

What do you think?



Parks, playgrounds, community gardens, and walkability

The area is home to about a dozen parks and playgrounds containing play equipment, sports fields, open grassy areas, and wetlands. A cluster of parks along Conduit Avenue contain active uses, such as cricket and baseball fields. Playgrounds are dotted throughout the area on neighborhood streets and in NYCHA campuses. And, large waterfront parks, such as the 240-acre Spring Creek

Park and the 400-acre Shirley Chisholm State Park, are located along Jamaica Bay.

While the neighborhood contains multiple parks and playgrounds, wide, busy streets like Conduit and Linden can be barriers to residents accessing them. Efforts are currently underway to expand and ecologically restore Spring Creek Park.

Which parks or playgrounds are your favorite? Why?

What changes would you like to see to parks in your neighborhood?

What types of open spaces would you like to see more of in the area?
(e.g., playgrounds, ball fields, places to sit, natural areas, waterfront access)

How do you get to the park?
Do you face any obstacles in getting to the closest park/playground?

Open Space



Robert Venable Park

Neighborhood park with fitness equipment, a skate park, and playground



Pink Playground

Part of the NYCHA Pink House campus, the playground also serves the wider neighborhood



Gemini Fields

Baseball fields along a wide avenue, can be difficult to access

Parks, playgrounds, community gardens, and walkability



Do you know about the future plans for Spring Creek Park?



NYC Parks is working with the US Army Corps of Engineers to complete a 35-acre ecosystem restoration project between Flatlands Avenue and the Belt Parkway. The project will remove historical fill to restore tidal wetlands and enhance existing wetlands on site, and restore maritime forest and grassland. Overall, this will increase the resiliency of this park and it's ecosystems.

The project is in the final design stages and is scheduled to begin construction in 2024. NYC Parks is seeking funding for trails to increase recreational access to the newly restored site. **Would you like to have access to the newly restored trails in the park?**

What we've heard

Do you agree or disagree with these statements?
What would you add or change?

I would like to see more green spaces in the neighborhood, including more trees. There are very few parks, greenery, and areas for recreation in the area.

I remember when the area had more trees and animals, and I would like to see that again!

I like going to Gemini Fields and to the cricket grounds at Tudor Park but want to see better lighting at the fields. It is also hard to cross Conduit Avenue to access the fields

In addition to parks, I would like to see more gardens in the area

I enjoy going to Robert Venable with my family and want to see more spaces like it

The open spaces in the area need more maintenance to feel clean and safe

Add sticky notes with your reactions to prior comments or share new ideas below

What do you think?



Economic Opportunity

Increasing economic opportunity and access to quality jobs and services are central goals of the Jewel Streets Plan.

Where do area residents shop and access services?

This largely residential neighborhood has limited areas for residents to shop and access services today. Many residents go to the nearby Gateway Center or further outside the neighborhood to shop, get a bite to eat, or access healthcare and other services. The lack of amenities is partly due to current zoning, the rules that govern what can be built where, which limits where retail is permitted. It also stems from historic patterns of disinvestment through which this area has been passed over for new services and amenities.

Where do area residents work?

Most area residents commute to major job centers in Manhattan, following citywide trends, but many commute to nearby JFK Airport as well. Around one third of neighborhood residents work in the healthcare services sector and the next largest share of residents, around 20%, work in retail services and accommodation, closely followed by office-based and industrial jobs (1).

What types of amenities or stores do you feel are currently lacking and would you like to see more of (e.g., banks, laundromats, cafe/bodega, supermarket, restaurant, etc.)?

What services are of greatest need in the neighborhood to increase job access and help new business form and grow (e.g., job readiness training, hiring support, small business, support entrepreneurship classes)?

