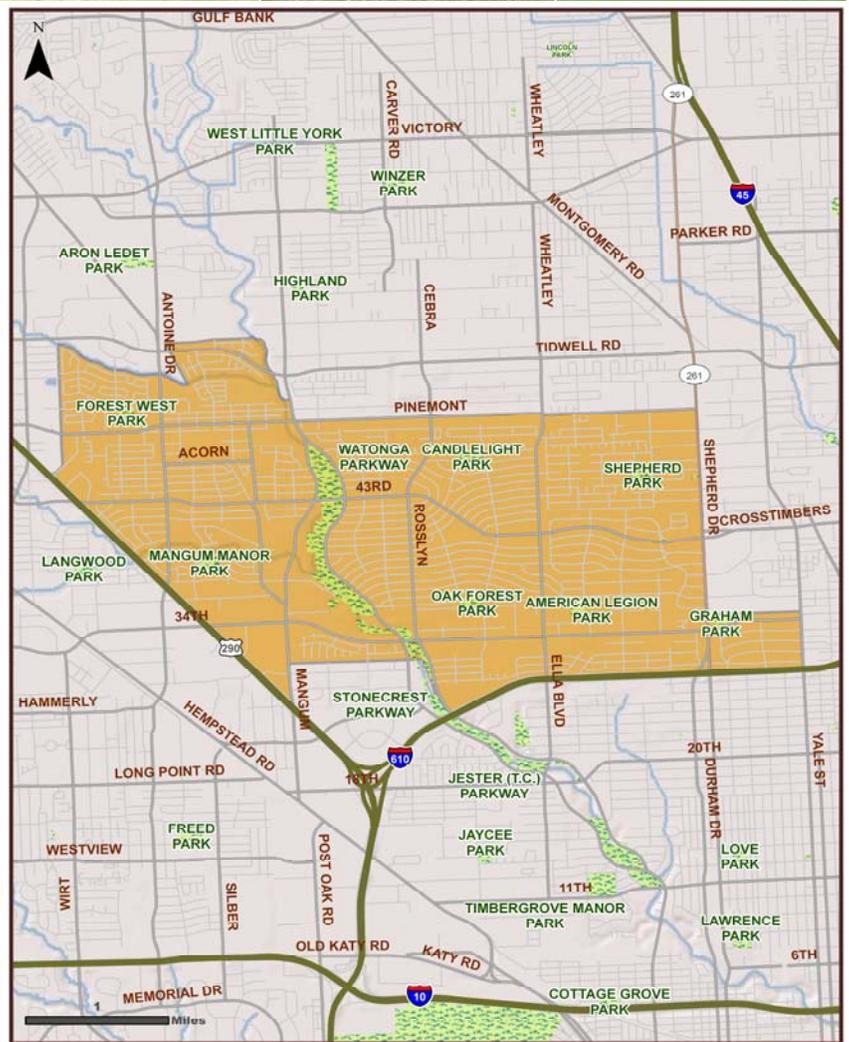
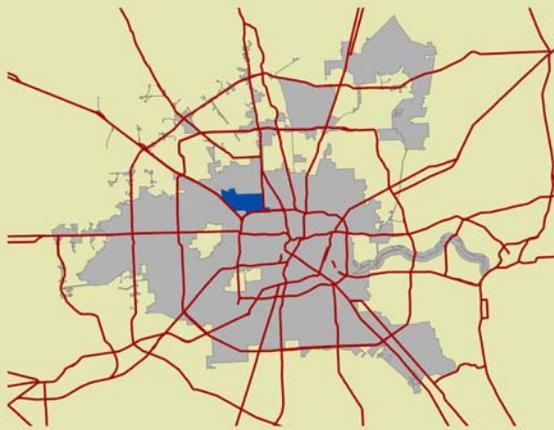


1999-2003



Community Health Profiles

Oak Forest- Garden Oaks Super Neighborhood



*Providing Health Information
for Community Action*

Introduction



This community health profile highlights important health issues facing the residents of the Oak Forest-Garden 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. Oak Forest-Garden Oaks Super Neighborhood will hereinafter be referred to as “Oak Forest-Garden 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 Oak Forest-Garden Oaks and across the City of Houston.

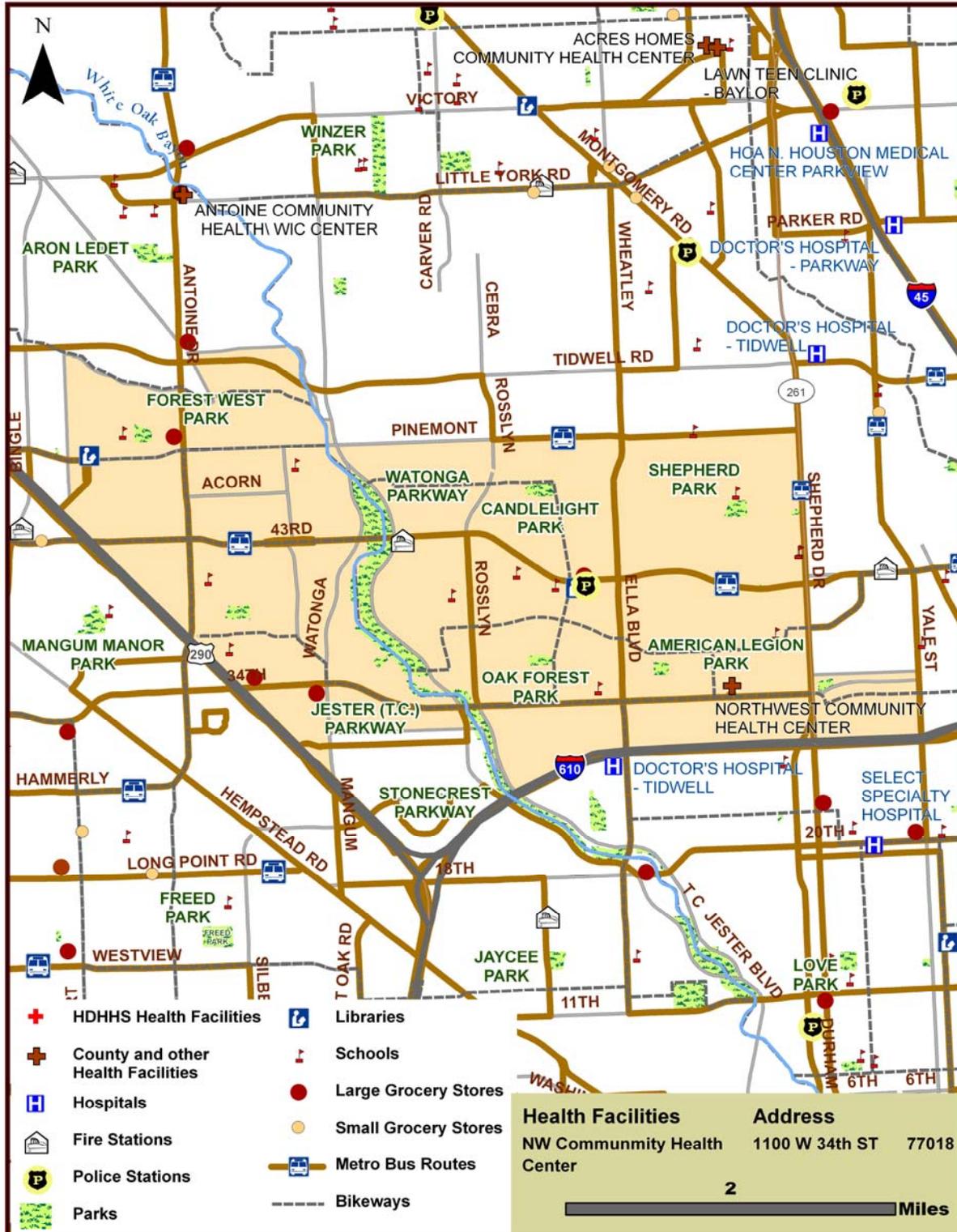
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Stephen L. Williams, M.Ed., M.P.A.
Director
Houston Department of Health and Human Services

