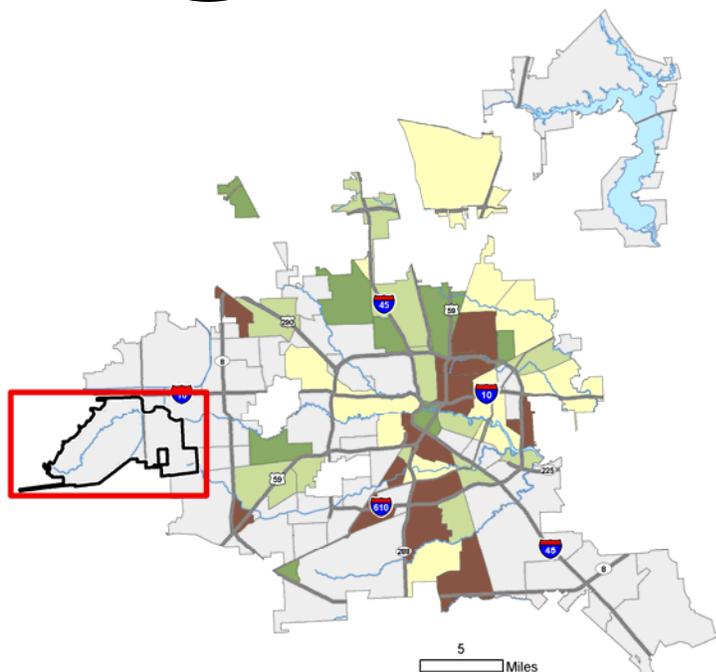


Violent Crime, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of violent crime in Eldridge-West Oaks was 4.9 per 1,000 population, 57% lower than the Houston rate as a whole. The firearm-related violent crime rate in Eldridge-West Oaks was 1.7 per 1,000 population, 60% lower than the rate in Houston overall.

Rate of Violent Crime by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

Eldridge-West Oaks was among the neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of violent crime in the city.



Data Source: Houston Police Department

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a specific type of bacteria that spreads from person to person through the air. TB typically affects the lungs but can also affect the brain and other organs. If this disease is left untreated it can be fatal.

From 1999 to 2003, 13 newly-acquired cases of tuberculosis were identified among residents of Eldridge-West Oaks, representing 1% of all cases diagnosed in Houston in that period. The annual average rate in Eldridge-West Oaks was 6.5 per 100,000 population, compared to 13.6 per 100,000 population in Houston as a whole. Both rates appeared much higher than the national Healthy People 2010 target of 1 case per 100,000 population.

The majority of these cases occurred among males between 20 to 64 years of age.

Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of TB Control

Drowning and Submersion

Drowning and submersion injuries are often unintentional and are preventable through increased awareness of precautions that can be taken in and around bodies of water.

Fewer than 5 drowning or submersion cases were reported among Eldridge-West Oaks residents from 1999-2003.

Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

Food-borne Diseases

Many food-related diseases are easily preventable. Eating well-cooked foods, keeping cooking areas free of contamination by thoroughly cleaning surfaces touched by raw meats and poultry, hand washing before handling food, and avoiding unpasteurized products are some of the measures that people can take to lower their risk of food-related disease.

Food-related diseases are typically under-reported. It is likely that many more cases occurred from 1999 to 2003 than were actually reported to health officials.

Typically Reported Diseases	Number of Cases
Hepatitis A	5
Shigellosis	12
Salmonellosis	20
Campylobacteriosis	<5
Amebiasis	<5

Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

Environmental Health and Safety

Chemical emissions and waste released into the air, soil, and water can affect everyone. Knowing the locations and types of potential polluters allows residents to better monitor the potential environmental impact on their communities.