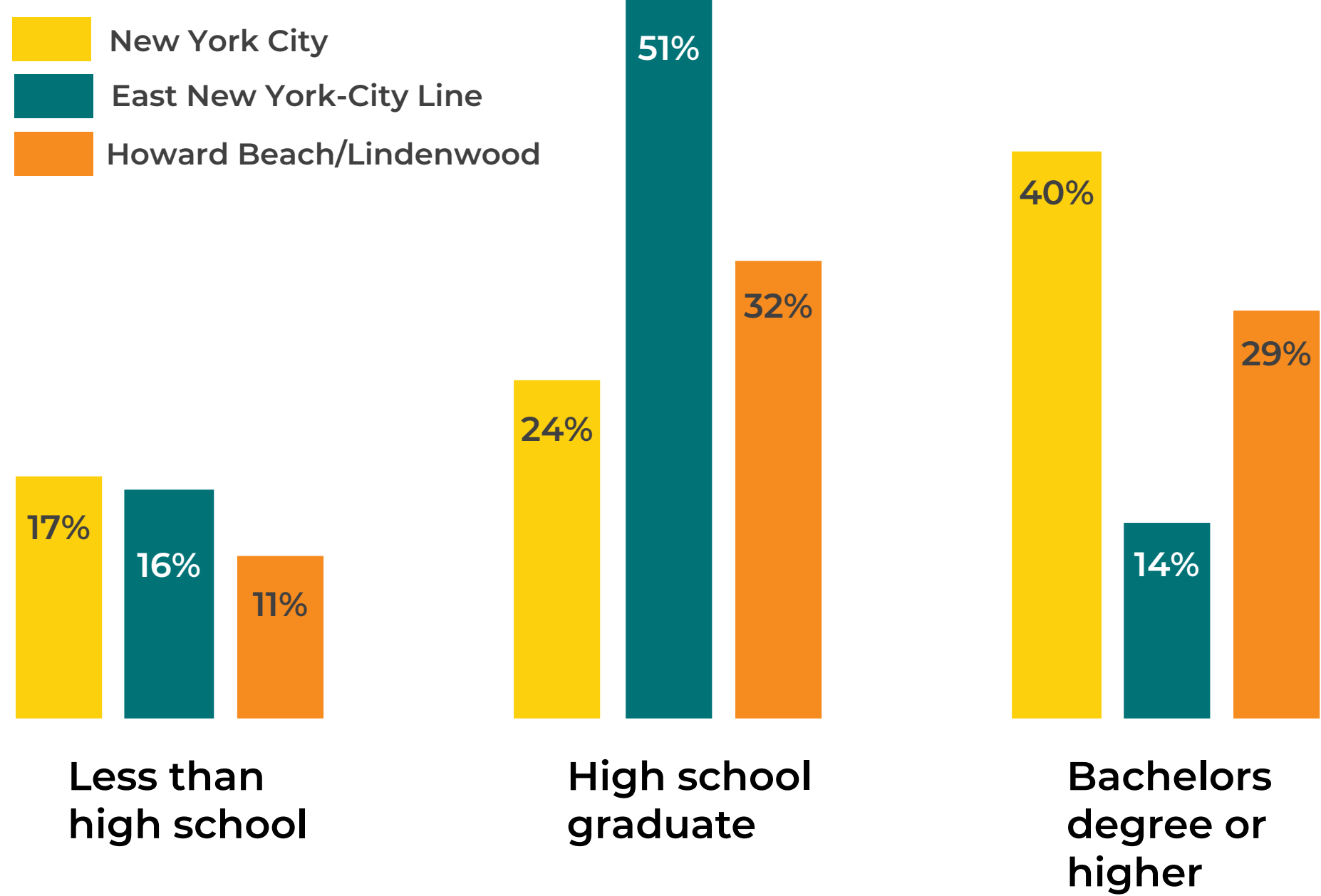
What type of job opportunities would you like to see more of in the neighborhood (e.g., healthcare, retail/food service, industrial, construction, education, offices)?

What would make the commercial streets in the neighborhood feel more inviting?

