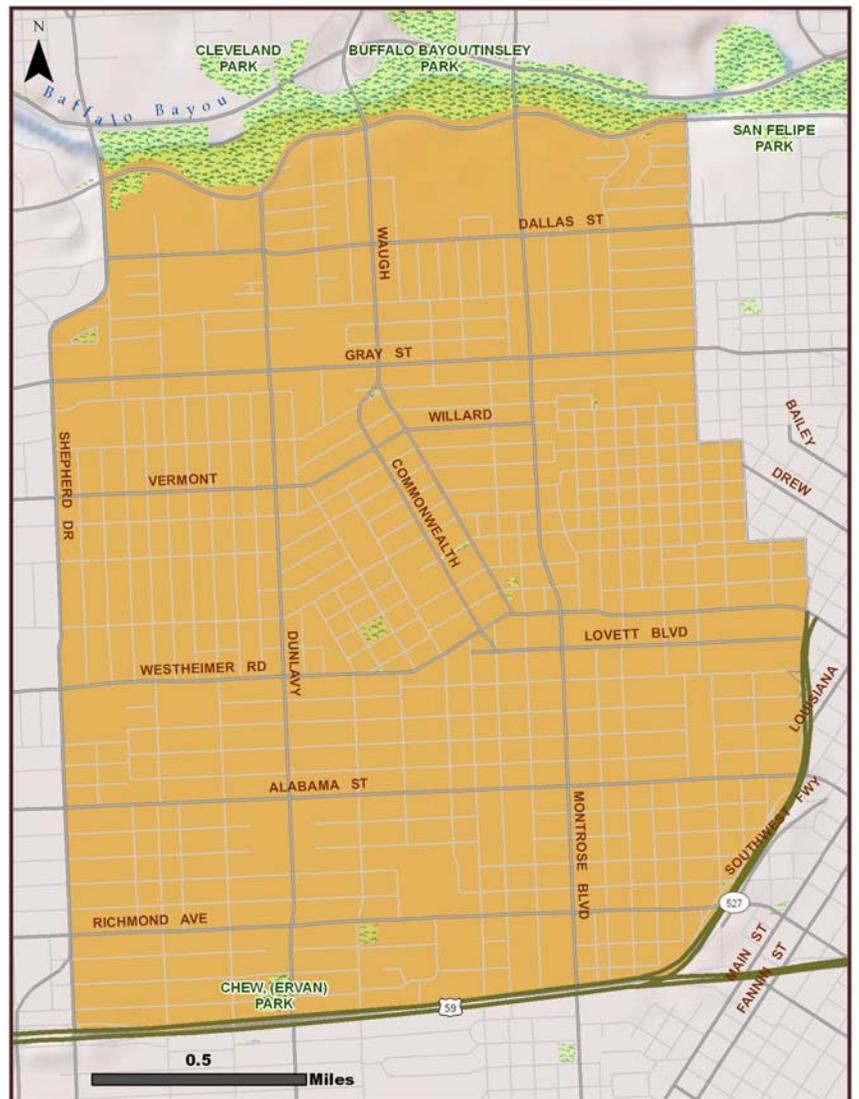
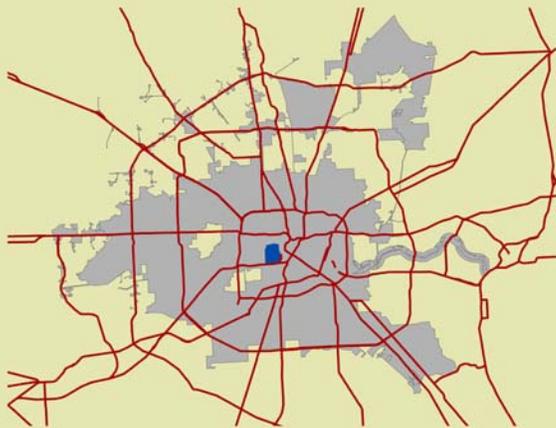


**1999-2003**



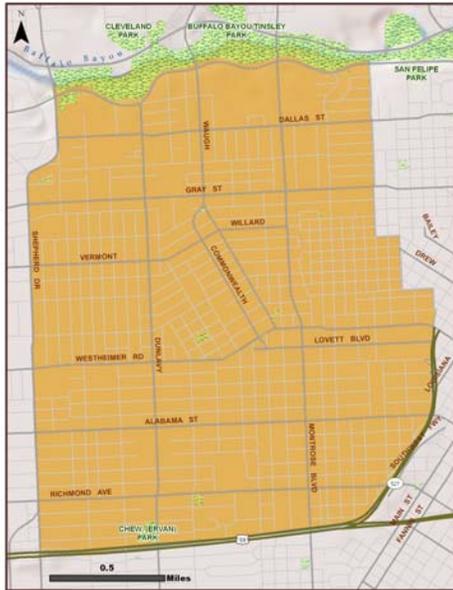
# Community Health Profiles

## Neartown- Montrose Super Neighborhood



*Providing Health Information  
for Community Action*

# Introduction



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

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 Neartown-Montrose and across the City of Houston.

