

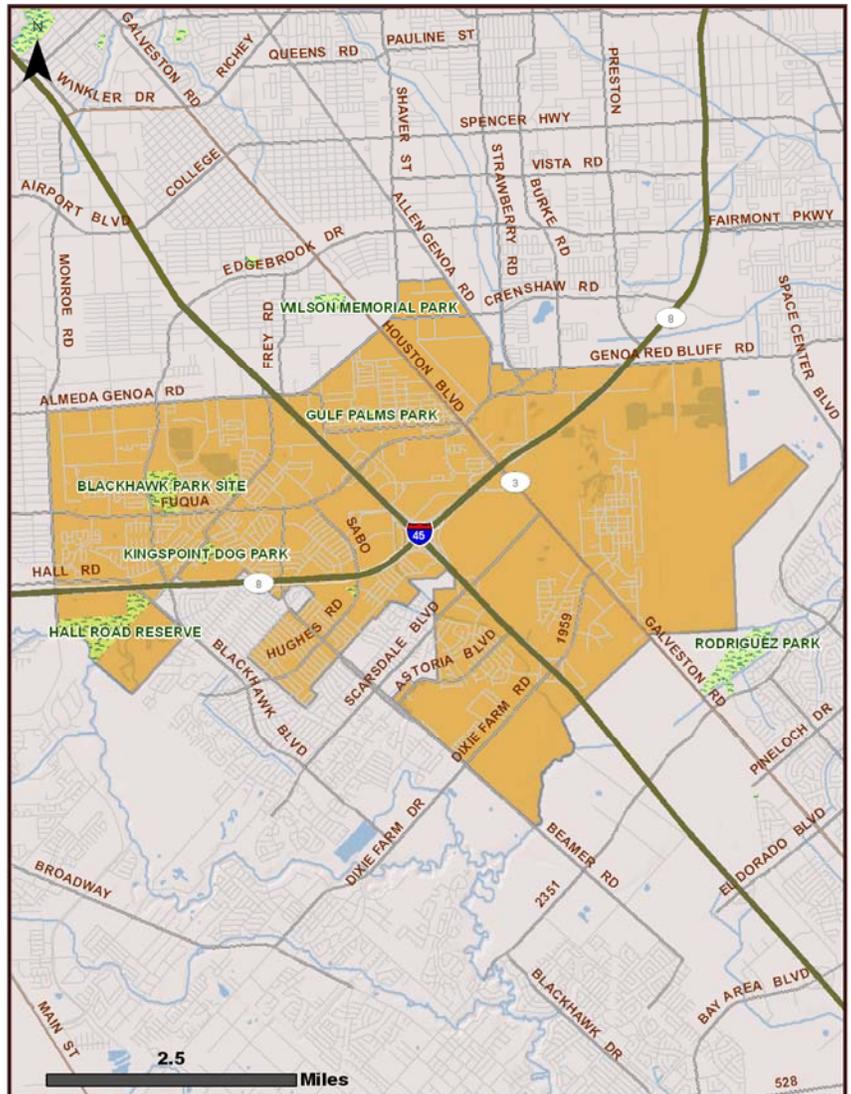
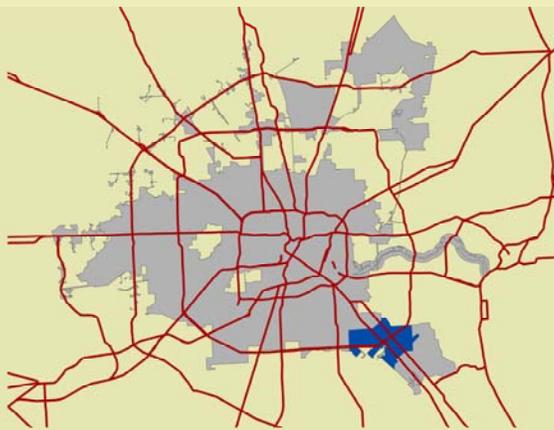
# 1999-2003



## Community Health Profiles

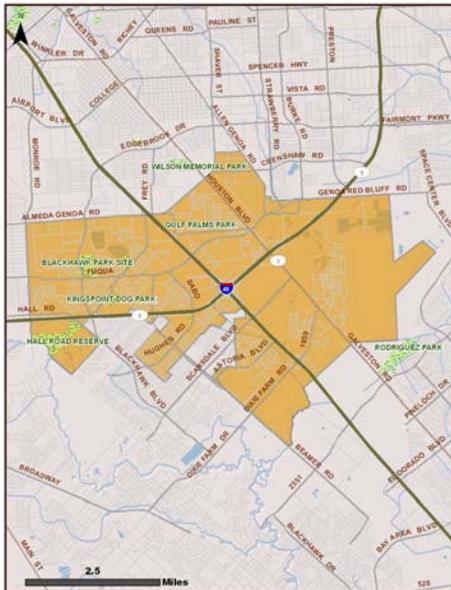


### South Belt- Ellington Super Neighborhood



*Providing Health Information  
for Community Action*

# Introduction



This community health profile highlights important health issues facing the residents of the South Belt-Ellington 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. South Belt-Ellington Super Neighborhood will hereinafter be referred to as “South Belt-Ellington”.

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 South Belt-Ellington and across the City of Houston.

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

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# Community Resources

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

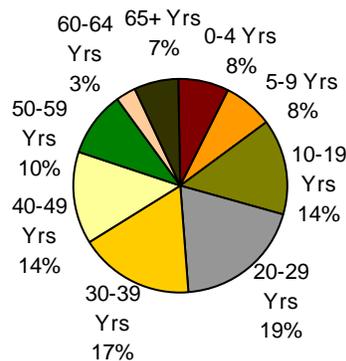


# South Belt-Ellington at a Glance

The total population of South Belt-Ellington was 35,198, according to the 2000 census.\*

## Age

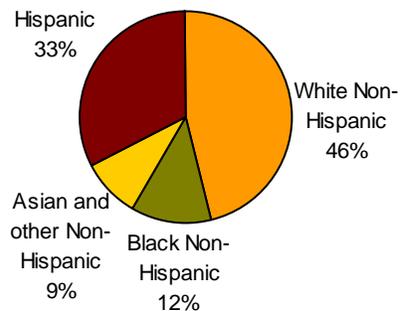
At the time of the 2000 census, 30% of South Belt-Ellington residents were under the age of 20. More than half (63%) were between 20 and 64 years of age, and 7% were 65 or older.