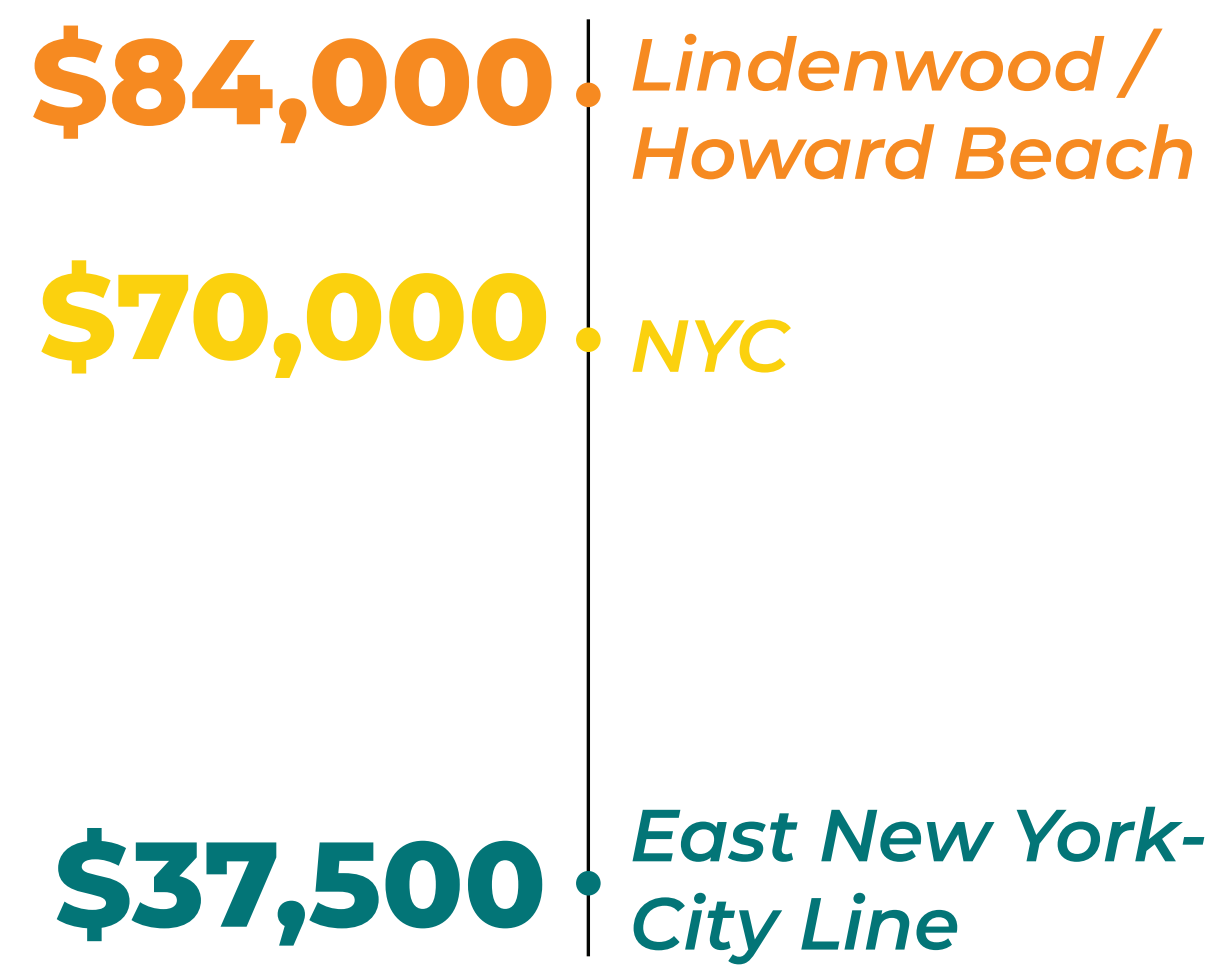
Economic Development

Educational Attainment

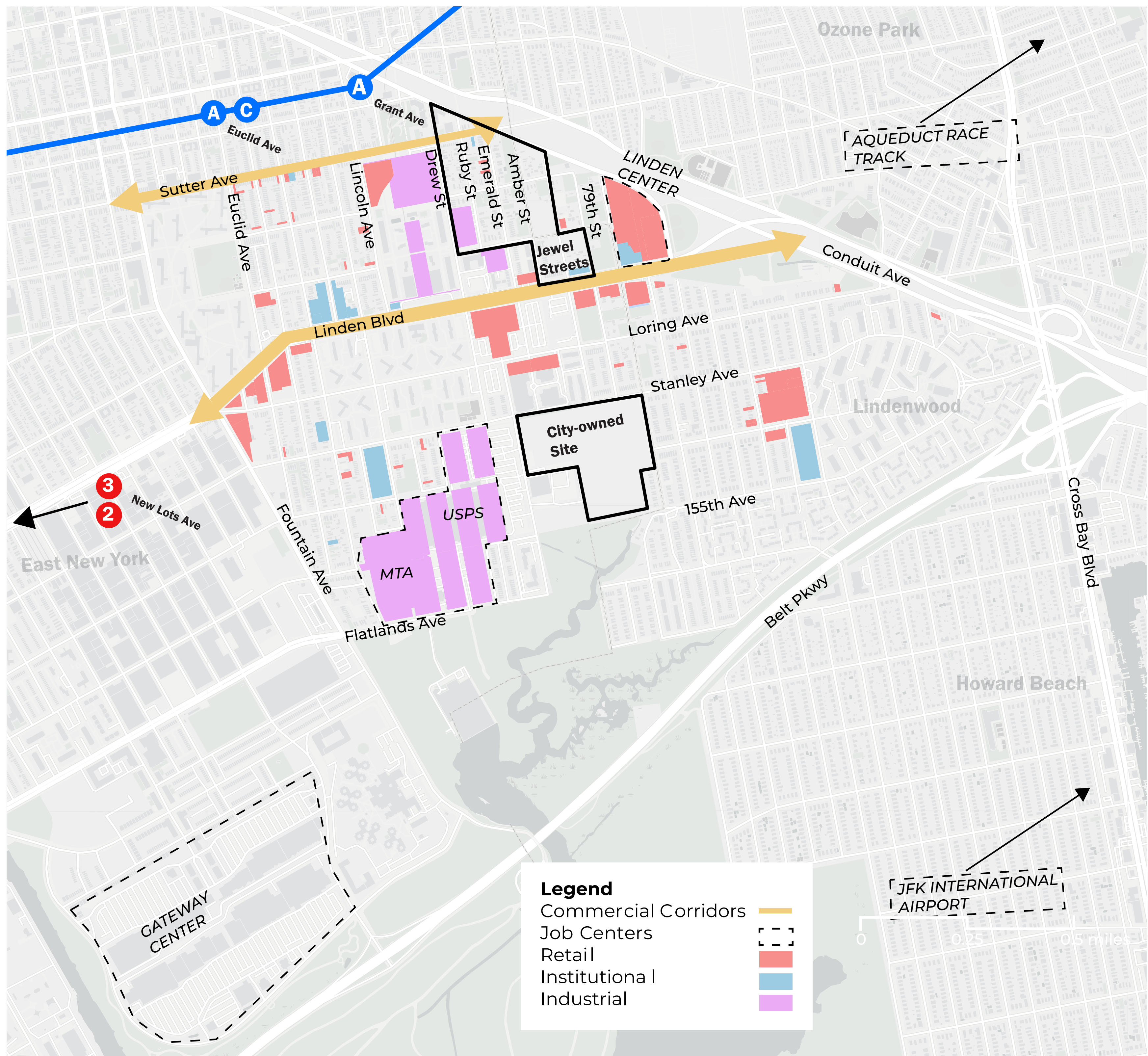
for population 18 years and above (3)



Median Household Income



Economic resources



Job Sectors

Study Area Population 16 years and above (1)

Industrial

Businesses that produce, repair, and/or distribute goods

- Wholesale, transportation, construction, auto repair, utilities, and waste management