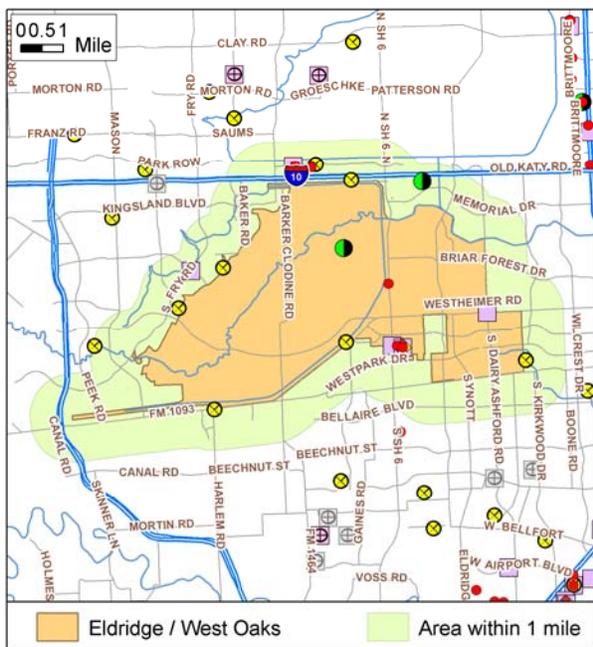
Regulated Facilities

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administer programs which monitor and regulate facilities with the potential to release significant amounts of hazardous chemicals to the environment.

Within one mile of Eldridge / West Oaks, there are 6 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting facilities, 5 Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of hazardous waste, 1 facility that treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste, 3 major dischargers of air pollutants, and 8 major storm water discharging facilities.

These facilities are regulated under one or more of the following federal statutes: the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act.

The EPA provides reports concerning federally regulated facilities through an online application called Envirofacts (www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html).



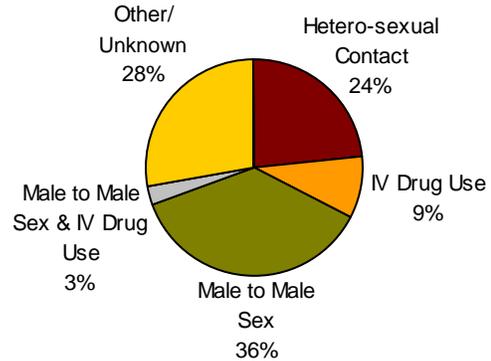
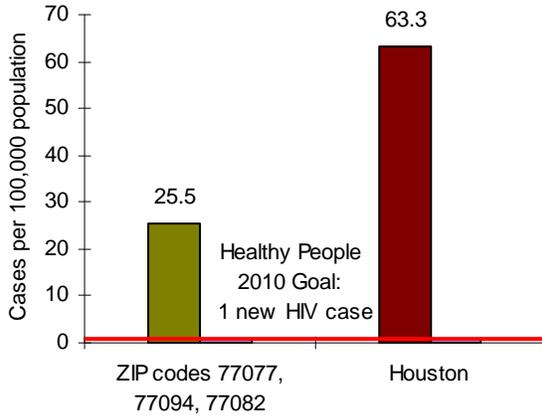
- Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Facility
- ⊗ Major Storm Water Runoff Facility
- ◆ Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, or Disposal (TSD) Facility
- Large Quantity Generator (LQG) of Hazardous Waste
- Major Discharger of Air Pollutants
- Highway
- Major Roadway
- ◆ Radioactive Waste Site
- ◆ Current Superfund Site
- ◆ Former Superfund Site
- ⊕ Active Landfill
- ⊕ Inactive Landfill
- ⊕ Closed Landfill
- Railroad
- Bayou

Type of Regulated Facility	Houston Count	Type of Regulated Facility	Houston Count
Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Facilities (all reporting years)	302	Major Dischargers of Air Pollutants	71
Major Storm Water Runoff Facilities	56	Radioactive Waste Sites	4
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, or Disposal (TSD) Facilities	35	Current Superfund Sites	12
Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of Hazardous Waste	132	Former Superfund Sites	5
		Active Landfills	9
		Inactive Landfills	2
		Closed Landfills	18

Data Sources: Environmental Protection Agency; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

HIV/AIDS

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency virus) attacks the immune system and can progress to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). HIV is primarily transmitted through unprotected sex or sharing needles with someone infected with the virus. It can also be transmitted before or during birth and from breast milk from mother to child. Many of those infected are unaware of their HIV status, and therefore can transmit the disease unknowingly.