Community Resources

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

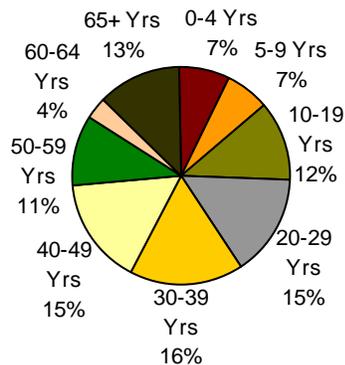


Oak Forest-Garden Oaks at a Glance

The total population of Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 42,981, according to the 2000 census.*

Age

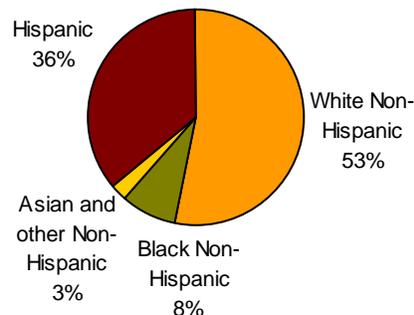
At the time of the 2000 census, more than one-quarter (26%) of Oak Forest-Garden Oaks residents were under the age of 20. More than half (61%) were between 20 and 64 years of age, and 13% were 65 or older.



Race, Ethnicity, National Origin

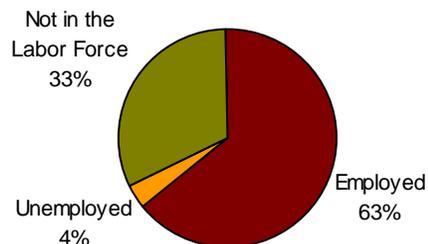
More than half of the residents in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks were White. Hispanics were the second largest ethnic group, comprising more than one-third of the population; 11% were of other races.

Of the total population, a majority (64%) were native Texans; 18% were foreign born.



Employment

Nearly two-thirds of Oak Forest-Garden Oaks residents, ages 16 and over, were employed in 1999.

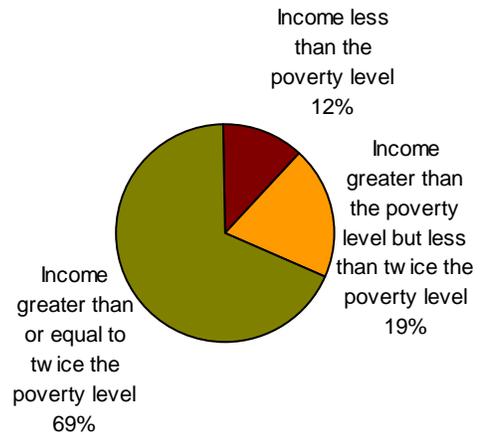


* Data Source: U.S. Census 2000. Total population was calculated from census block-level data using Summary File 1. For purposes of describing demographics using Summary File 3, the super neighborhood is defined by the following census geographies: Tracts 5302, 5309 through 5317; Tract 5301, Block Groups 1 & 3; and Tract 5321, Block Group 1.

Poverty

Twelve percent of the population in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was below the poverty level in 1999. Thirty-one percent of all residents in the super neighborhood had incomes less than twice the poverty level.

Of those living below the poverty level, 35% were children under 18 years of age; 7% were adults 65 and older.

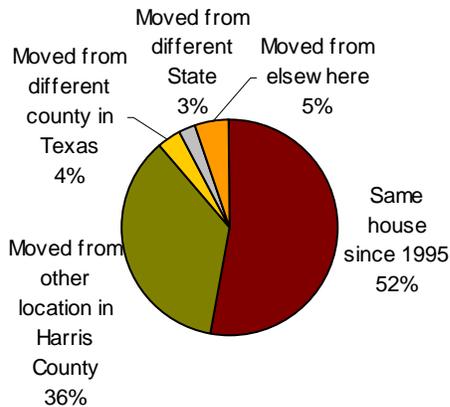
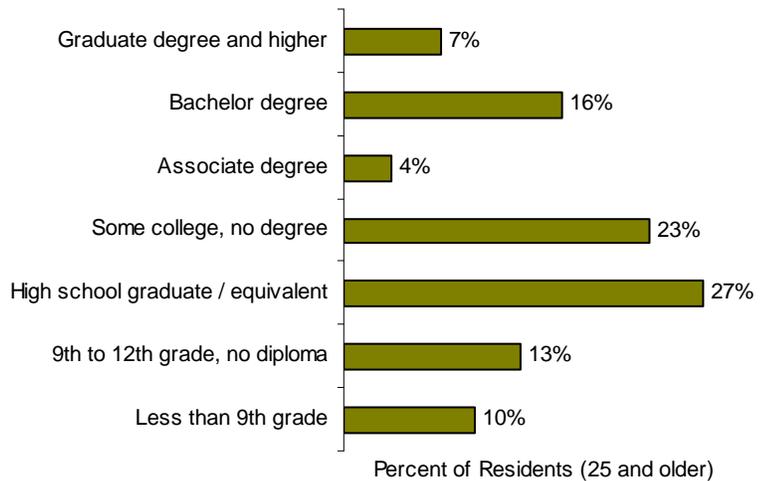


Education

More than one-fifth (23%) of Oak Forest-Garden Oaks residents, ages 25 and over, reported that they had not graduated from high school.