Office

Businesses that provide commercial services

- Technology, finance, insurance, real estate, media, and information

Education, health care, and social assistance

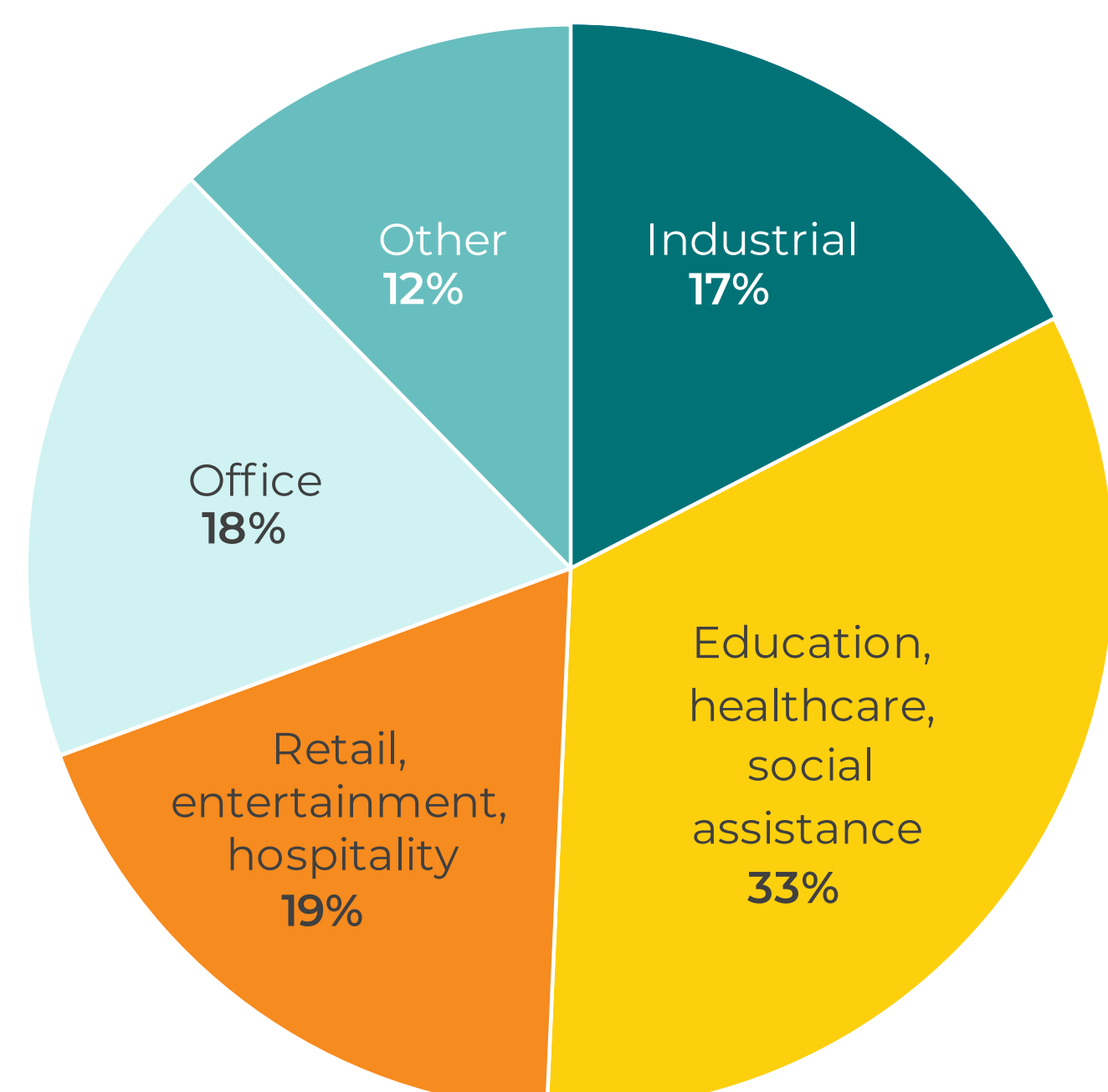
Businesses that provide educational, health care, social assistance, or religious services

- Hospitals, clinics, urgent care, hotels, education and training, not-for-profit organizations

Retail, entertainment, hospitality

Businesses that sell merchandise or provide accommodation, food, or entertainment

- Stores, restaurants, bars, hotels, and performance/cultural spaces



What we've heard

Do you agree or disagree with these statements?
What would you add or change?

We need more places to shop. I have to leave the area to buy groceries.

Would love more spots to go out for dinner with my family.

There aren't any banks or laundromats in the area. It is difficult to run everyday errands

Add sticky notes with your reactions to prior comments or share new ideas below

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Community Resources

Community resources are the services and spaces that allow residents to learn, build community, deal with stress, and enhance overall quality of life. Community-based organizations, schools, and community centers create spaces for youth, immigrants, and seniors to access services.

Resources like after school programs, workforce development services, and immigrant support are all part of the fabric of the neighborhood and play a vital role in shaping neighborhood identity.

Who is most in need of city services in the neighborhood?

Seniors
Youth
Immigrants
People with disabilities

Unhoused residents
Unemployed residents
Who else?

What types of city services are currently missing or inadequate in the neighborhood?

Immigrant services
Homelessness prevention and rental assistance
Schools and youth development
Senior services

Workforce development
Health and mental health
What else?

What groups or communities are you a part of? Arts/cultural, block/civic associations, religious?
What spaces do your communities gather in?

Community Amenities and Services



PS 224

A pre-K through 5th grade public school that seats 250 students in the area.



Pink Houses Community Center

A NYCHA campus community center that provides senior and youth programming along with a community facility space for other groups to use.