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

## Table of Contents

Community Resources.....	3
The Super Neighborhood at a Glance.....	4
Major Causes of Death.....	6
Years of Potential Life Lost.....	7
Maternal and Child Health.....	8
Births to Teen Mothers.....	9
Infant Mortality.....	10
Leading Causes of Hospitalization.....	11
Crime.....	12
Tuberculosis.....	13
Drowning and Submersions.....	13
Food-related Illness.....	13
Environmental Health & Safety.....	14
HIV/AIDS.....	15
Gonorrhea.....	16
Syphilis.....	17
Chlamydia.....	18
Technical Notes.....	19

# Community Resources

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

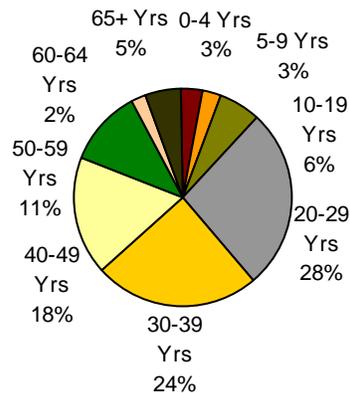


# Neartown-Montrose at a Glance

The total population of Neartown-Montrose was 28,015, according to the 2000 census.\*

## Age

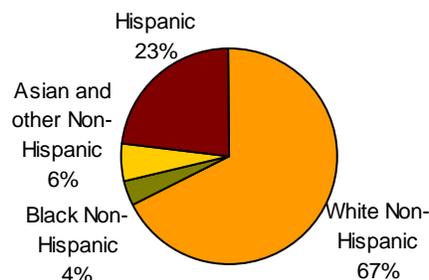
At the time of the 2000 census, 12% of Neartown-Montrose residents were under the age of 20. The majority (83%) were between 20 and 64 years of age, and 5% were 65 or older.



## Race, Ethnicity, National Origin

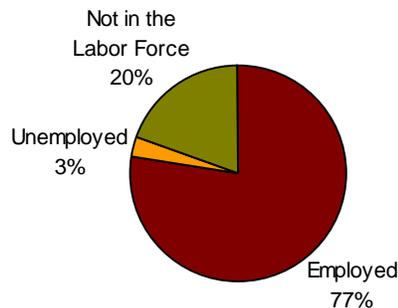
The majority of residents in Neartown-Montrose were White. Hispanics were the second largest ethnic group, comprising 23% of the population; 10% were of other races.

Of the total population, 42% were native Texans; 19% were foreign born.



## Employment

More than three-quarters of Neartown-Montrose residents, ages 16 and over, were employed in 1999.

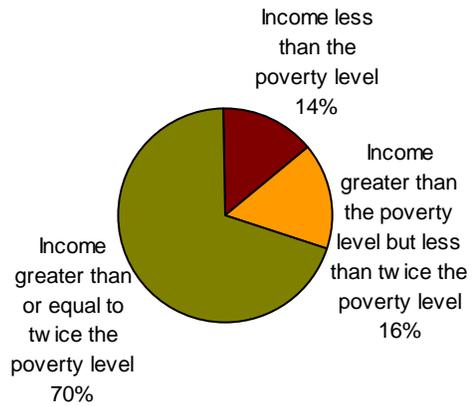


\* Data Source: U.S. Census 2000. Total population was calculated from census block-level data using Summary File 1. For purposes of describing demographics using Summary File 3, the super neighborhood is defined by the following census geographies: Tracts 4102 through 4109.

### Poverty

Fourteen percent of the population in Neartown-Montrose was below the poverty level in 1999. Thirty percent of all residents in the super neighborhood had incomes less than twice the poverty level.

Of those living below the poverty level, 18% were children under 18 years of age; 3% were adults 65 and older.



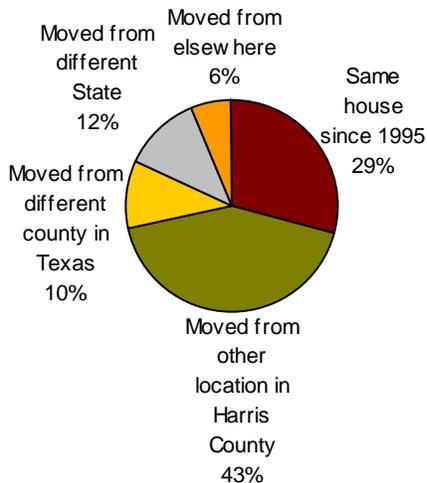
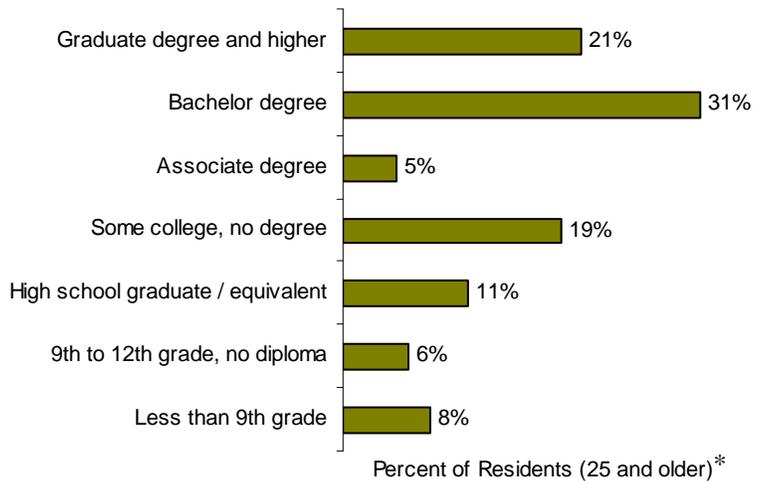
### Education

Fourteen percent of Neartown-Montrose residents, ages 25 and over, reported that they had not graduated from high school.

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

Approximately 76% of residents had attained education beyond the high school level, with 57% earning a college degree.

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



### Population Stability

Twenty-nine percent of the residents of Neartown-Montrose had lived in the same house since 1995. Forty-three percent moved to Neartown-Montrose from other locations in Harris County between 1995 and 1999.