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

One-half of residents had attained education beyond the high school level, with 27% earning a college degree.



Population Stability

More than half of the residents of Oak Forest-Garden Oaks had lived in the same house since 1995. Thirty-six percent moved to Oak Forest-Garden Oaks from other locations in Harris County between 1995 and 1999.

Twelve percent 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 a lower overall annual average mortality rate than those of Houston as a whole. However, the mortality rate of heart disease, cancer, accidents, chronic lower respiratory disease, influenza and pneumonia, suicide and cirrhosis were higher in the neighborhood than Houston overall.

Leading Causes of Mortality, Oak Forest-Garden Oaks, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

Rank	Cause of Death	Oak Forest-Garden Oaks		Houston	Oak Forest-Garden Oaks - Houston
		Deaths	Rates*	Rates*	Rates
	All Causes	1795	892.2	898.2	-6.0
1	Heart Disease	527	266.7	262.0	4.7
2	Cancer	426	204.8	197.6	7.2
3	Stroke	125	66.2	76.0	-9.8
4	Accidents	82	38.8	34.8	4.0
5	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	78	37.6	31.9	5.7
6	Influenza and Pneumonia	53	28.0	20.0	8.0
7	Diabetes Mellitus	55	26.6	28.0	-1.4
8	Alzheimer's Disease	28	15.7	20.5	-4.8
9	Suicide	32	15.4	9.6	5.8
10	Chronic Liver Disease-Cirrhosis	33	15.3	12.7	2.6

Other Causes of Death of Particular Interest, Oak Forest-Garden Oaks, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

Cause of Death	Oak Forest-Garden Oaks		Houston	Oak Forest-Garden Oaks - Houston
	Deaths	Rates*	Rates*	Rates
Coronary Heart Disease	370	186.5	174.1	12.4
Bronchus-Lung Cancer	113	53.1	52.8	0.3
Motor Vehicle Accident	30	13.9	13.2	0.7
Drug-Induced Cause	25	11.5	8.2	3.3
Firearm Related	14	--	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**
Accidents	882.2	849.9	779.0
Cancer	795.4	809.0	816.3
Heart Disease	616.9	614.5	689.3
Homicide	426.7	431.2	407.5
Suicide	353.7	363.2	225.0
Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Periods	302.1	--	-
HIV/AIDS	271.2	--	-
Chronic Liver Disease-Cirrhosis	184.3	--	-
Congenital Disorders	159.8	--	-
Stroke	111.9	--	-
Specific Causes of Interest			
Motor Vehicle Accident	429.9	--	-
Coronary Heart Disease	334.5	338.0	376.1
Drug-Induced Cause	271.2	--	-
Firearm Related	246.1	--	-
Bronchus-Lung Cancer	140.1	143.8	153.2

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

Premature deaths from accidents, cancer, heart disease and suicide had higher impact on annual average YPLL rates among males than females in this community.

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 accidents, cancer, heart disease, homicide and suicide related deaths in this community than any other causes.

The age-adjusted annual average YPLL rates for accidents, homicide and suicide were higher in the super neighborhood than those of Houston, while the YPLL rates for cancer and heart disease were higher in Houston than the community overall. Comparison of other age-adjusted YPLL rates is not possible due to relatively small number of deaths before age 65 in Oak Forest-Garden 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	1199.8 (38)	557.2 (19)
Cancer	1083.9 (73)	500.1 (43)
Heart Disease	930.1 (71)	296.4 (30)
Homicide	692.1 (19)	
Suicide	588.8 (18)	113.2 (5)
Specific Causes of Interest		
Motor Vehicle Accident	593.0 (16)	263.0 (8)
Coronary Heart Disease	490.9 (42)	174.6 (19)
Firearm Related	486.6 (14)	

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

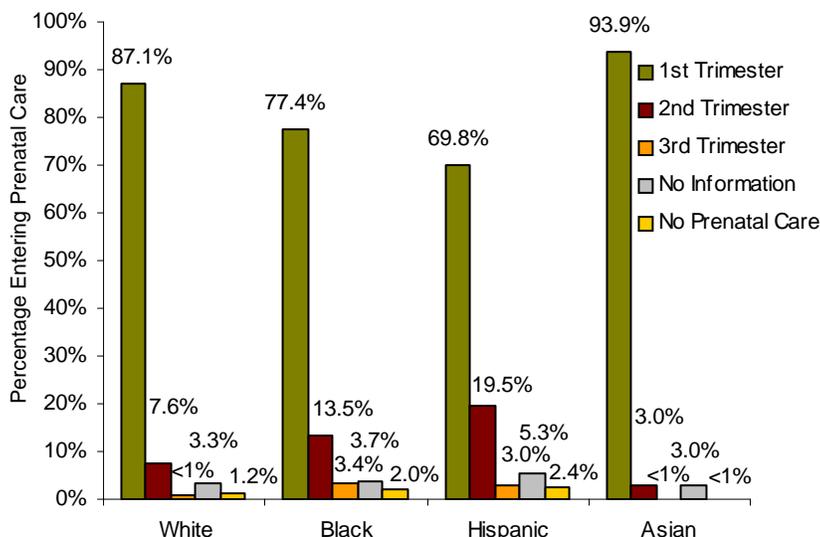
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census, 2000

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.