## Race, Ethnicity, National Origin

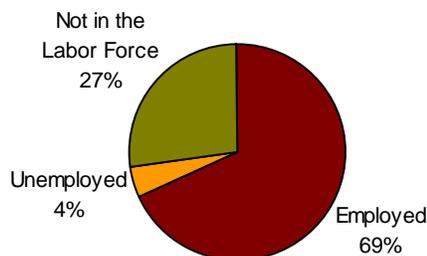
Whites were the largest race/ethnic group in South Belt-Ellington. Hispanics were the second largest ethnic group, comprising one-third of the population; 21% were of other races.

Of the total population, more than half (58%) were native Texans; 18% were foreign born.



## Employment

More than two-thirds of South Belt-Ellington residents, ages 16 and over, were employed in 1999.

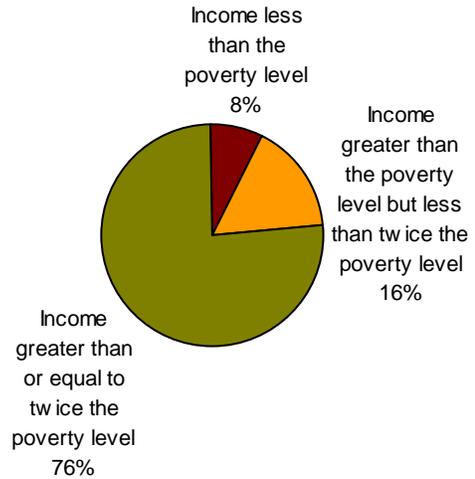


\* Data Source: U.S. Census 2000. Total population was calculated from census block-level data using Summary File 1. For purposes of describing demographics using Summary File 3, the super neighborhood is defined by the following census geographies: Tracts 3211, 3339, 3340, 3341, 3505; Tract 3212, Block Group 2; Tract 3502, Block Group 3; Tract 3503, Block Group 1; and Tract 3504, Block Group 1.

### Poverty

Only 8% of the population in South Belt-Ellington was below the poverty level in 1999. Less than one-quarter 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.



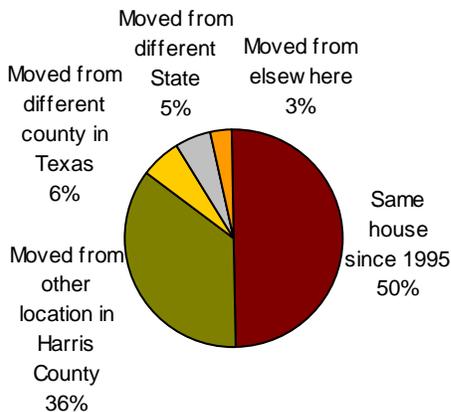
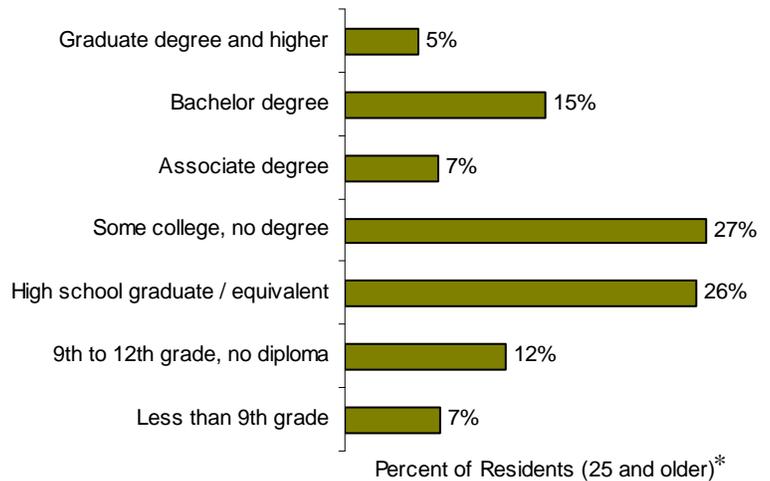
### Education

Nineteen percent of South Belt-Ellington residents, ages 25 and over, reported that they had not graduated from high school.

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

Approximately 54% of residents had attained education beyond the high school level, with 27% earning a college degree.

\*Due to rounding, the total percentages may not be equal to 100.



### Population Stability

Half of the residents of South Belt-Ellington had lived in the same house since 1995. More than one-third (36%) moved to South Belt-Ellington from other locations in Harris County between 1995 and 1999.

Fourteen 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 higher overall annual average mortality rate than that of Houston as a whole. However, the rates for accidents and diabetes mellitus were slightly lower in the community than Houston overall.

### Leading Causes of Mortality, South Belt-Ellington, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

| Rank | Cause of Death                    | South Belt-Ellington |        | Houston | South Belt-Ellington - Houston |
|------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------------|
|      |                                   | Deaths               | Rates* | Rates*  | Rates                          |
|      | All Causes                        | 875                  | 930.6  | 898.2   | 32.4                           |
| 1    | Heart Disease                     | 231                  | 267.6  | 262.0   | 5.6                            |
| 2    | Cancer                            | 226                  | 215.0  | 197.6   | 17.4                           |
| 3    | Stroke                            | 62                   | 81.0   | 76.0    | 5.0                            |
| 4    | Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 39                   | 47.4   | 31.9    | 15.5                           |
| 5    | Accidents                         | 51                   | 32.6   | 34.8    | -2.2                           |
| 6    | Diabetes Mellitus                 | 25                   | 27.3   | 28.0    | -0.7                           |
| 7    | Influenza and Pneumonia           | 15                   | --     | 20.0    | --                             |
| 8    | Septicemia                        | 18                   | --     | 18.1    | --                             |
| 9    | Alzheimer's Disease               | 11                   | --     | 20.5    | --                             |
| 10   | Kidney Disease                    | 12                   | --     | 15.8    | --                             |