Twenty-eight 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 mortality rates for cancer, stroke and accidents were lower in the community than Houston overall.

### Leading Causes of Mortality, Neartown-Montrose, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

Rank	Cause of Death	Neartown-Montrose		Houston	Neartown-Montrose - Houston
		Deaths	Rates*	Rates*	Rates
	All Causes	766	958.0	898.2	59.8
1	Heart Disease	177	272.3	262.0	10.3
2	Cancer	146	195.8	197.6	-1.8
3	HIV/AIDS	112	68.1	13.7	54.4
4	Stroke	36	60.3	76.0	-15.7
5	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	28	42.7	31.9	10.8
6	Alzheimer's Disease	16	--	20.5	--
7	Accidents	43	30.7	34.8	-4.1
8	Chronic Liver Disease-Cirrhosis	19	--	12.7	--
9	Influenza and Pneumonia	11	--	20.0	--
10	Diabetes Mellitus	13	--	28.0	--

### Other Causes of Death of Particular Interest, Neartown-Montrose, Houston, Texas, 1999-2003

Cause of Death	Neartown-Montrose		Houston	Neartown-Montrose - Houston
	Deaths	Rates*	Rates*	Rates
Coronary Heart Disease	127	192.7	174.1	18.6
Bronchus-Lung Cancer	45	62.5	52.8	9.7
Drug-Induced Cause	30	17.8	8.2	9.6
Motor Vehicle Accident	9	--	13.2	--
Firearm Related	5	--	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**
HIV/AIDS	1841.4	1580.7	335.1
Accidents	850.1	809.8	779.0
Cancer	604.2	604.9	816.3
Suicide	503.1	--	-
Heart Disease	489.6	489.6	689.3
Homicide	205.2	--	-
Chronic Liver Disease-Cirrhosis	120.7	--	-
Stroke	72.4	--	-
Diabetes Mellitus	60.3	--	-

Specific Causes of Interest			
Drug-Induced Cause	533.3	419.6	205.3
Coronary Heart Disease	362.1	377.4	376.1
Motor Vehicle Accident	169.0	--	-
Bronchus-Lung Cancer	98.8	--	-

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 HIV/AIDS, accidents, heart disease, cancer 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. In this community, more years of life were lost prematurely due to HIV/AIDS, accidents, cancer, suicide and heart disease related deaths than any other causes.

The age-adjusted annual average YPLL rates for HIV/AIDS and accidents were higher in the super neighborhood than that of Houston, while the rates for cancer and heart disease were lower in the community than Houston overall. Comparison of other age-adjusted YPLL rates is not possible because of the relatively small number of deaths occurring before age 65 in Neartown-Montrose. 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)
HIV/AIDS	2793.7 (100)	573.3 (12)
Accidents	1059.4 (29)	571.6 (10)
Heart Disease	735.8 (49)	161.8 (9)
Cancer	648.6 (42)	545.2 (25)
Suicide	622.2 (17)	344.7 (7)
Specific Causes of Interest		
Drug-Induced Cause	677.6 (21)	341.2 (8)
Coronary Heart Disease	520.4 (38)	151.2 (7)
Motor Vehicle Accident	202.1 (6)	

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

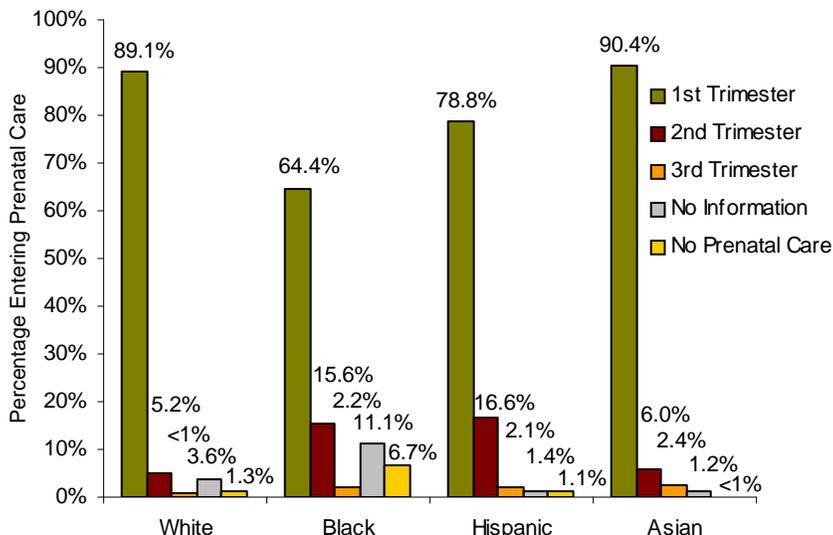
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census, 2000

## 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.

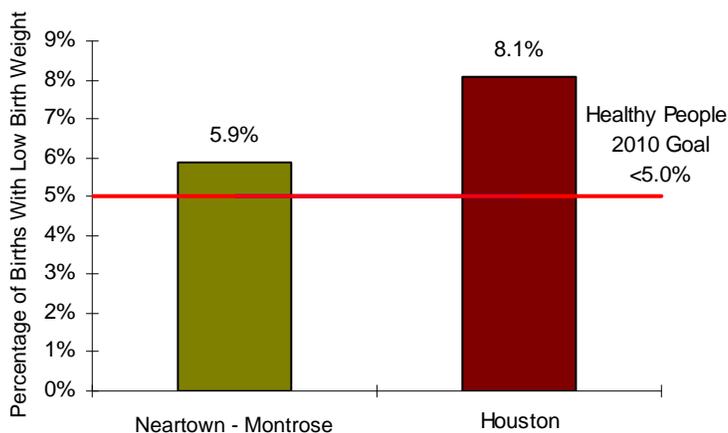
### Entry into Prenatal Care by Trimester of Pregnancy, 1999-2003

A higher proportion of Asian women (90.4%) than White (89.1%), Hispanic (78.8%), and Black (64.4%) women in Neartown-Montrose 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 Neartown-Montrose were of low birth weight (2500 grams or less), which was lower than Houston as a whole. Both were above the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 5% of live births being low weight.