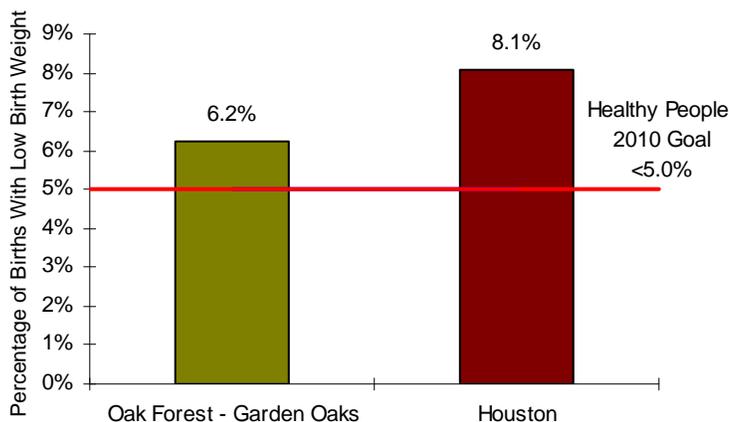
Entry into Prenatal Care by Trimester of Pregnancy, 1999-2003

A higher proportion of Asian women (93.9%) than White (87.1%), Black (77.4%), and Hispanic (69.8%) women in Oak Forest-Garden 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 6% of live births in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks were of low birth weight (2500 grams or less), which was slightly lower than Houston as a whole. Both were above the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 5% of live births being low weight.

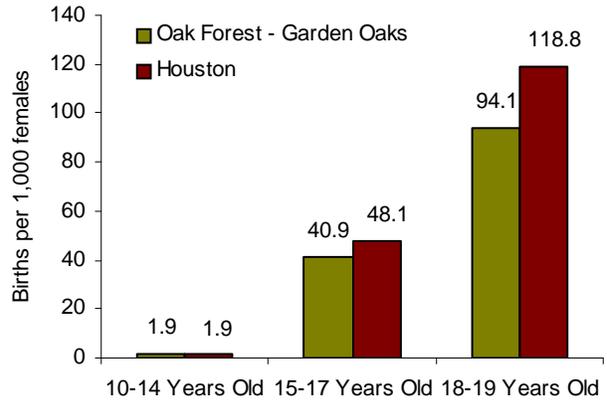
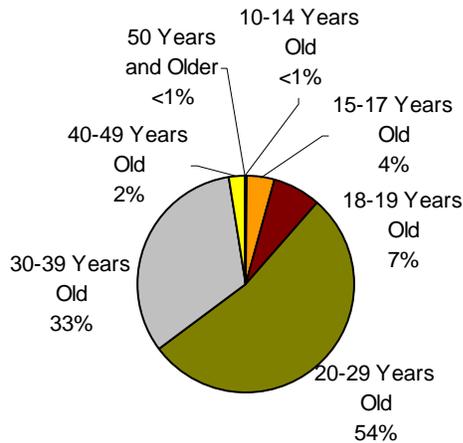


Low birth weight is a factor significantly related to infant mortality. Infants born with low birth weights are at increased risk for serious health problems and long term disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and respiratory, vision, and hearing problems. Low birth weight and infant 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.

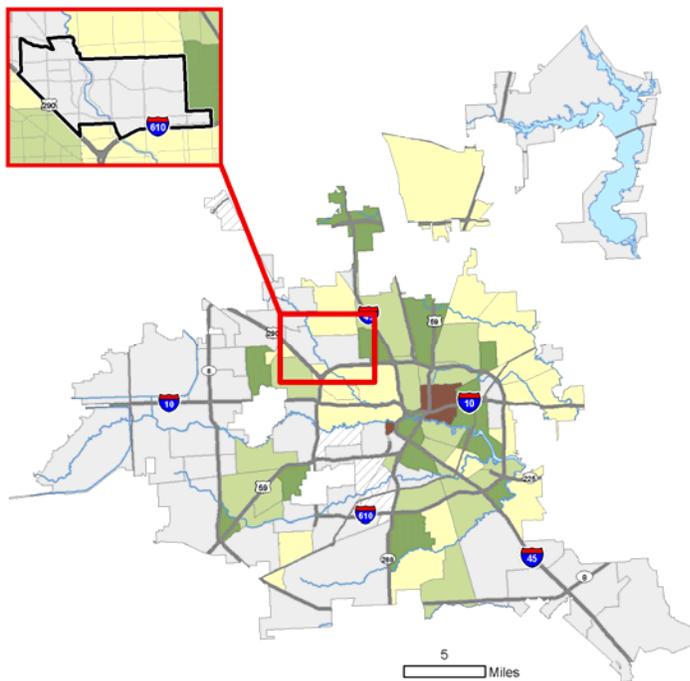


Births by Age of Mother, 1999-2003

A total of 3,447 births were recorded over the period 1999-2003 among mothers in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks. One out of every 9 of these births was to a young mother (10-19 years of age).

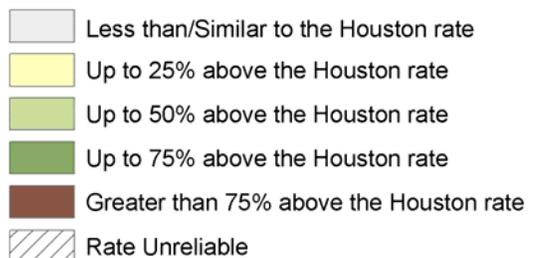
Births to Teen Mothers, 1999-2003

The annual average birth rate for 15-17 year-old teens in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks (40.9 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 years) was 15% lower than the rate in Houston overall. The birth rate among 18-19 year-old females in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 21% lower than the total Houston rate.