### Other Causes of Death of Particular Interest, South Belt-Ellington, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

| Cause of Death         | South Belt-Ellington |        | Houston | South Belt-Ellington - Houston |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------------|
|                        | Deaths               | Rates* | Rates*  | Rates                          |
| Coronary Heart Disease | 135                  | 157.3  | 174.1   | -16.8                          |
| Bronchus-Lung Cancer   | 79                   | 77.5   | 52.8    | 24.7                           |
| Motor Vehicle Accident | 26                   | 14.4   | 13.2    | 1.2                            |
| Drug-Induced Cause     | 18                   | --     | 8.2     | --                             |
| Firearm Related        | 6                    | --     | 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                                       | 786.0      | 771.2       | 779.0               |
| Cancer                                          | 715.4      | 796.4       | 816.3               |
| Heart Disease                                   | 544.7      | 586.6       | 689.3               |
| Suicide                                         | 341.2      | --          | -                   |
| Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Periods | 262.6      | --          | -                   |
| Homicide                                        | 199.3      | --          | -                   |
| HIV/AIDS                                        | 138.3      | --          | -                   |
| Stroke                                          | 111.5      | --          | -                   |
| Diabetes Mellitus                               | 68.2       | --          | -                   |
| <b>Specific Causes of Interest</b>              |            |             |                     |
| Motor Vehicle Accident                          | 438.7      | 427.4       | 392.0               |
| Coronary Heart Disease                          | 251.7      | 282.1       | 376.1               |
| Drug-Induced Cause                              | 190.7      | --          | -                   |
| Bronchus-Lung Cancer                            | 152.9      | 177.9       | 153.2               |
| Firearm Related                                 | 151.1      | --          | -                   |

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, heart disease and suicide had higher impact on annual average YPLL rates among males than females in this community, while the YPLL rate for cancer was comparable between males and females..

## 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. In this community, more years of life were lost prematurely due to accidents, cancer, heart disease, suicide, and perinatal period condition related deaths than any other causes.

The age-adjusted annual average YPLL rates for accidents, cancer and heart disease were lower in the super neighborhood than those in Houston overall. Comparison of other age-adjusted YPLL rates is not possible because of the relatively small number (less than 5) of deaths occurring before age 65 in South Belt-Ellington. .

| Leading Causes of Premature Death §             | Male YPLL Rates (number of deaths) | Female YPLL Rates (number of deaths) |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Accidents                                       | 1274.7 (33)                        | 294.5 (12)                           |
| Heart Disease                                   | 778.9 (52)                         | 309.2 (21)                           |
| Cancer                                          | 715.7 (48)                         | 715.0 (40)                           |
| Suicide                                         | 533.4 (13)                         | 147.9 (7)                            |
| Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Periods | 447.2 (6)                          |                                      |
| <b>Specific Causes of Interest</b>              |                                    |                                      |
| Motor Vehicle Accident                          | 795.9 (20)                         | 79.4 (5)                             |
| Coronary Heart Disease                          | 404.6 (31)                         | 97.8 (10)                            |
| Bronchus-Lung Cancer                            | 204.1 (16)                         | 101.4 (11)                           |

§ Ranked by Male YPLL Rate  
 Note: Annual average YPLL rates might be unstable due to small

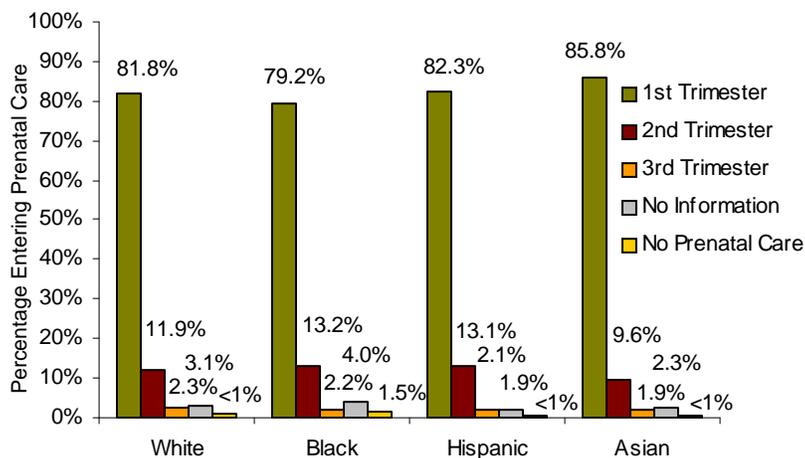
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census, 2000

## 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.

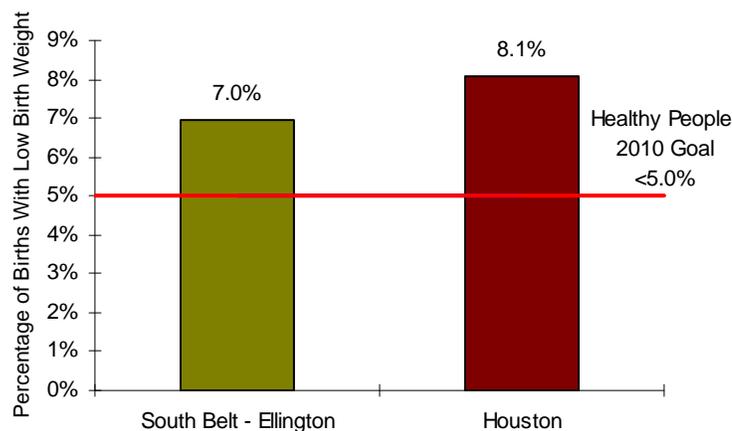
### Entry into Prenatal Care by Trimester of Pregnancy, 1999-2003

A higher proportion of Asian women (85.8%) than Hispanic (82.3%), White (81.8%), and Black (79.2%) women in South Belt-Ellington 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

Seven percent of live births in South Belt-Ellington 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.