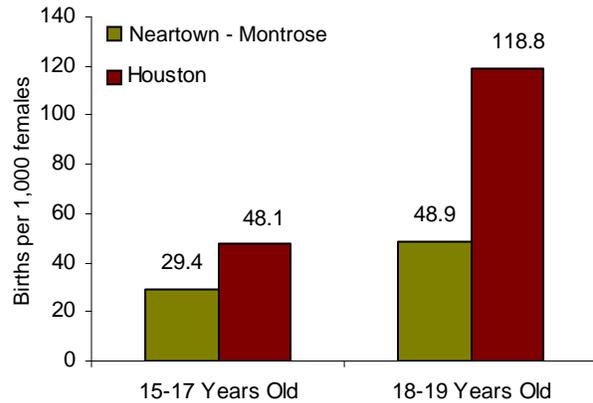
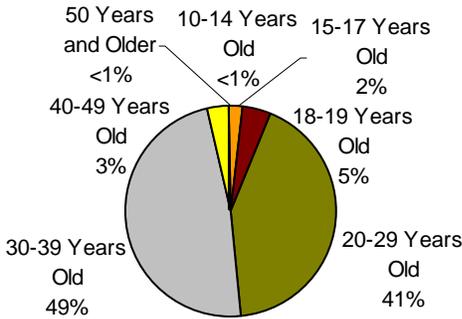


Low birth weight is a factor significantly related to infant mortality. Infants born with low birth weights are at increased risk for serious health problems and long term disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and respiratory, vision, and hearing problems. Low birth weight and infant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

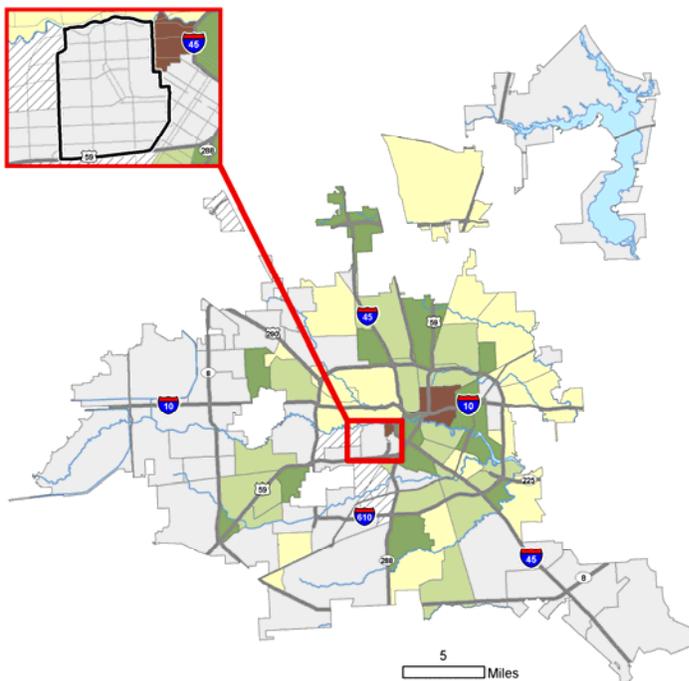


## Births by Age of Mother, 1999-2003

A total of 1,446 births were recorded over the period 1999-2003 among mothers in Neartown-Montrose. One out of every 14 of these births was to a young mother (10-19 years of age).

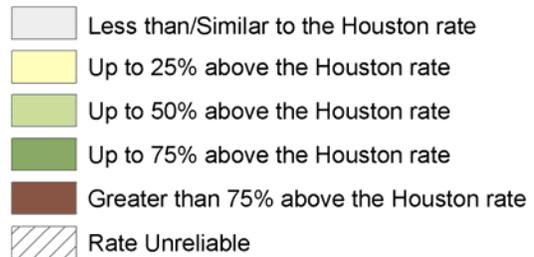
## Births to Teen Mothers, 1999-2003

The annual average birth rate for 15-17 year-old teens in Neartown-Montrose (29.4 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 years) was 39% lower than the rate in Houston overall. The birth rate among 18-19 year-old females in Neartown-Montrose was 59% lower than the total Houston rate.



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

Neartown-Montrose was among the neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of births to teen mothers (15-17 years of age).