Births to Teen Mothers by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

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



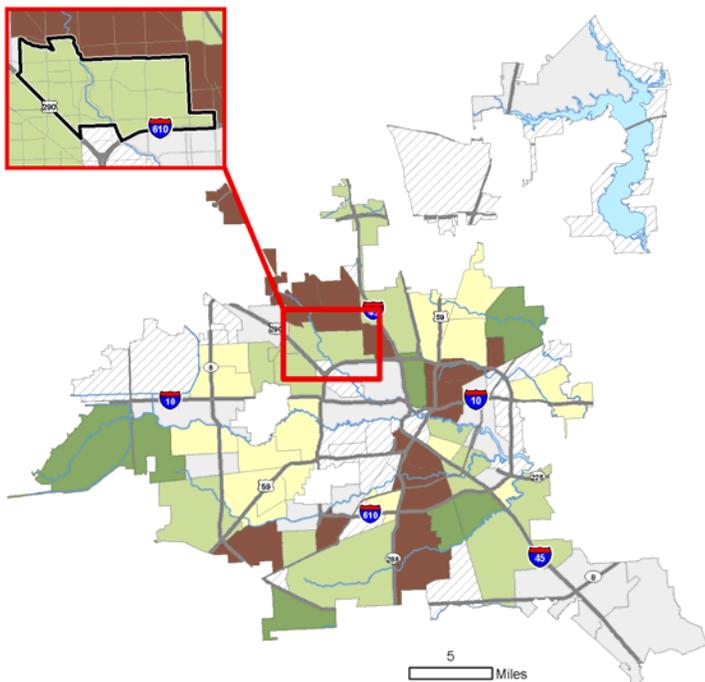
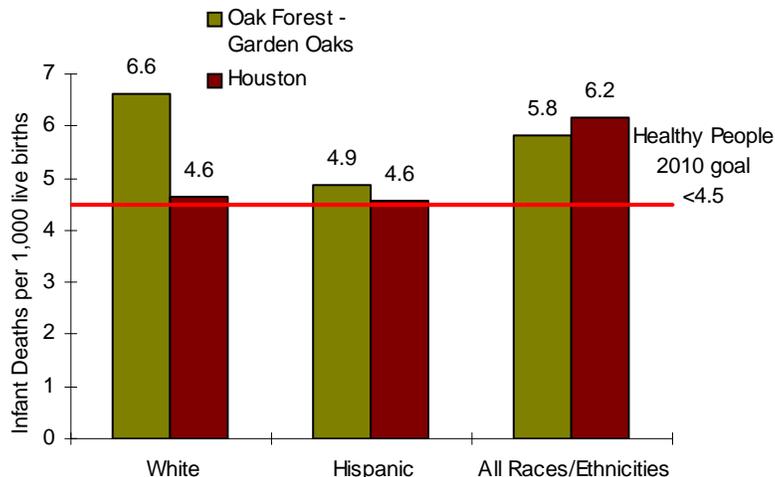
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census 2000

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 Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was slightly lower than Houston's IMR, but 29% higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal of 4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Fifty percent (50%) of all infant deaths were among Hispanics in this community. The annual average IMR among Hispanics was slightly higher than that of Hispanics in Houston overall. In addition, the annual average IMR among Whites in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 43% higher than that of Whites in Houston as a whole. The infant mortality rate among other races/ethnicities was not reported due to small numbers of infant deaths.



Infant Mortality Rate by Super Neighborhood 1999-2003

When compared to the Healthy People 2010 goal, Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was among the neighborhoods in Houston 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 Hospitalization

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 Diseases of the circulatory system	3705
Diseases of the heart	2485
Cerebrovascular disease	641
Diseases of arteries; arterioles; and capillaries	237
2 Complications of pregnancy; childbirth; and the puerperium	2595
Indications for care in pregnancy; labor; and delivery	664
Complications mainly related to pregnancy	610
Complications during labor	517
3 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	2408
Liveborn	2339
Other perinatal conditions	32
Hemolytic jaundice and perinatal jaundice	23
4 Diseases of the digestive system	1776
Lower gastrointestinal disorders	573
Upper gastrointestinal disorders	250
Biliary tract disease	244
5 Diseases of the respiratory system	1575
Respiratory infections	795
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchiectasis	337
Asthma	115
6 Injury and poisoning	1455
Fractures	560
Complications	538
Poisoning	73
7 Neoplasms	1204
Benign neoplasms	289
Secondary malignancies	158
Maintenance chemotherapy; radiotherapy	108

In Oak Forest-Garden Oaks, during the years 1999-2002, the most common causes of hospitalization were related to issues of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, childbirth and perinatal period conditions, digestive disorders, or respiratory infections/diseases.

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.

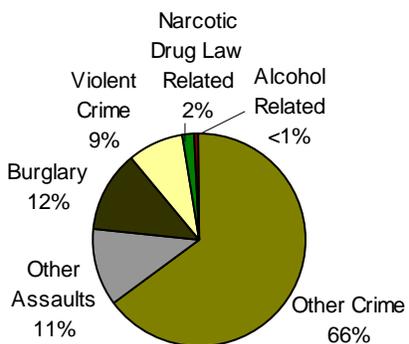
8 Symptoms; signs; and ill-defined conditions and factors influencing health status	1081
Factors influencing health care	801
Symptoms; signs; and ill-defined conditions	280
9 Diseases of the genitourinary system	956
Diseases of the urinary system	547
Diseases of female genital organs	321
Diseases of male genital organs	88
10 Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	891
Spondylosis; intervertebral disc disorders; other back problems	311
Non-traumatic joint disorders	310
Infective arthritis and osteomyelitis (except that caused by TB or STD)	73

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

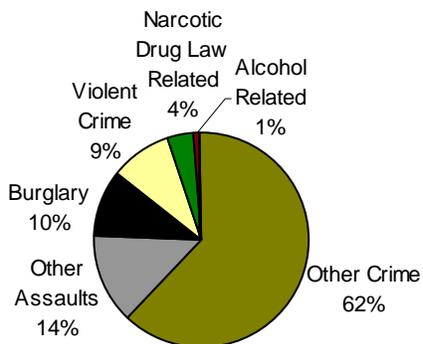
Crime

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.