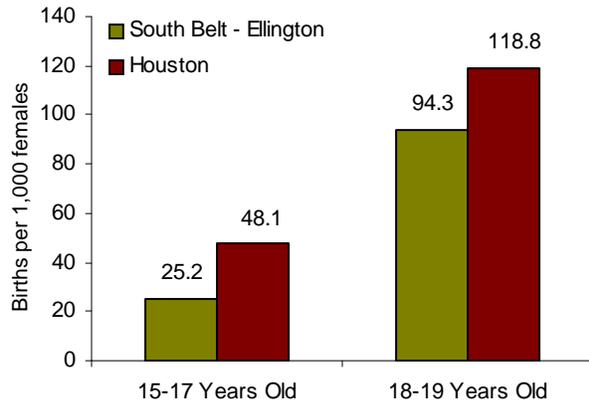
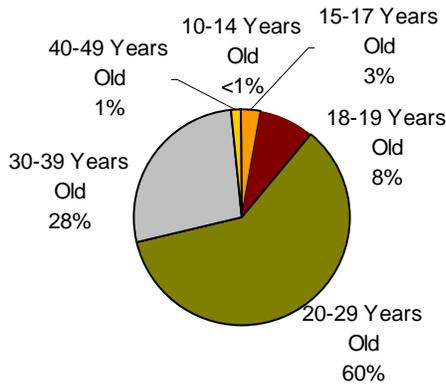


Low birth weight is a factor significantly related to infant mortality. Infants born with low birth weights are at increased risk for serious health problems and long term disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and respiratory, vision, and hearing problems. Low birth weight and infant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

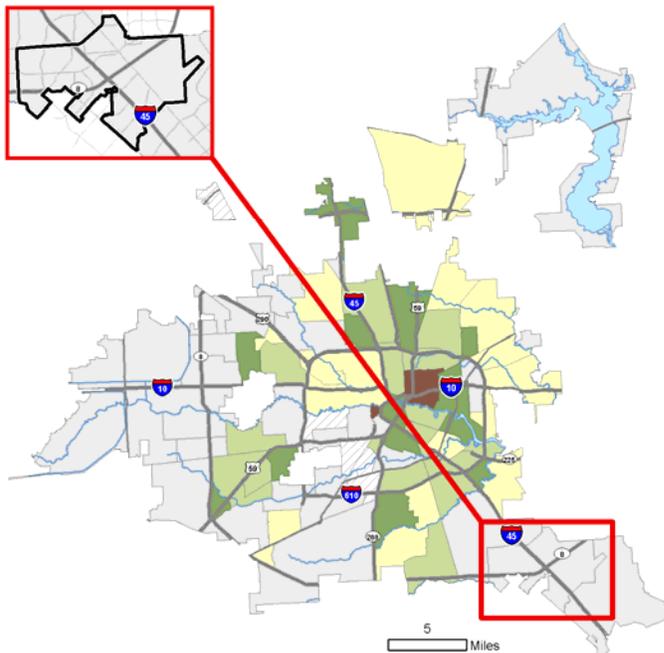


### Births by Age of Mother, 1999-2003

A total of 3,048 births were recorded over the period 1999-2003 among mothers in South Belt-Ellington. One out of every 9 of these births was to a young mother (10-19 years of age).

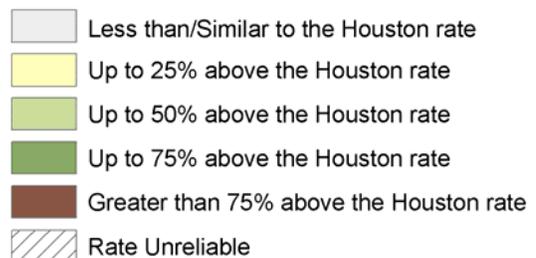
### Births to Teen Mothers, 1999-2003

The annual average birth rate for 15-17 year-old teens in South Belt-Ellington (25.2 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 years) was 48% lower than the rate in Houston overall. The birth rate among 18-19 year-old females in South Belt-Ellington was 21% lower than the total Houston rate.



### Births to Teen Mothers by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

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



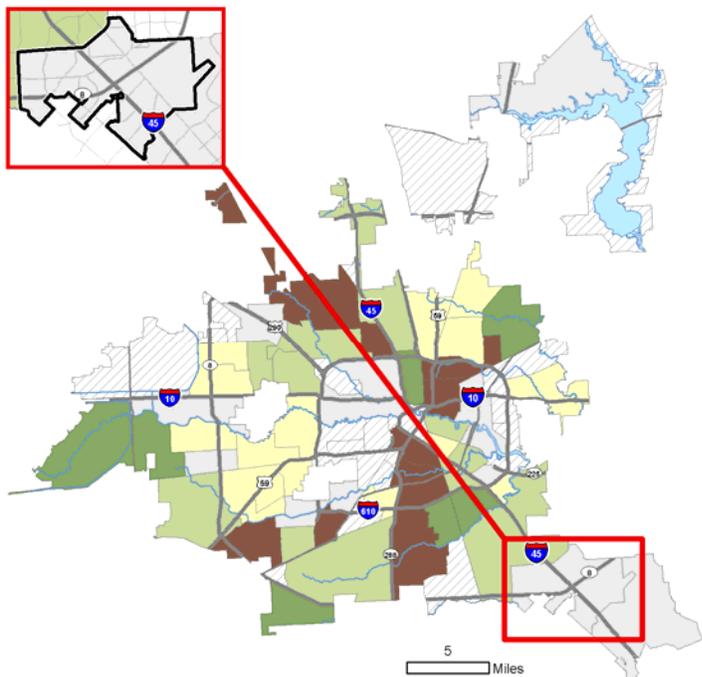
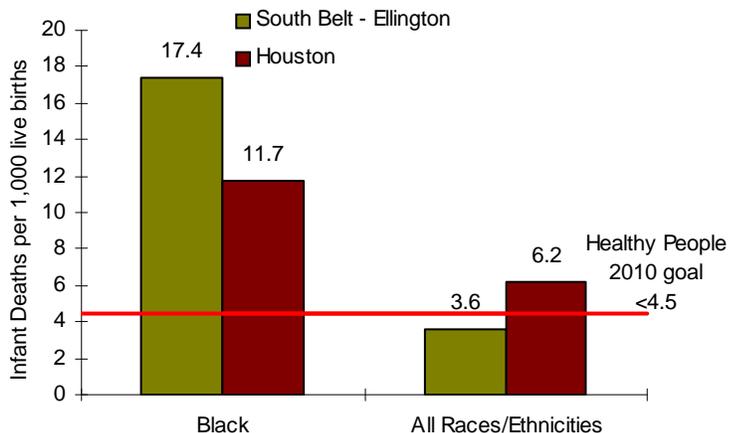
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census 2000