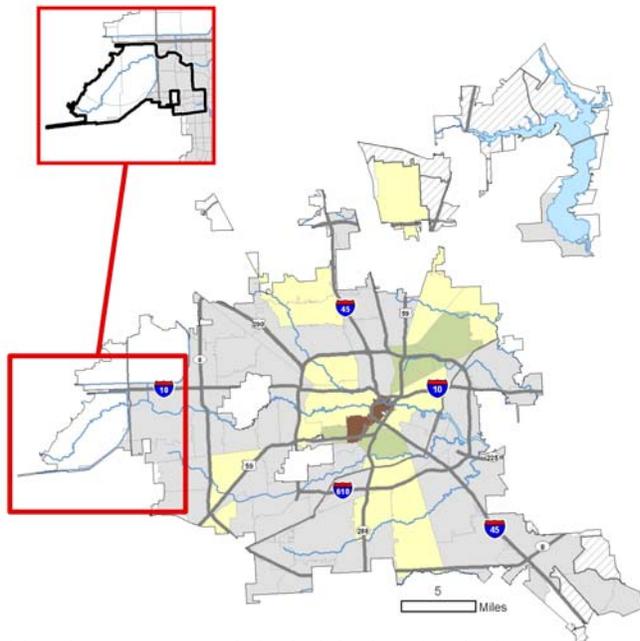


New HIV Diagnosis Rate, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of new HIV diagnosis in the combined zip codes 77077, 77094, and 77082 (which include Eldridge-West Oaks) was 60% lower than the Houston-wide rate during the period 1999-2003; the rate of 25.5 cases per 100,000 population was far above the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 1 new case per 100,000 population.

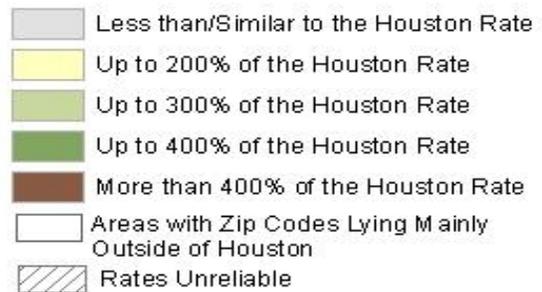
HIV Risk Factors, 1999-2003

Seventy-three percent of new HIV infections occurred in males in Eldridge-West Oaks. In over one-quarter of all cases, the mode of transmission was unknown. Male-to-male sex accounted for about 36% of all reported cases. This was followed by heterosexual contact (24%) and use of IV drugs (9%). Three percent of new infections occurred in those reporting male-to-male sex and IV drug use.



Rates of New HIV Diagnosis by Zip Code*, 1999-2003

The annual average rates of new HIV diagnosis in the zip codes overlapping Eldridge-West Oaks were each lower than that of most other zip codes in Houston.



* Annual average rates are calculated only for those zip codes that lie predominantly within the boundaries of the city of Houston.

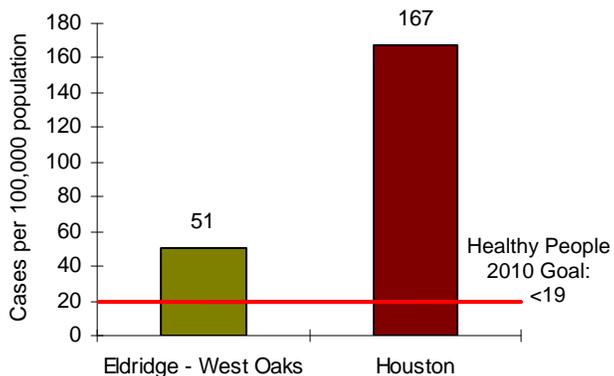
Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

Gonorrhea

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by bacteria. If untreated, it can cause serious and permanent health problems in both women and men. It also places infected persons at greater risk for HIV. Though rare, it can result in death if untreated.