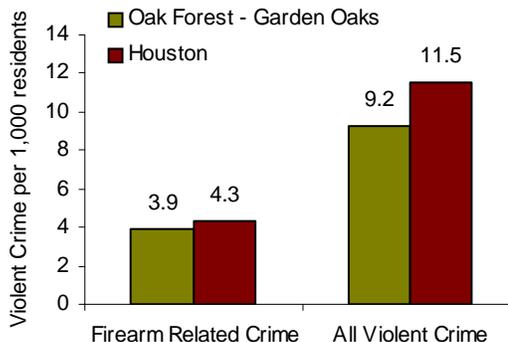
Overview of Crime, 1999-2003



Crime in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks

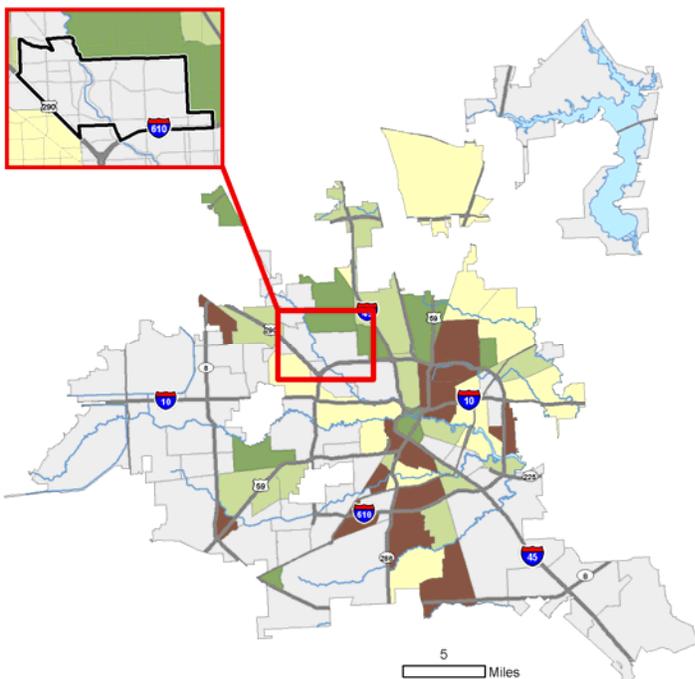


Crime in Houston



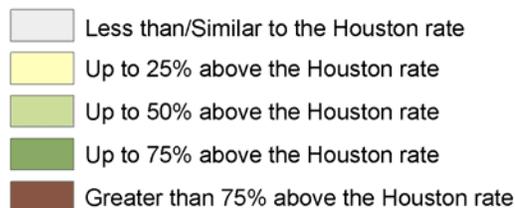
Violent Crime, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of violent crime in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 9.2 per 1,000 population, 20% lower than the Houston rate as a whole. The firearm-related violent crime rate in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 3.9 per 1,000 population, slightly lower than the rate in Houston overall.



Rate of Violent Crime by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

Oak Forest-Garden 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, 17 newly-acquired cases of tuberculosis were identified among residents of Oak Forest-Garden Oaks, representing 1% of all cases diagnosed in Houston in that period. The annual average rate in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 7.9 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 (77%) of cases were among adult 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 Oak Forest-Garden 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.

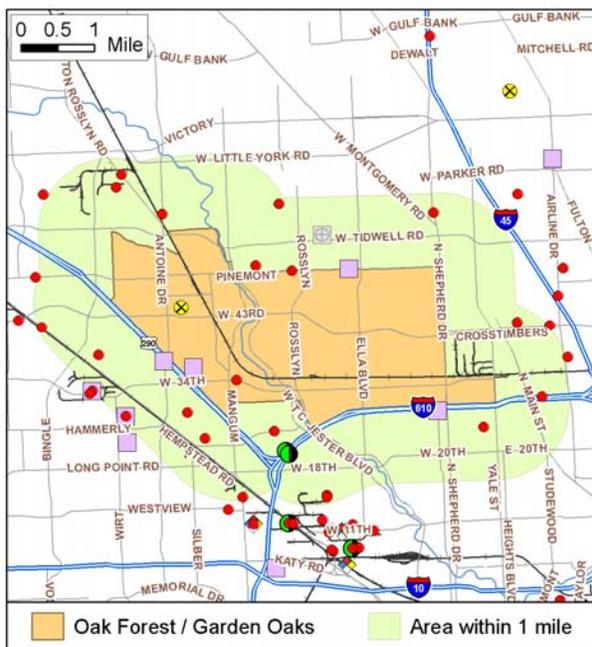
Food-related diseases are typically under-reported. It is likely that many more cases occurred from 1999 to 2003 than were actually reported to health officials.

Typically Reported Diseases	Number of Cases
Hepatitis A	9
Shigellosis	13
Salmonellosis	15
Campylobacteriosis	5
Amebiasis	<5
Vibrio	<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 Oak Forest / Garden Oaks, there are 20 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting facilities, 5 Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of hazardous waste, 2 major dischargers of air pollutants, 1 major storm water discharging facility, and 1 closed landfill.

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.

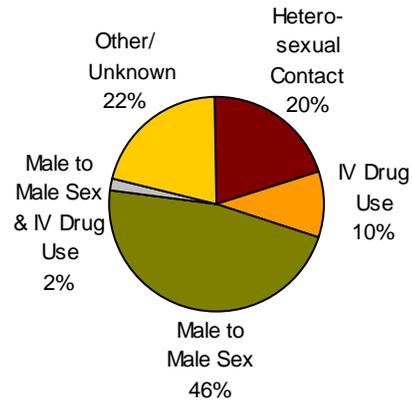
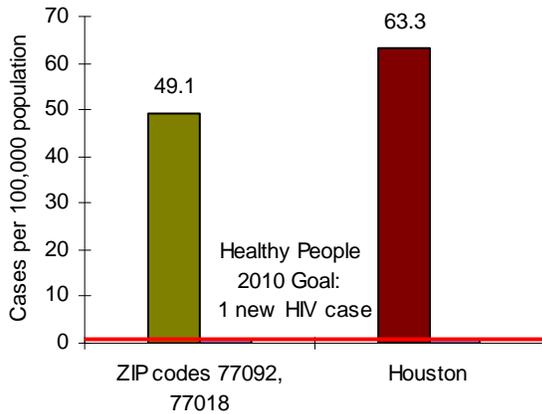
The EPA provides reports concerning federally regulated facilities through an online application called Envirofacts (www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html).

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.

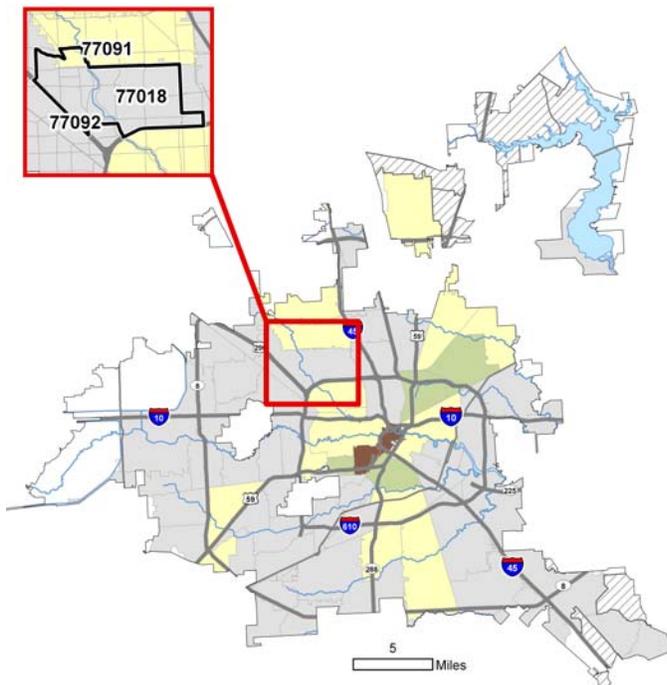


New HIV Diagnosis Rate, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of new HIV diagnosis in the combined zip codes 77092 and 77018 (which include Oak Forest-Garden Oaks) was 22% lower than the Houston-wide rate during the period 1999-2003; the rate of 49.1 cases per 100,000 population was far above the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 1 new case per 100,000 population.