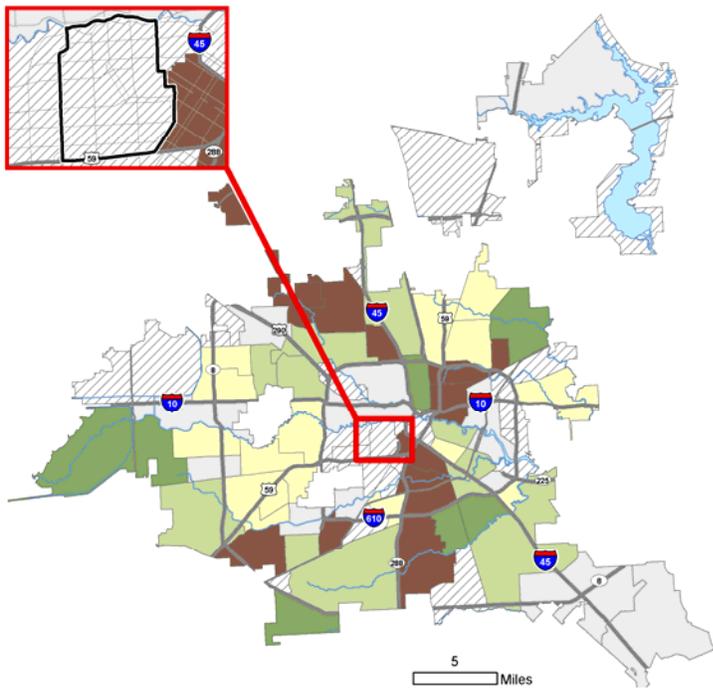
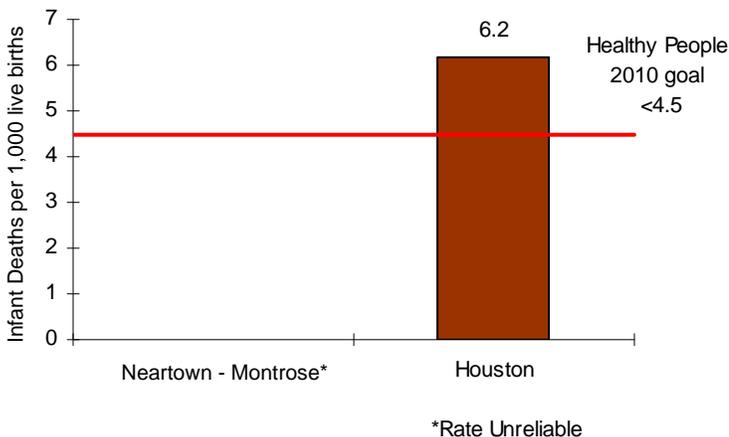
Data Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics; US Census 2000

# 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 infant mortality rate for this community was unreliable due to the small number of infant deaths, and is therefore not reported.



## Infant Mortality Rate by Super Neighborhood 1999-2003

Neartown-Montrose was among the neighborhoods with the lowest number of infant deaths.

- 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</b>	<b>Complications of pregnancy; childbirth; and the puerperium</b>	<b>1131</b>
	Complications mainly related to pregnancy	315
	Complications during labor	270
	Indications for care in pregnancy; labor; and delivery	261
<b>2</b>	<b>Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period</b>	<b>1067</b>
	Liveborn	1028
	Other perinatal conditions	22
	Short gestation; low birth weight; and fetal growth retardation	8
<b>3</b>	<b>Diseases of the circulatory system</b>	<b>878</b>
	Diseases of the heart	600
	Cerebrovascular disease	124
	Diseases of arteries; arterioles; and capillaries	62
<b>4</b>	<b>Mental disorders</b>	<b>818</b>
	Affective disorders	373
	Schizophrenia and related disorders	124
	Other mental conditions	110
<b>5</b>	<b>Diseases of the digestive system</b>	<b>634</b>
	Lower gastrointestinal disorders	217
	Biliary tract disease	84
	Upper gastrointestinal disorders	69
<b>6</b>	<b>Injury and poisoning</b>	<b>590</b>
	Fractures	222
	Complications	178
	Poisoning	61
<b>7</b>	<b>Neoplasms</b>	<b>485</b>
	Benign neoplasms	121
	Maintenance chemotherapy; radiotherapy	66
	Cancer of breast	46
<b>8</b>	<b>Diseases of the respiratory system</b>	<b>461</b>
	Respiratory infections	237
	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchiectasis	68
	Respiratory failure; insufficiency; arrest (adult)	39
<b>9</b>	<b>Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue</b>	<b>327</b>
	Spondylosis; intervertebral disc disorders; other back problems	137
	Non-traumatic joint disorders	91
	Other bone disease and musculoskeletal deformities	26
<b>10</b>	<b>Infectious and parasitic diseases</b>	<b>316</b>
	Viral infection	263
	Bacterial infection	49
	Mycoses	<5

In Neartown-Montrose, 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, mental disorders, or digestive disorders.

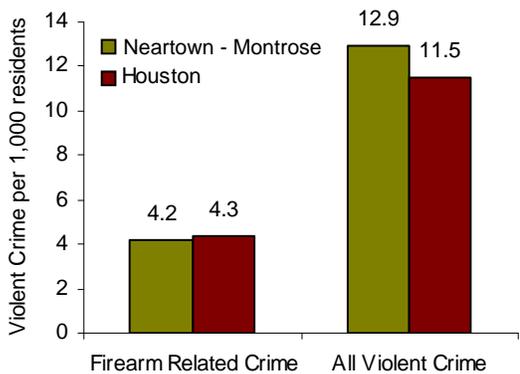
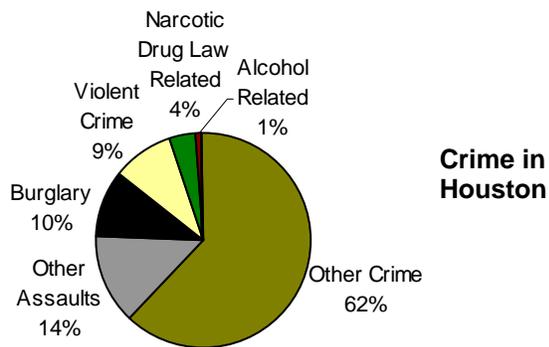
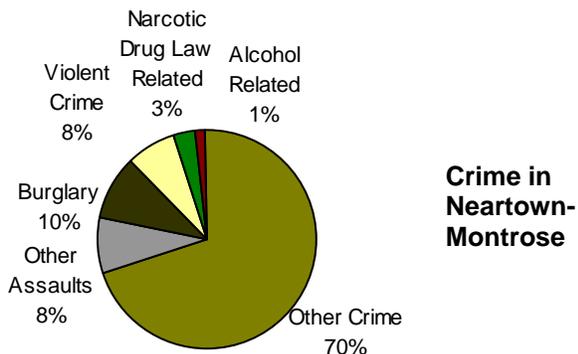
Note that only the most common conditions are listed under each major category of diagnosis, and that the sum of these counts may not equal the total counts for the category.