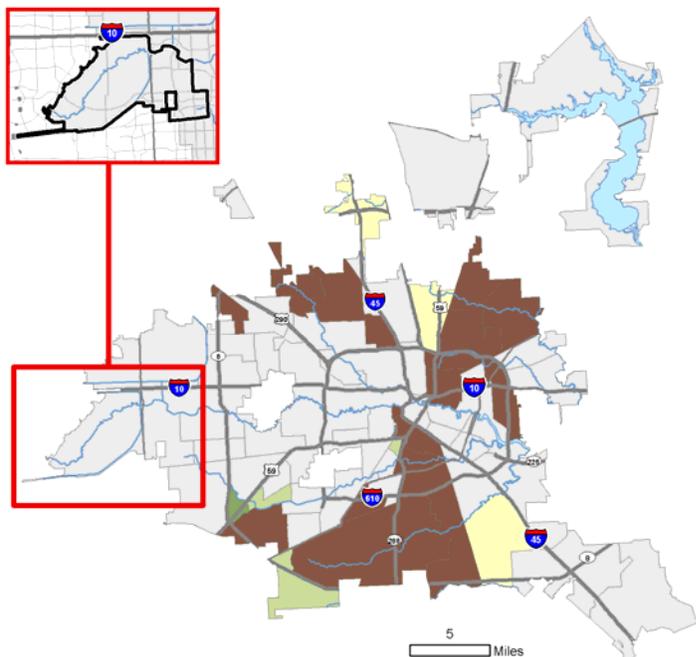
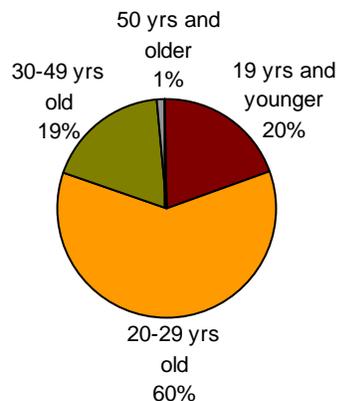
New Gonorrhea Infection by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

The annual average rate of new gonorrhea cases in Eldridge-West Oaks was 69% lower than the rate in Houston overall; both rates were much greater than the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 19 cases per 100,000 population.



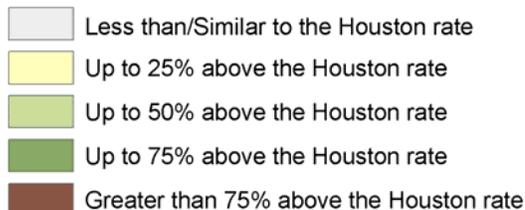
Gonorrhea Infection by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

Blacks, who represent 14% of Eldridge-West Oaks's population, accounted for 63% of new cases. Slightly more than half (56%) of all cases occurred in females, and persons aged 20-29 years accounted for the majority of all cases.



Rates of Gonorrhea Infection by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

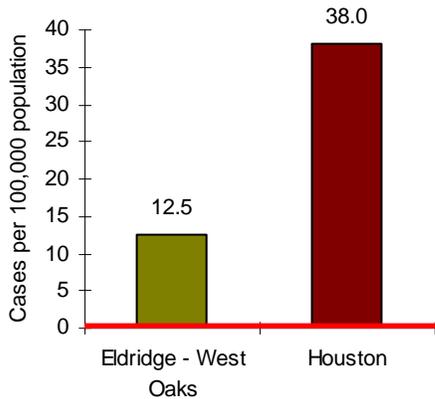
Eldridge-West Oaks was among those neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.



Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

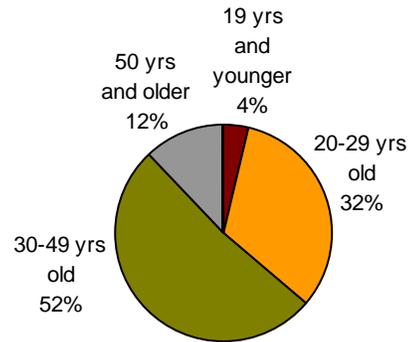
Syphilis

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) and is passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore. Sores occur mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum. Transmission occurs due to unprotected sex. The sores may also occur in lips and mouth. Untreated syphilis can progress into more serious conditions affecting the nervous system, heart and other organs, seriously impairing health.



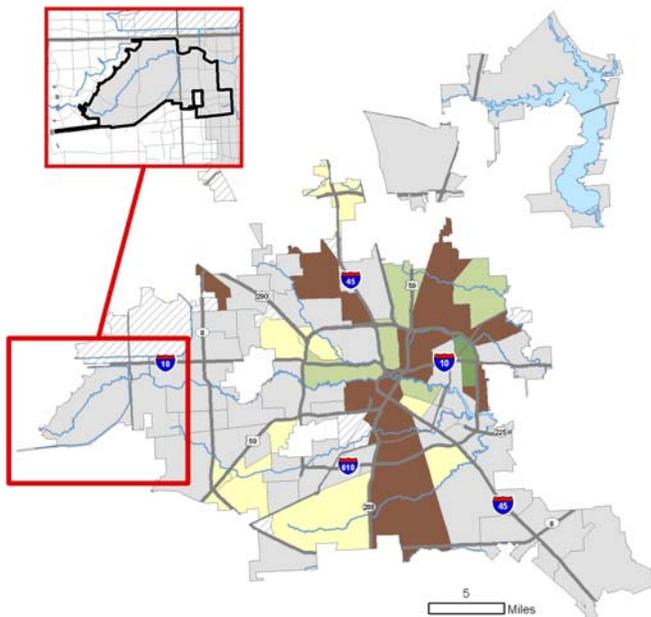
Rates of New Syphilis Infection, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of new syphilis infection in Eldridge-West Oaks was 67% lower than the rate in Houston overall; both were far higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal.