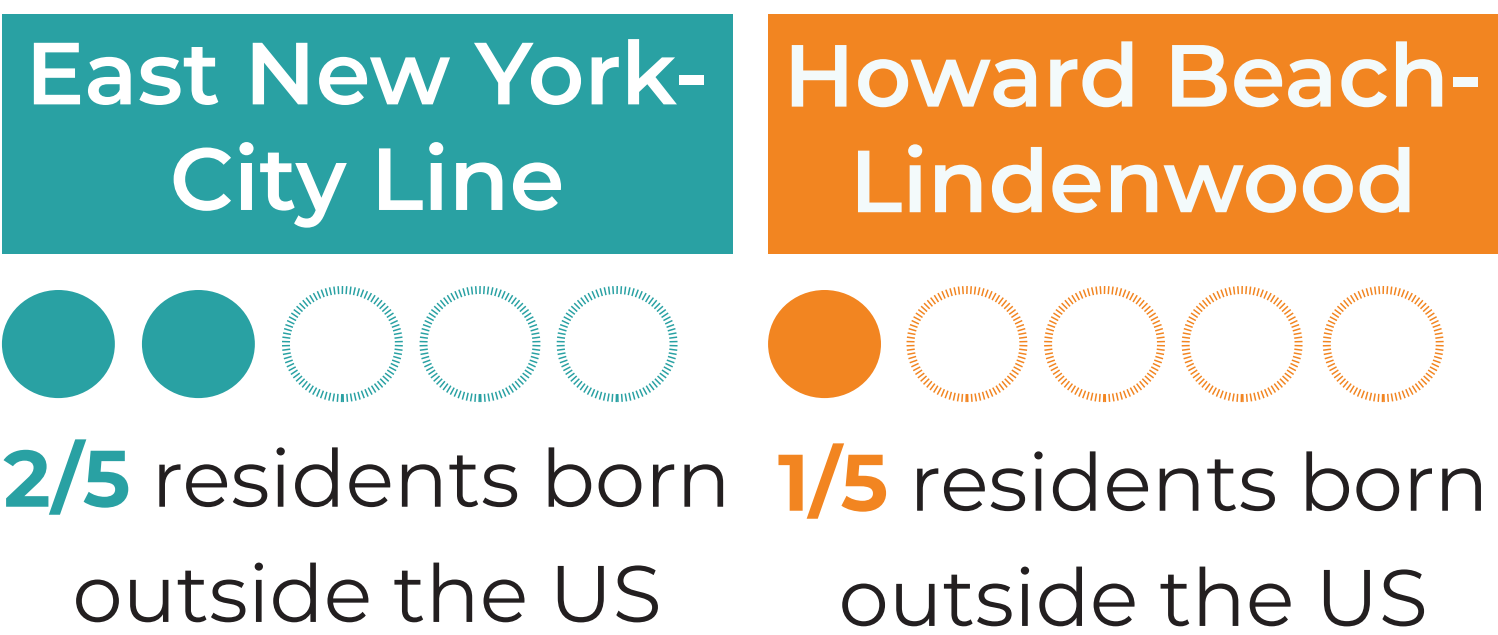


Cypress Hills Brooklyn Library Branch

Provides senior and youth programming, including tech literacy and cooking classes, and serves as an important community gathering space in the neighborhood.