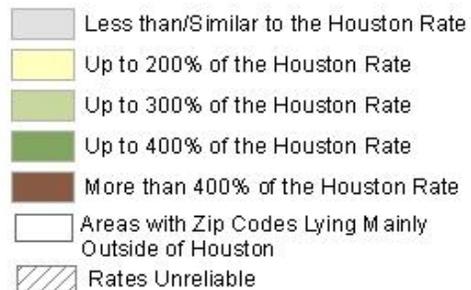
HIV Risk Factors, 1999-2003

Eighty-two percent of new HIV infections occurred in males in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks. In over one-fifth of all cases, the mode of transmission was unknown. Male-to-male sex accounted for about 46% of all reported cases. This was followed by heterosexual contact (20%) and use of IV drugs (10%). Two 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 rate of new HIV diagnosis in zip code 77018 and 77092 were lower than that of most other zip codes in the city, while the rate in zip code 77091 was higher than Houston, overall.



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

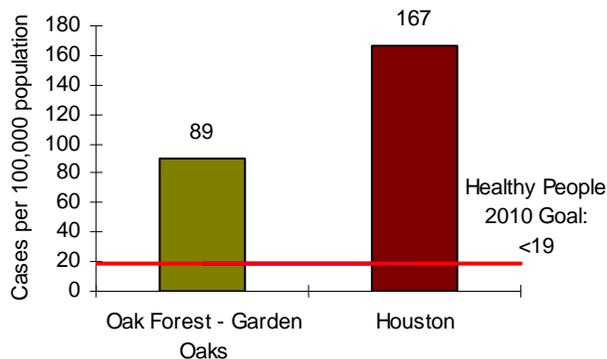
Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

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.

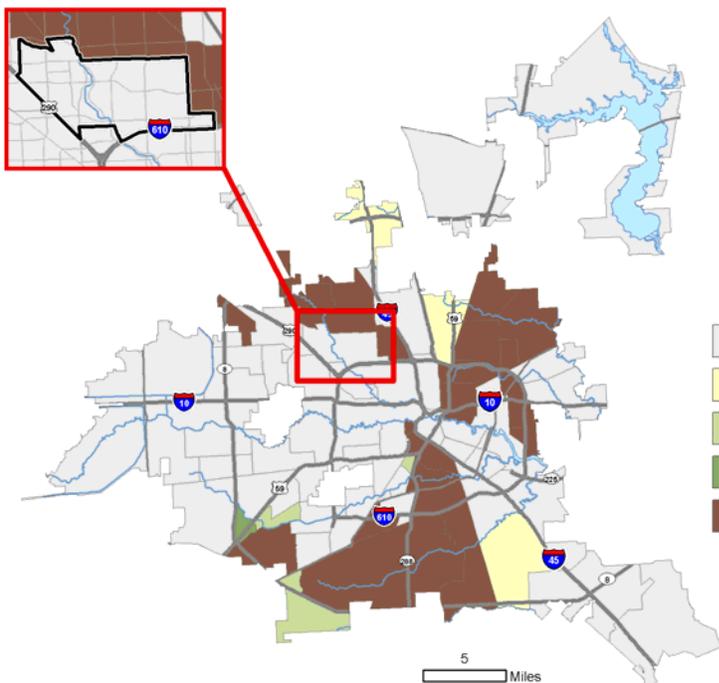
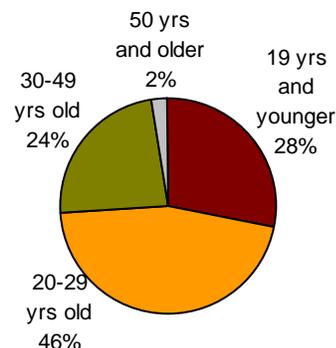
New Gonorrhea Infection by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

The annual average rate of new gonorrhea cases in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 47% 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.



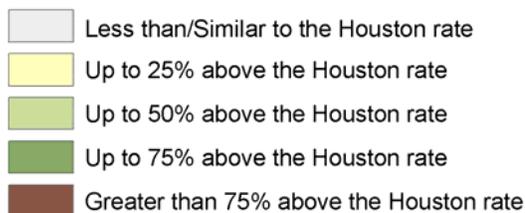
Gonorrhea Infection by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

Blacks, who represent 8% of Oak Forest-Garden Oaks' population, accounted for 54% of new cases. Slightly more than half (51%) of all cases occurred in females, and persons aged 20-29 years accounted for most of the cases.



Rates of Gonorrhea Infection by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

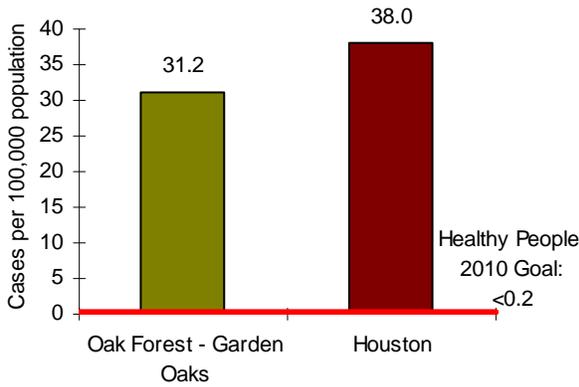
Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was among those neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.



Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

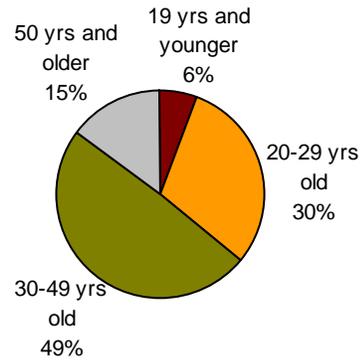
Syphilis

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.