# 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 South Belt-Ellington was 42% lower than Houston's IMR and 20% lower than the Healthy People 2010 goal of 4.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Sixty-four percent (64%) of all infant deaths were among Blacks in this community. The annual average IMR among Blacks was 49% higher than that of Blacks in Houston overall. 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

South Belt-Ellington was among the neighborhoods with the lowest 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      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>1 Complications of pregnancy; childbirth; and the puerperium</b>  | <b>2416</b> |
| Complications mainly related to pregnancy                            | 768         |
| Indications for care in pregnancy; labor; and delivery               | 514         |
| Complications during labor                                           | 494         |
| <b>2 Diseases of the circulatory system</b>                          | <b>2396</b> |
| Diseases of the heart                                                | 1737        |
| Cerebrovascular disease                                              | 334         |
| Diseases of arteries; arterioles; and capillaries                    | 152         |
| <b>3 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period</b>      | <b>2182</b> |
| Liveborn                                                             | 2143        |
| Other perinatal conditions                                           | 20          |
| Short gestation; low birth weight; and fetal growth retardation      | 10          |
| <b>4 Diseases of the digestive system</b>                            | <b>1150</b> |
| Lower gastrointestinal disorders                                     | 307         |
| Biliary tract disease                                                | 185         |
| Upper gastrointestinal disorders                                     | 153         |
| <b>5 Neoplasms</b>                                                   | <b>882</b>  |
| Benign neoplasms                                                     | 198         |
| Maintenance chemotherapy; radiotherapy                               | 162         |
| Secondary malignancies                                               | 111         |
| <b>6 Diseases of the respiratory system</b>                          | <b>869</b>  |
| Respiratory infections                                               | 427         |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchiectasis             | 159         |
| Asthma                                                               | 85          |
| <b>7 Injury and poisoning</b>                                        | <b>838</b>  |
| Complications                                                        | 321         |
| Fractures                                                            | 302         |
| Poisoning                                                            | 54          |

In South Belt-Ellington, during the years 1999-2002, the most common causes of hospitalization were related to complications during pregnancy and childbirth, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, perinatal period conditions, digestive disorders, or neoplasms.

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.

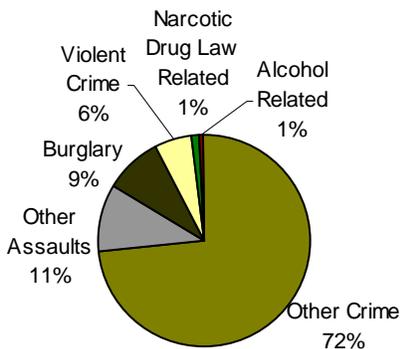
|                                                                                            |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>8 Diseases of the genitourinary system</b>                                              | <b>730</b> |
| Diseases of the urinary system                                                             | 363        |
| Diseases of female genital organs                                                          | 329        |
| Diseases of male genital organs                                                            | 38         |
| <b>9 Symptoms; signs; and ill-defined conditions and factors influencing health status</b> | <b>599</b> |
| Factors influencing health care                                                            | 369        |
| Symptoms; signs; and ill-defined conditions                                                | 230        |
| <b>10 Mental disorders</b>                                                                 | <b>527</b> |
| Affective disorders                                                                        | 254        |
| Schizophrenia and related disorders                                                        | 107        |
| Other mental conditions                                                                    | 43         |

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

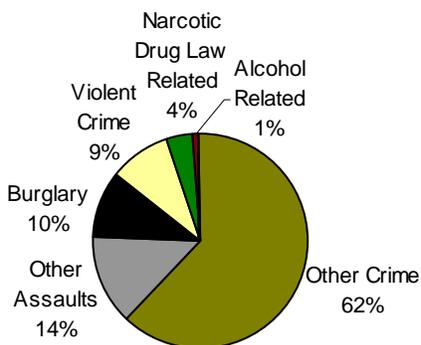
# Crime

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.

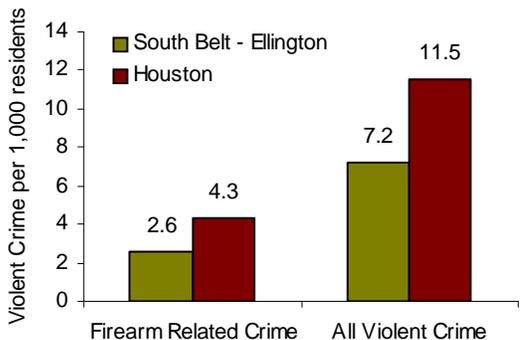
## Overview of Crime, 1999-2003



Crime in South Belt-Ellington

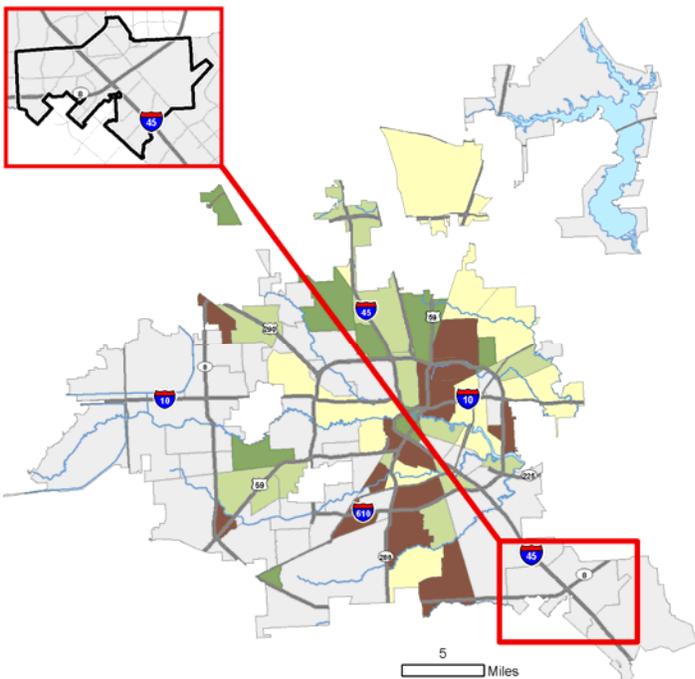


Crime in Houston



## Violent Crime, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of violent crime in South Belt-Ellington was 7.2 per 1,000 population, 37% lower than the Houston rate as a whole. The firearm-related violent crime rate in South Belt-Ellington was 2.6 per 1,000 population, 40% lower than the rate in Houston overall.