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



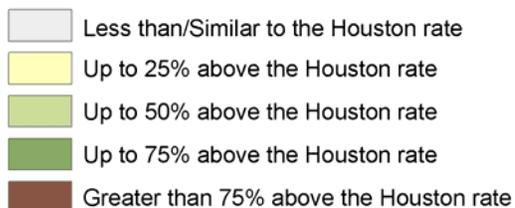
## Violent Crime, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of violent crime in Neartown-Montrose was 12.9 per 1,000 population, 12% higher than the Houston rate as a whole. The firearm-related violent crime rate in Neartown-Montrose was 4.2 per 1,000 population, slightly lower than the rate in Houston overall.



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

Neartown-Montrose was among the neighborhoods with elevated 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, 24 newly-acquired cases of tuberculosis were identified among residents of Neartown-Montrose, representing 1.8% of all cases diagnosed in Houston in that period. The annual average rate in Neartown-Montrose was 17.1 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 (75%) of these cases were among males from all age groups.

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 Neartown-Montrose 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.

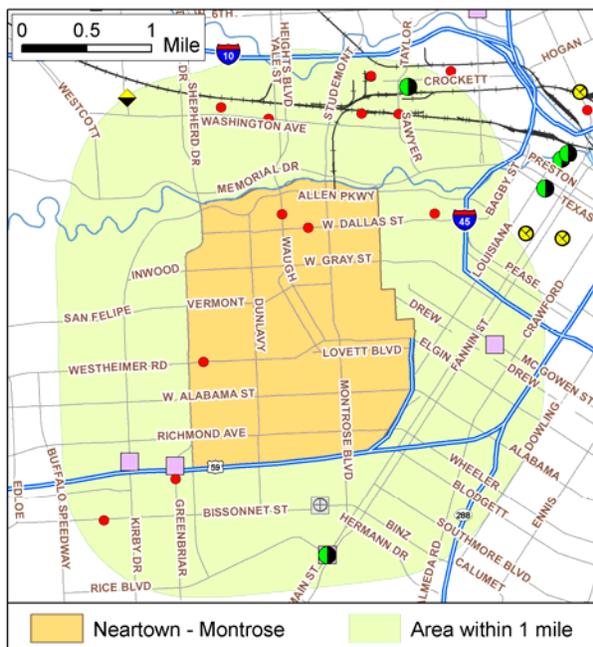
Food-related diseases are typically under-reported. It is likely that many more cases occurred from 1999 to 2003 than were actually reported to health officials.

Typically Reported Diseases	Number of Cases
Hepatitis A	17
Shigellosis	7
Salmonellosis	11
Campylobacteriosis	<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 Neartown-Montrose, there are 12 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting facilities, 4 Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of hazardous waste, 2 major dischargers of air pollutants, 1 closed landfill, and 1 radioactive waste site.

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)).

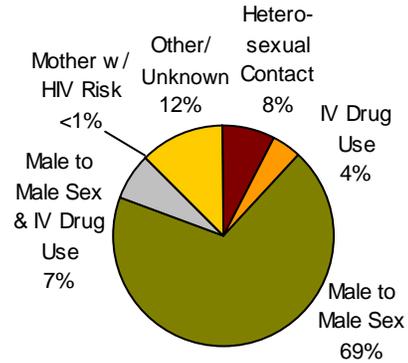
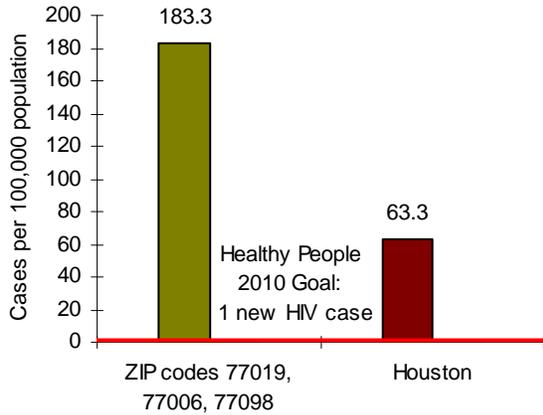
Type of Regulated Facility	Houston Count
Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Facilities (all reporting years)	302
Major Storm Water Runoff Facilities	56
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, or Disposal (TSD) Facilities	35
Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of Hazardous Waste	132

Type of Regulated Facility	Houston Count
Major Dischargers of Air Pollutants	71
Radioactive Waste Sites	4
Current Superfund Sites	12
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 77019, 77006, and 77098 (which include Neartown-Montrose) was almost 3 times the Houston-wide rate during the period 1999-2003; the rate of 183.3 cases per 100,000 population was far above the Healthy People 2010 goal of less than 1 new case per 100,000 population.