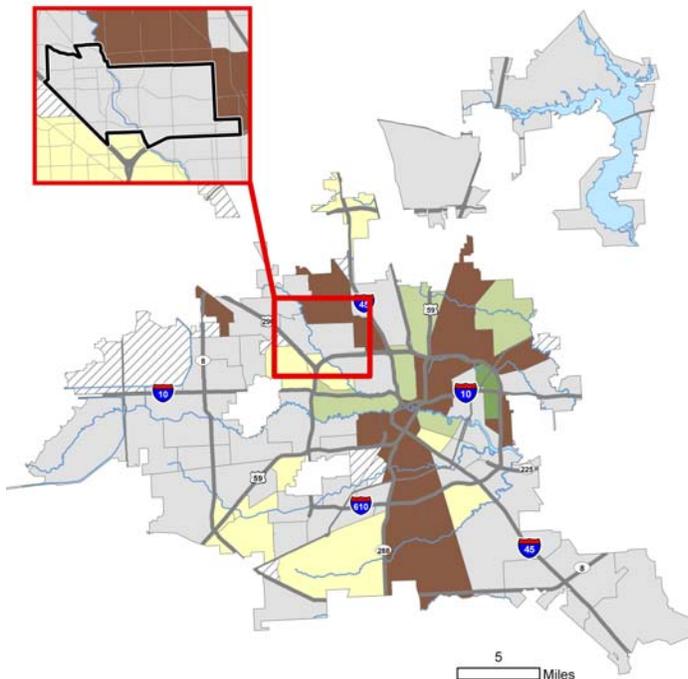
Rates of New Syphilis Infection, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of new syphilis infection in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 18% lower than the rate in Houston overall; both were far higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal.



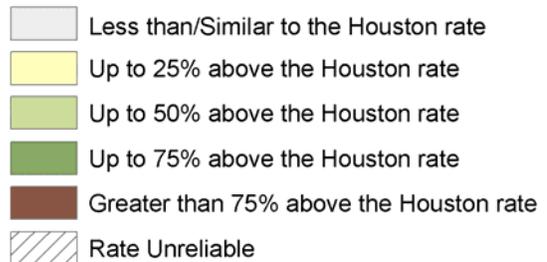
Syphilis Cases by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

Forty-two percent of new cases in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks occurred among Hispanics. More males (73%) than females (27%) were affected by syphilis. Persons aged 30-49 years accounted for nearly half of all cases.



Rates of Syphilis by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was among the neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.



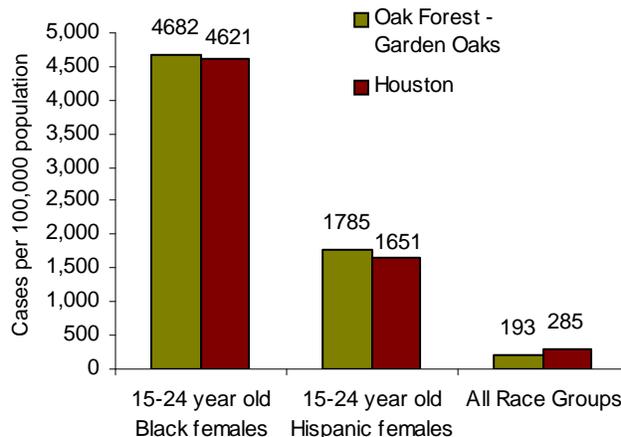
Data Source: HDHHS Bureau of Epidemiology

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.

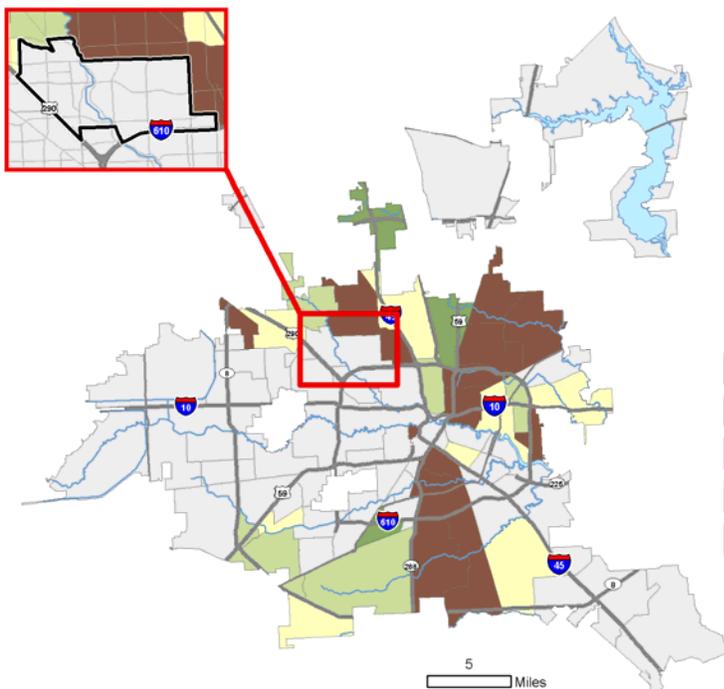
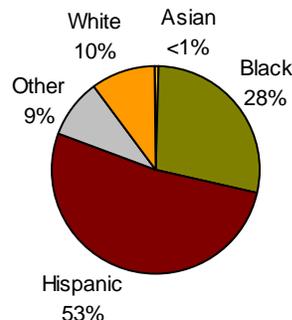
Rates of Chlamydia, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of chlamydia infection in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was 193 per 100,000 population, 32% lower than the rate in Houston overall. Black women between the ages of 15 and 24 years had the highest rate of infection in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks, a rate which was slightly higher than that of the same group in Houston overall.



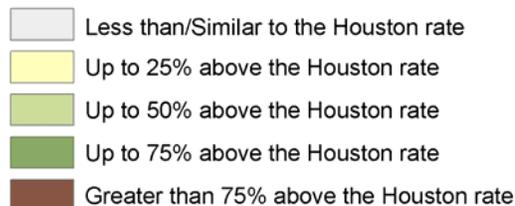
Chlamydia Infection By Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, 1999-2003

Slightly more than half of all cases in Oak Forest-Garden Oaks occurred among Hispanics. Eighty-four percent of all cases were female. Persons aged 20-29 years accounted for more than half (52%) of all cases.



Rates of Chlamydia by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

Oak Forest-Garden Oaks was among the 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.