Syphilis Cases by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

Sixty percent of new cases in Eldridge-West Oaks occurred among Blacks. More males (64%) than females (36%) were affected by syphilis, and persons aged 30-49 years accounted for the majority of all cases.



Rates of Syphilis by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

Eldridge-West Oaks was among those neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.

- Less than/Similar to the Houston rate
- Up to 25% above the Houston rate
- Up to 50% above the Houston rate
- Up to 75% above the Houston rate
- Greater than 75% above the Houston rate
- Rate Unreliable

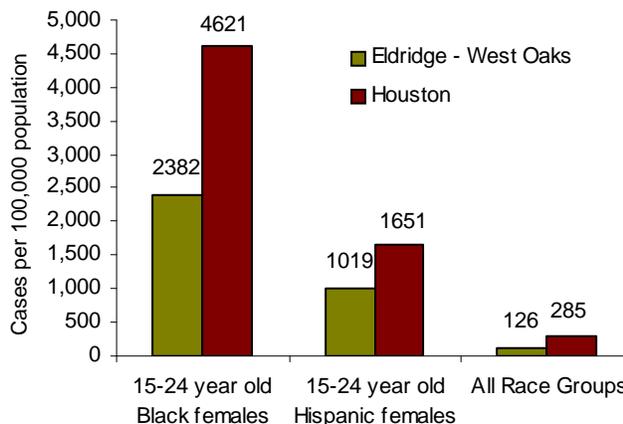
Data Source: HDHHS Bureau of Epidemiology

Chlamydia

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the nation. Women are more commonly screened for the infection than are men, and those 15 to 24 years of age appear to be the most affected, nation-wide. The symptoms are usually mild and not easily recognized, causing many with the infection not to seek treatment. If untreated, chlamydia can cause infertility in women.

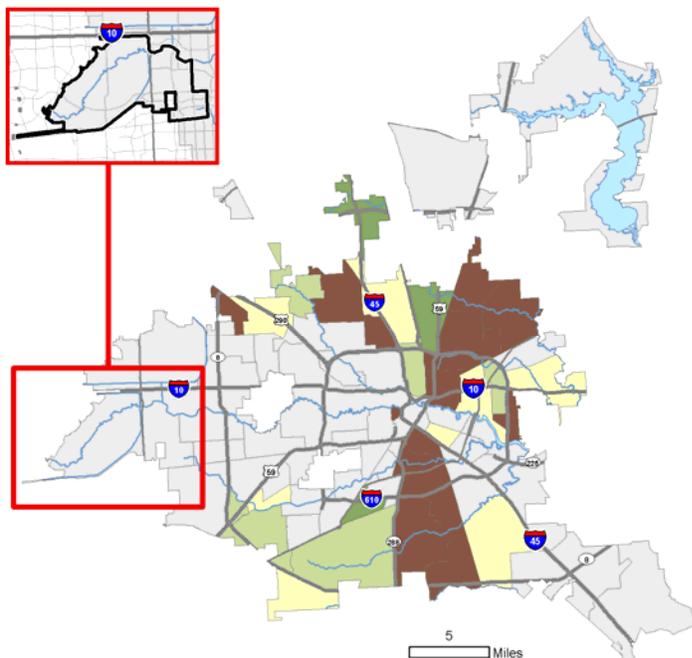
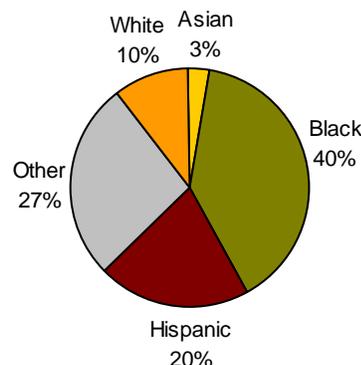
Rates of Chlamydia, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of chlamydia infection in Eldridge-West Oaks was 126 per 100,000 population, 56% lower than the rate in Houston overall. Although Black women between the ages of 15 and 24 years had the highest rate of infection in Eldridge-West Oaks, it was 48% lower than the rate for the same group in Houston overall.