## Rate of Violent Crime by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

South Belt-Ellington was among the neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of violent crime in the city.

- 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

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 South Belt-Ellington, representing 1% of all cases diagnosed in Houston in that period. The annual average rate in South Belt-Ellington was 7.4 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 these cases were among adults 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.

There were 8 drowning or submersion cases reported among South Belt-Ellington residents from 1999-2003. The majority of these occurred in children 5 years of age or younger.

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.

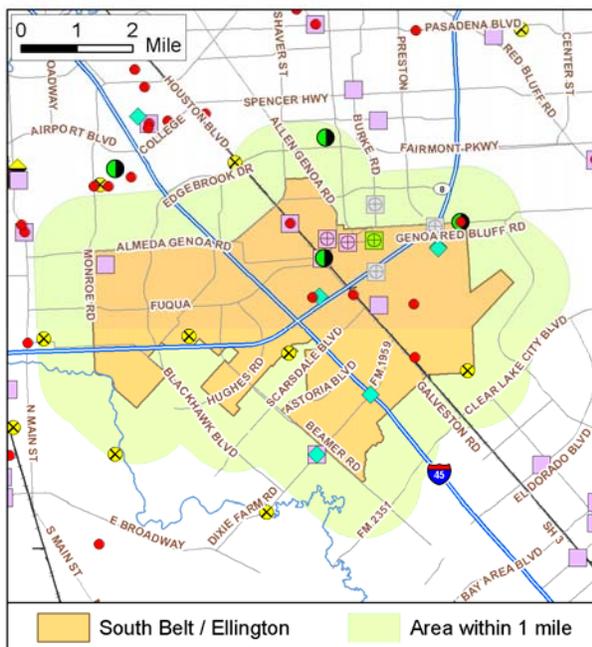
Food-related diseases are typically under-reported. It is likely that many more cases occurred from 1999 to 2003 than were actually reported to health officials.

| Typically Reported Diseases | Number of Cases |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Hepatitis A                 | 10              |
| Shigellosis                 | 7               |
| Salmonellosis               | 17              |
| Campylobacteriosis          | 6               |

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 South Belt / Ellington, there are 6 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting facilities, 4 Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of hazardous waste, 3 major dischargers of air pollutants, 6 major storm water discharging facilities, 7 landfills (3 of which are active), and 4 current Superfund sites, 3 of which are included on the EPA's National Priority List (NPL).

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.

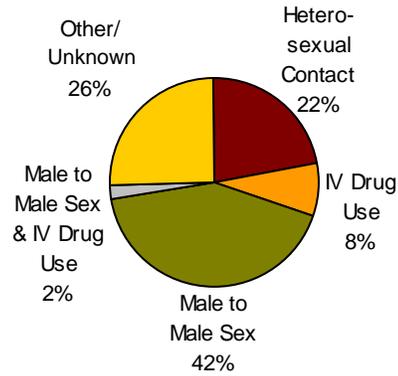
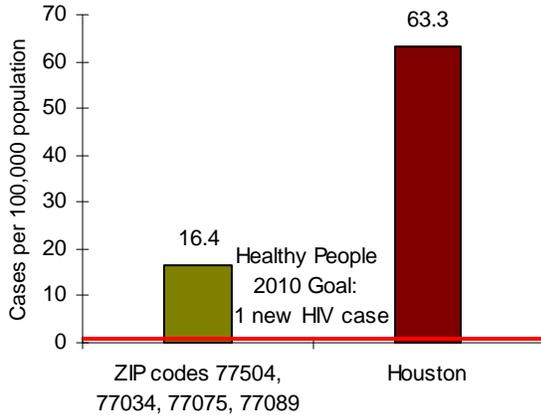
The EPA provides reports concerning federally regulated facilities through an online application called Envirofacts ([www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html)).

| 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.

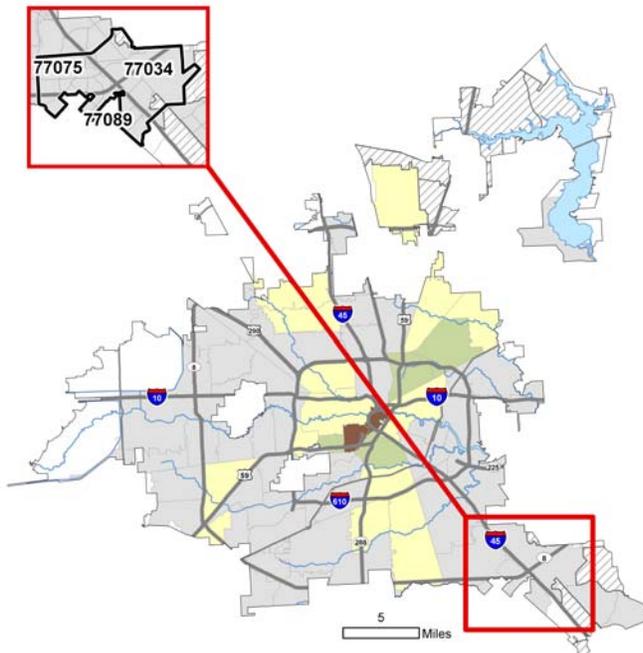


## New HIV Diagnosis Rate, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of new HIV diagnosis in the combined zip codes 77504, 77034, 77075 and 77089 (which include South Belt-Ellington) was 74% lower than the Houston-wide rate during the period 1999-2003; the rate of 16.4 cases per 100,000 population was far above the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 1 new case per 100,000 population.