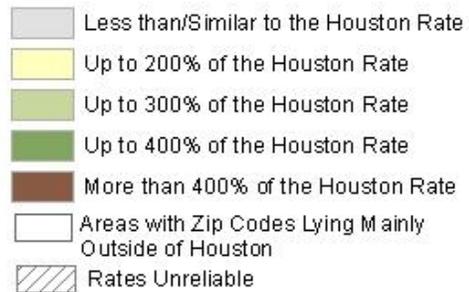
## HIV Risk Factors, 1999-2003

Ninety-three percent of new HIV infections occurred in males in Neartown-Montrose. In one-eighth of all cases, the mode of transmission was unknown. Male-to-male sex accounted for about 69% of all reported cases. This was followed by heterosexual contact (8%) and use of IV drugs (4%). Seven 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

While the annual average rates of new HIV diagnosis in zip codes 77019 and 77098 were each higher than those of many other zip codes in Houston, the rate in 77006 was among the highest in the city.



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

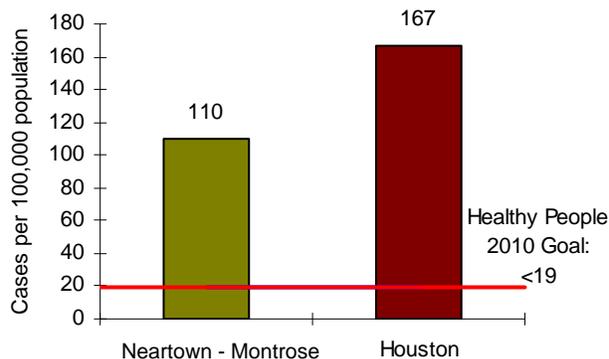
Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

# 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.

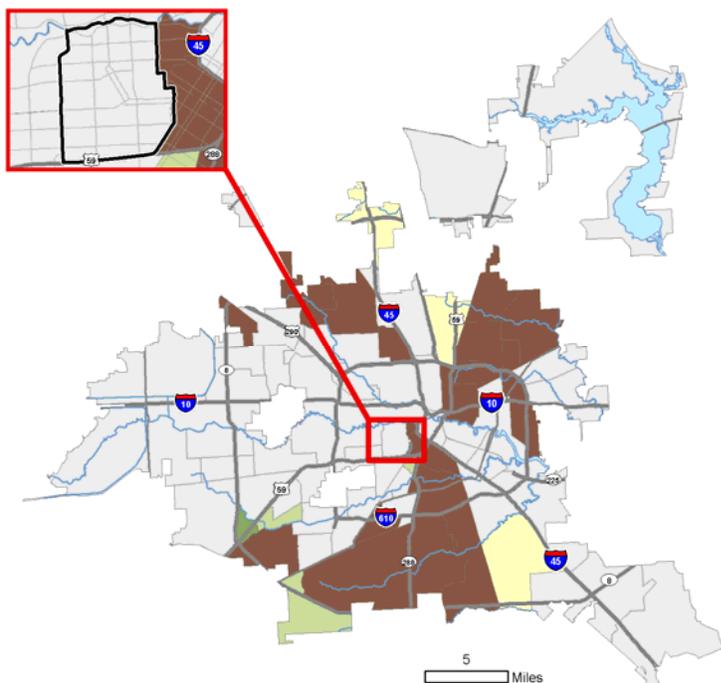
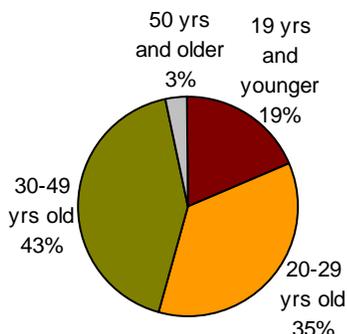
## New Gonorrhea Infection by Age, Sex, Race/Ethnicity

The annual average rate of new gonorrhea cases in Neartown-Montrose was 34% 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

Whites in Neartown-Montrose accounted for 31% of new cases. Although Blacks represent 4% of the population, they accounted for 27% of new cases. More than half (81%) of all cases occurred in males, and persons aged 30-49 years accounted for most of the cases.



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

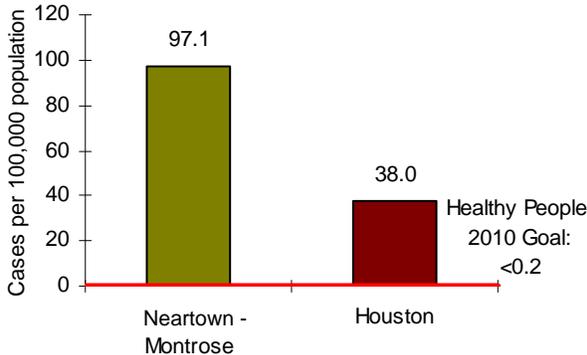
Neartown-Montrose was among those neighborhoods with the lowest annual average rates of infection.

- 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

Data Source: HDHHS, Bureau of Epidemiology

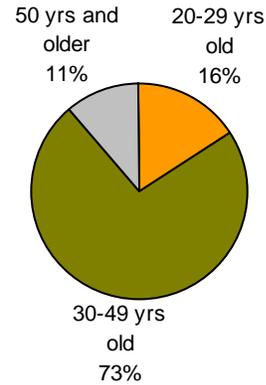
# Syphilis

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.