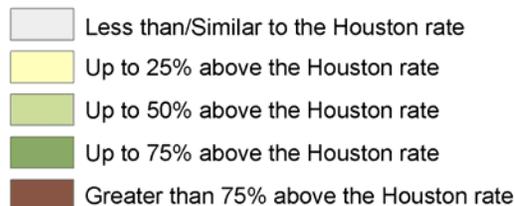
Chlamydia Infection By Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, 1999-2003

Forty percent of all cases in Eldridge-West Oaks occurred among Blacks; 27% of new cases were of undefined race/ethnicity. Eighty-six percent of all cases were female. Persons aged 20-29 years accounted for more than half (56%) of all cases.



Rates of Chlamydia by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

Eldridge-West Oaks was among those neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.



Data Source: HDHHS Bureau of Epidemiology

Technical Notes

The Community Health Profiles Project attempts to provide the most recent statistical information available on the health of communities. The 1999-2003 series represents a “baseline” against which changes in the health indicators of communities can be evaluated over time. Data used to compile this profile are derived from a variety of sources — local, state, and national. These data sources may collect information on different cycles and therefore gaps in available years of data may be observed within a single profile.

Except where noted otherwise, rates are calculated using 2000 census data for each community, including age, race, and sex distributions. Agreement between race/ethnicity classifications in the data used in this report and those derived from the census is imperfect; disease registries do not uniformly capture ethnicity along with race and categories of “Black”, “White,” “Asian,” and “Other” may overlap with “Hispanic” ethnicity. Despite potential overlap, in this profile, “Black” is meant as “non-Hispanic Black,” “White” as “non-Hispanic White,” and “Hispanic” as being persons of any race and of Hispanic/Latino culture and origin. The profiles group a range of years of data and present them, where most appropriate, as annual average incidence of the indicator. If the total number of events is less than five, the associated rate is considered unreliable and is not reported; however for Leading Causes of Death, the minimum number of deaths for reporting age-adjusted rates is set at 25. Statistics presented in profiles of super neighborhoods, medically-underserved areas (MUAs), and other geographies are based upon successful geocoding of the residence of individual cases within the boundaries of those geographic entities. The denominator in all cases is the year 2000 census, as the estimated “average” population for each year of the analysis period. Background Houston rates and Healthy People 2010 goals have been used for most indicators as a standard for comparison.

Mortality data: Mortality data have been obtained at the address level from the Texas Department of State Health Services for 1999-2003. The YPLL statistics are computed using 65 years of age as the end point. **Crime data:** Data for 1999-2003 have been acquired from the Houston Police Department at the address level of the site of the incident. **HIV/AIDS data:** As of this report, data were only available at the zip code level.

Other notes

Data for a number of additional indicators considered important for a community’s assessment of its health and health planning efforts were not available at the time of printing of this document. These indicators, including various injury indicators, and more community-specific behavioral data are being collected or researched for potential inclusion in the future published version of this report.

Community Health Profiles

Community-specific public health profiles on medically-underserved areas and the 88 super neighborhoods of Houston are available from the Houston Department of Health and Human Services at www.houstontx.gov/health. Reports can also be requested by e-mail at webadmin@cityofhouston.net, or by writing to:

Community Health Statistics

Office of Surveillance & Public Health Preparedness
Houston Department of Health and Human Services
8000 N. Stadium Dr., 4th floor
Houston, Texas 77054



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About Community Health Statistics (CHS)

Community Health Statistics (CHS) is a program within the division of the Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness of the Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS). It is comprised of epidemiologists, statisticians, and GIS analysts who acquire data through collaboration with multiple partners within and outside the department for analysis, interpretation, and sharing of information on local health issues.

Our mission is to serve the needs of HDHHS, and the needs of the scientific community, and general public as a resource for data and information on the indicators and the determinants of the health and well-being of geographically-defined communities, as well as of other distinct population groups within the city of Houston, Texas.