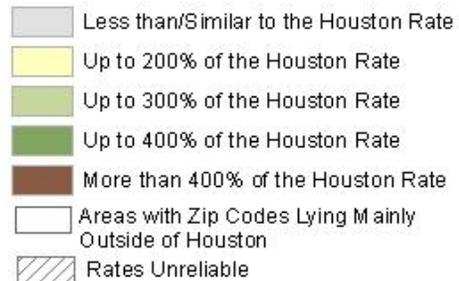
## HIV Risk Factors, 1999-2003

Seventy-three percent of new HIV infections occurred in males in South Belt-Ellington. In over one-quarter of all cases, the mode of transmission was unknown. Male-to-male sex accounted for about 42% of all reported cases. This was followed by heterosexual contact (22%) and IV Drugs Use (8%). 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

In three of the four zip codes which overlap South Belt-Ellington, the annual average rates of new HIV diagnosis were lower than those of most other zip codes in Houston. The rate in 77504 was unreliable due to a relatively small number of cases.



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

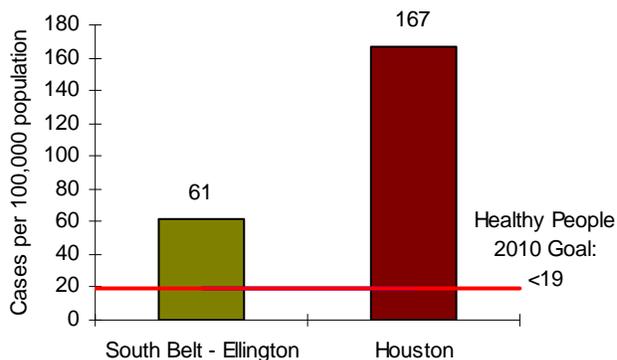
Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

# 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.

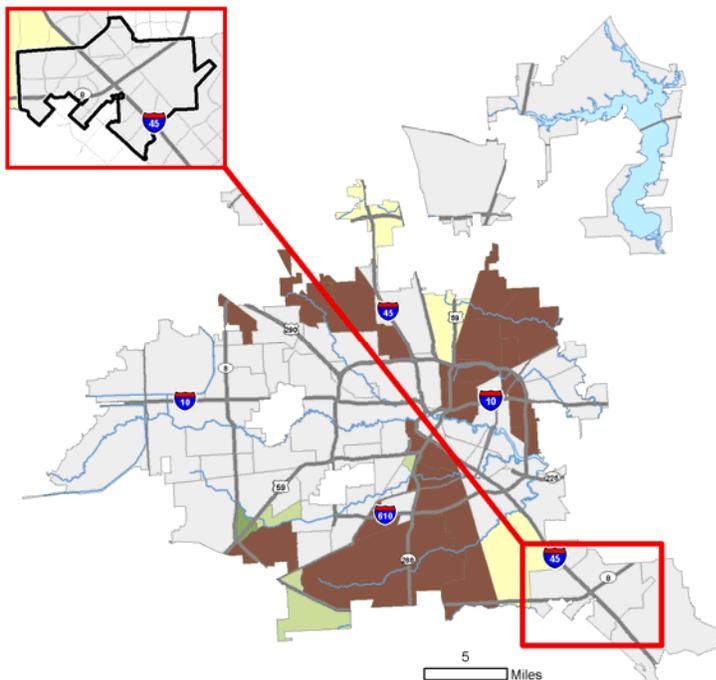
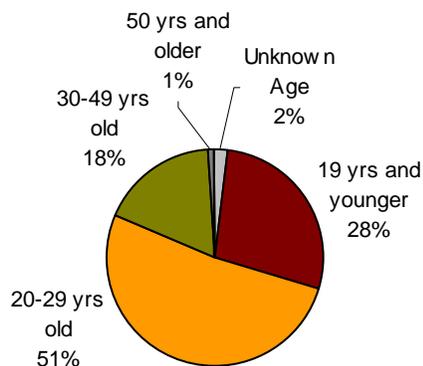
## New Gonorrhea Infection by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

The annual average rate of new gonorrhea cases in South Belt-Ellington was 63% 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.



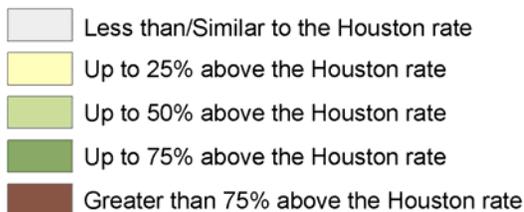
## Gonorrhea Infection by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

Blacks, who represent 12% of South Belt-Ellington's population, accounted for 52% of new cases. Slightly more than half (52%) of all cases occurred in females, and persons aged 20-29 years accounted for the majority of the cases.



## Rates of Gonorrhea Infection by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

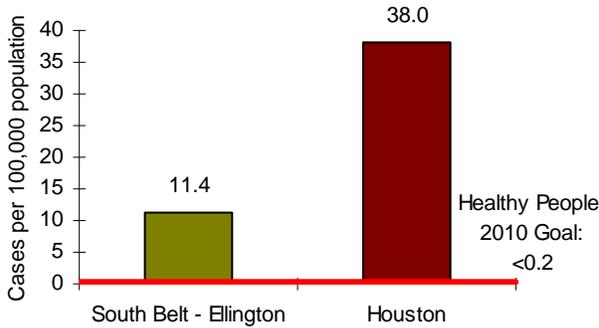
South Belt-Ellington was among those neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.



Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

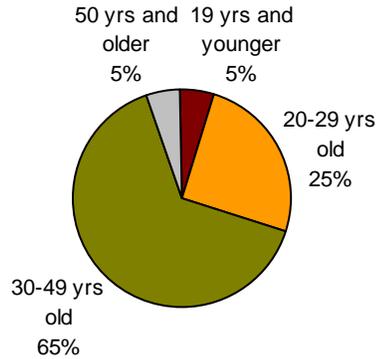
# Syphilis

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.