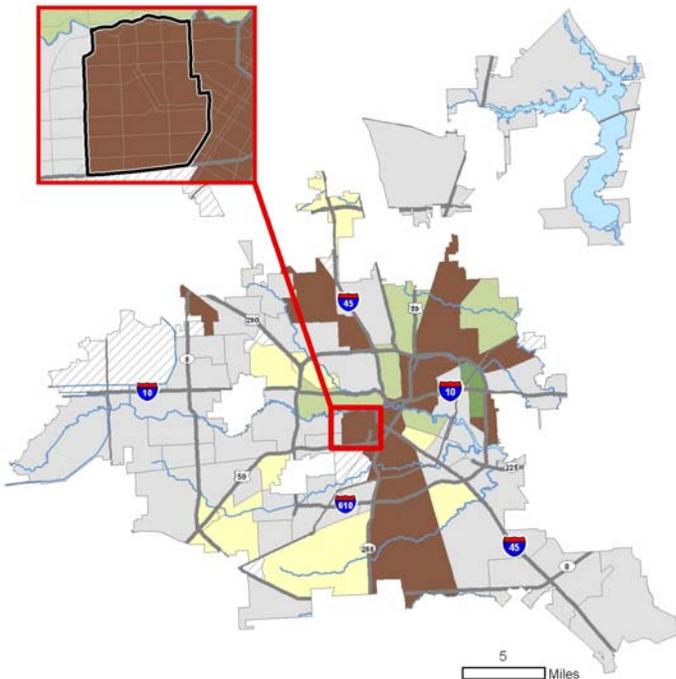
**Rates of New Syphilis Infection, 1999-2003**

The annual average rate of new syphilis infection in Neartown-Montrose was more than 2.5 times the rate in Houston overall; both were far higher than the Healthy People 2010 goal.



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

Sixty-two percent of new cases in Neartown-Montrose were White. More males (94%) than females (6%) 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**

Neartown-Montrose was among the neighborhoods with the highest annual average rates of infection.

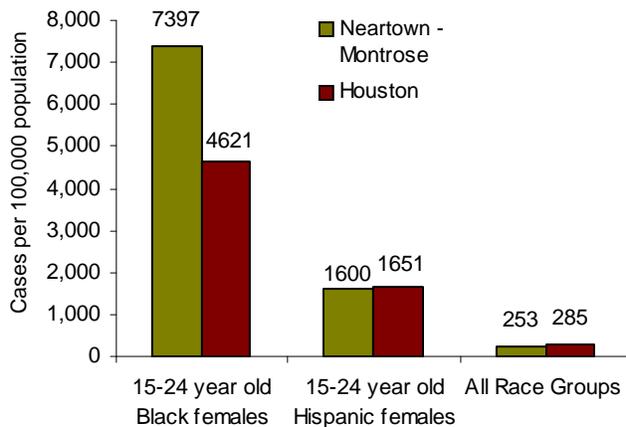
Data Source: HDHHS Bureau of Epidemiology

# 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.

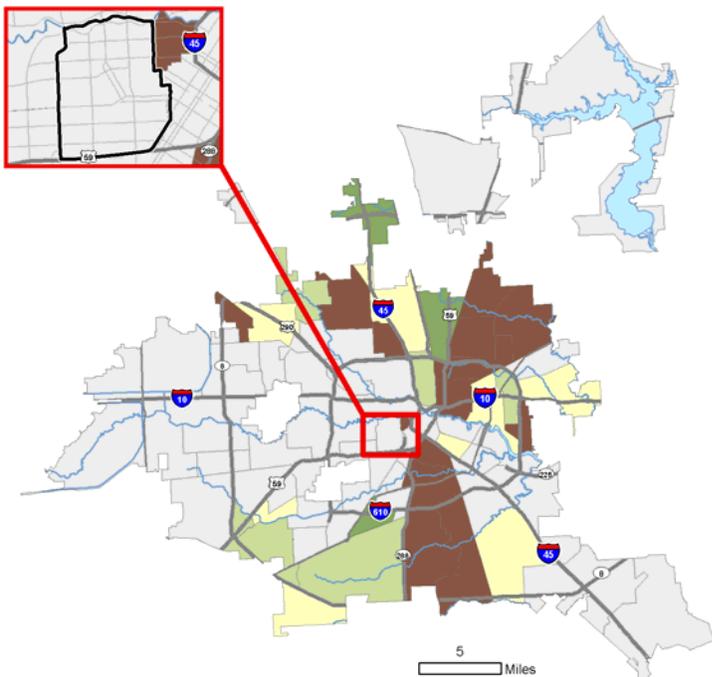
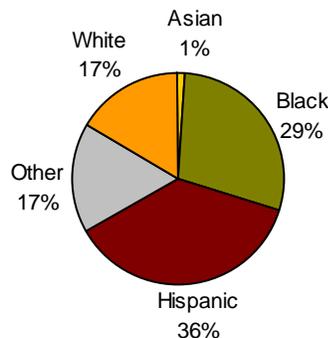
## Rates of Chlamydia, 1999-2003

The annual average rate of chlamydia infection in Neartown-Montrose was 253 per 100,000 population, 11% lower than the rate in Houston overall. Black women between the ages of 15 and 24 years had the highest rate of infection in Neartown-Montrose, which was 60% higher than the rate in the same group in Houston overall.



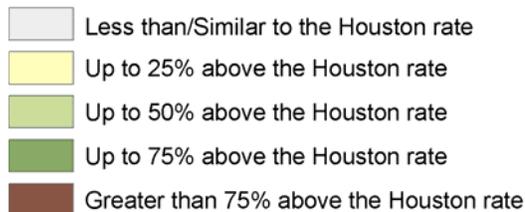
## Chlamydia Infection By Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity, 1999-2003

Thirty-six percent of all cases in Neartown-Montrose were Hispanic; 17% were of undefined race/ethnicity. Fifty-four percent of all cases were female. Persons aged 19 years and younger accounted for 52% of new infections.



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

Neartown-Montrose 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

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



City of Houston  
Department of Health and Human Services

Stephen L. Williams, M.Ed., M.P.A.  
Director

### Community Health Profiles

Produced by  
Community Health Statistics  
Office of Surveillance and Public Health  
Preparedness

Raouf Arafat, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Director

Mark Perry, M.P.H.  
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.