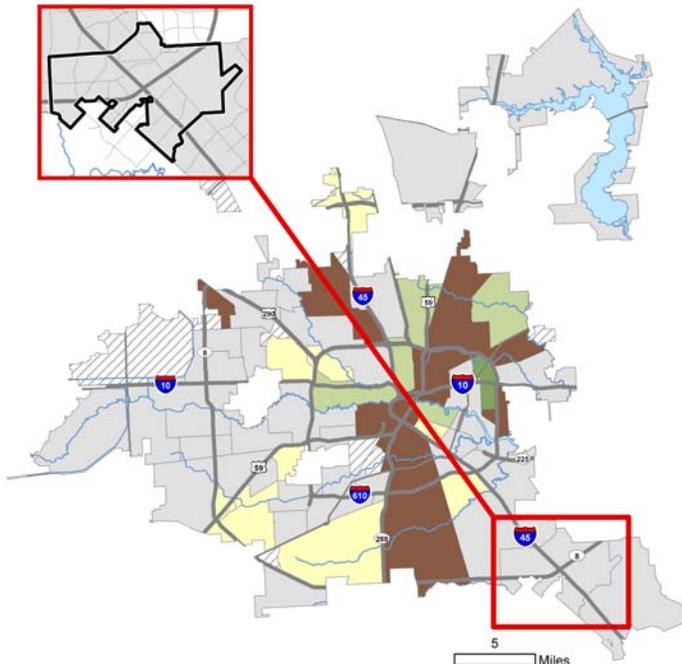
**Rates of New Syphilis Infection, 1999-2003**

The annual average rate of new syphilis infection in South Belt-Ellington was 71% lower than the rate in Houston overall; both were far higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal.



**Syphilis Cases by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity**

Thirty-five percent of new cases in South Belt-Ellington occurred among Hispanics. The proportion of syphilis cases were comparable among males and females, and persons aged 30-49 years accounted for the majority of all cases.



**Rates of Syphilis by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003**

South Belt-Ellington was among the neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.

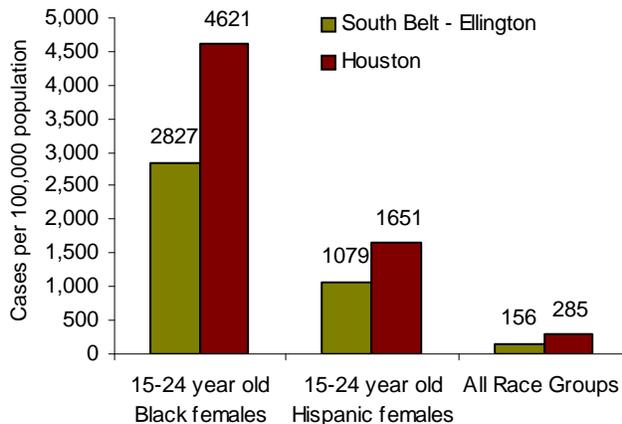
Data Source: HDHHS Bureau of Epidemiology

# 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.

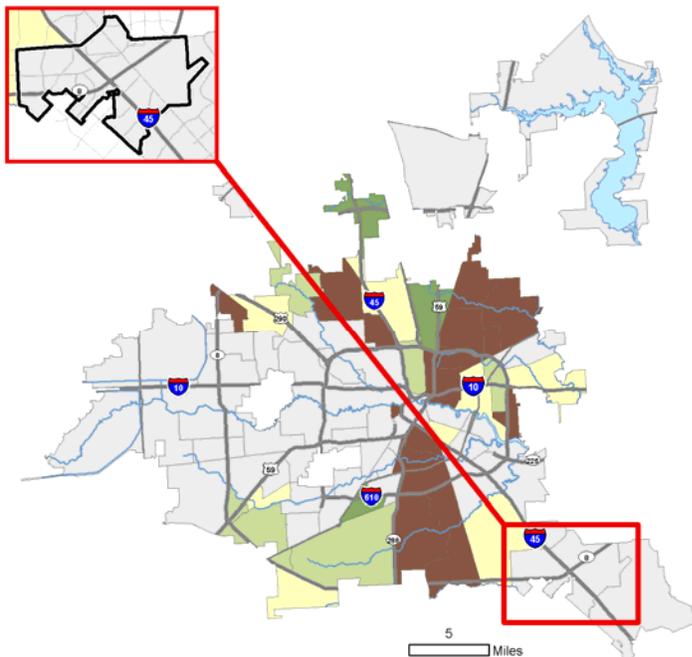
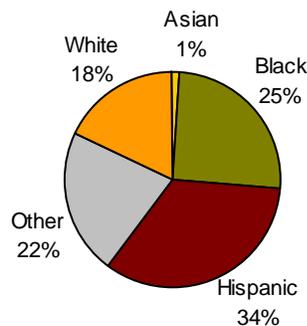
## Rates of Chlamydia, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of chlamydia infection in South Belt-Ellington was 156 per 100,000 population, 45% 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 South Belt-Ellington, this rate was 39% lower than that of the same group in Houston overall.



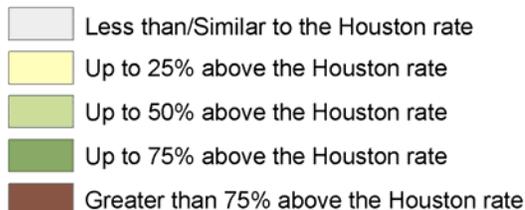
## Chlamydia Infection By Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, 1999-2003

Thirty-four percent of all cases in South Belt-Ellington were Hispanic; 22% were of undefined race/ethnicity. Eighty-eight percent of all cases were female. Persons aged 20-29 years accounted for more than half (56%) of all new infections.



## Rates of Chlamydia by Super Neighborhood, 1999-2003

South Belt-Ellington 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](http://www.houstontx.gov/health). Reports can also be requested by e-mail at [webadmin@cityofhouston.net](mailto:webadmin@cityofhouston.net), or by writing to:

### Community Health Statistics

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Editor

### **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.