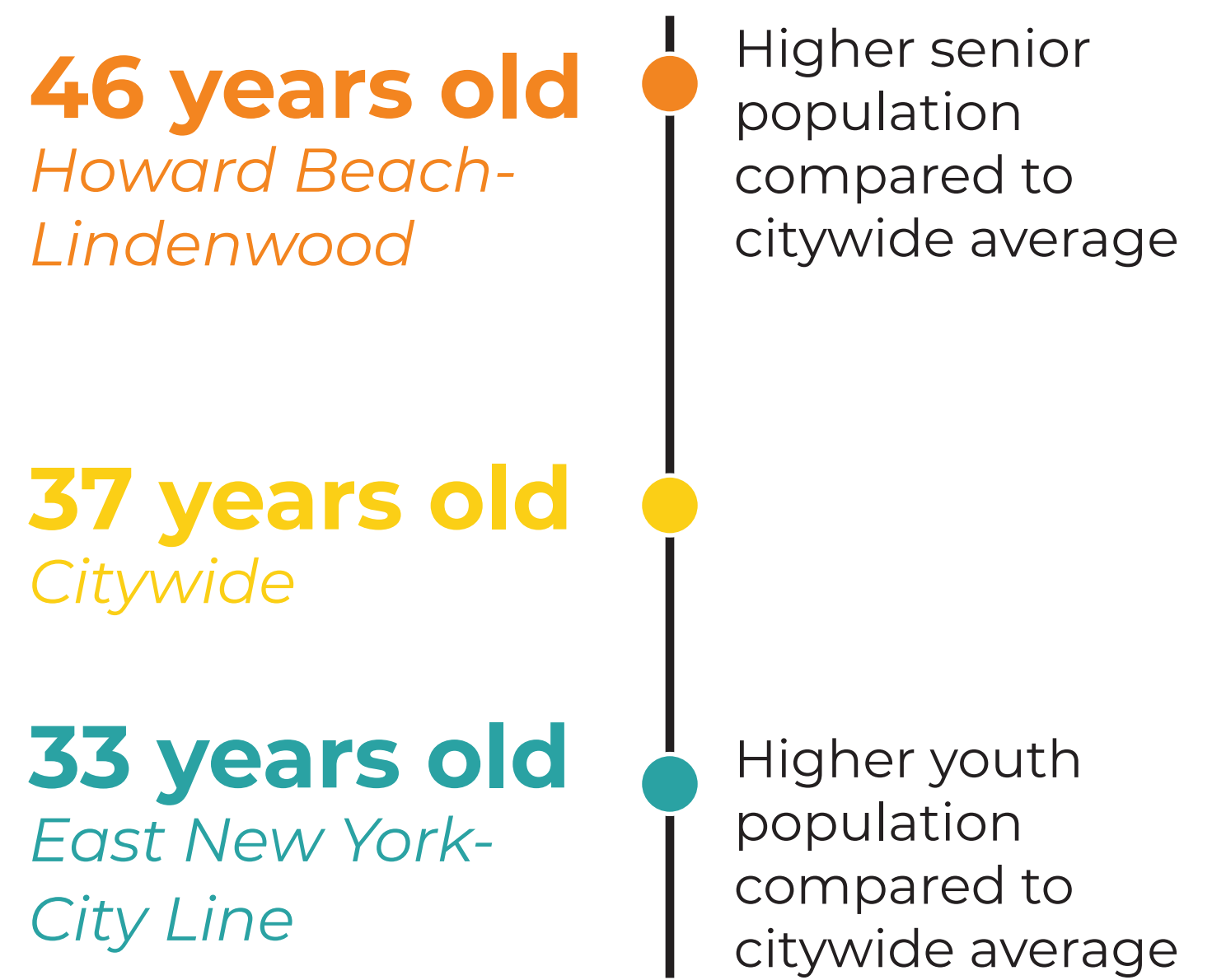


Foreign Born Population ^[1]



30,000 residents speak a language other than English at home in **Howard Beach** and **East New York**. **Spanish** is the most common, though other languages include **Bengali, Mandarin, and Cantonese**.

Median Age ^[2]



(1) Source: Place of Birth, United States Census American Community Survey, 2021. (2) Median Age, United States Census American Community Survey, 2021

What we've heard

Do you agree or disagree with these statements?
What would you add or change?

I would like to see continued education centers, schools, a community college campus and youth programming

I would like to see immigrant services in the neighborhood.

We need gathering spaces and cultural centers, including a place for theater and other performances for local arts groups.

I have to leave the area for basic services like going to the post office or the library.

Add sticky notes with your reactions to prior comments or share new ideas below

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Health



Health is rooted in the place we live and the circumstances of our daily lives.

Our health is affected by many things, including access to healthy foods and clean air, how safe we feel in our home or on the street, our opportunities to earn a living or build wealth, and our social connections.

Neighborhood conditions affect our physical and mental health and vary across the different neighborhoods in the area. Access to quality doctors and affordable medical care is important, but so are these other aspects of our communities.

**What makes your neighborhood healthy?
What are the challenges to health in your community?**

What new resources would have the most positive impact on the health of your community?

Where do you access healthcare?

**Where do you or your neighbors get groceries?
Is it easy for you to find fresh and healthy food?**

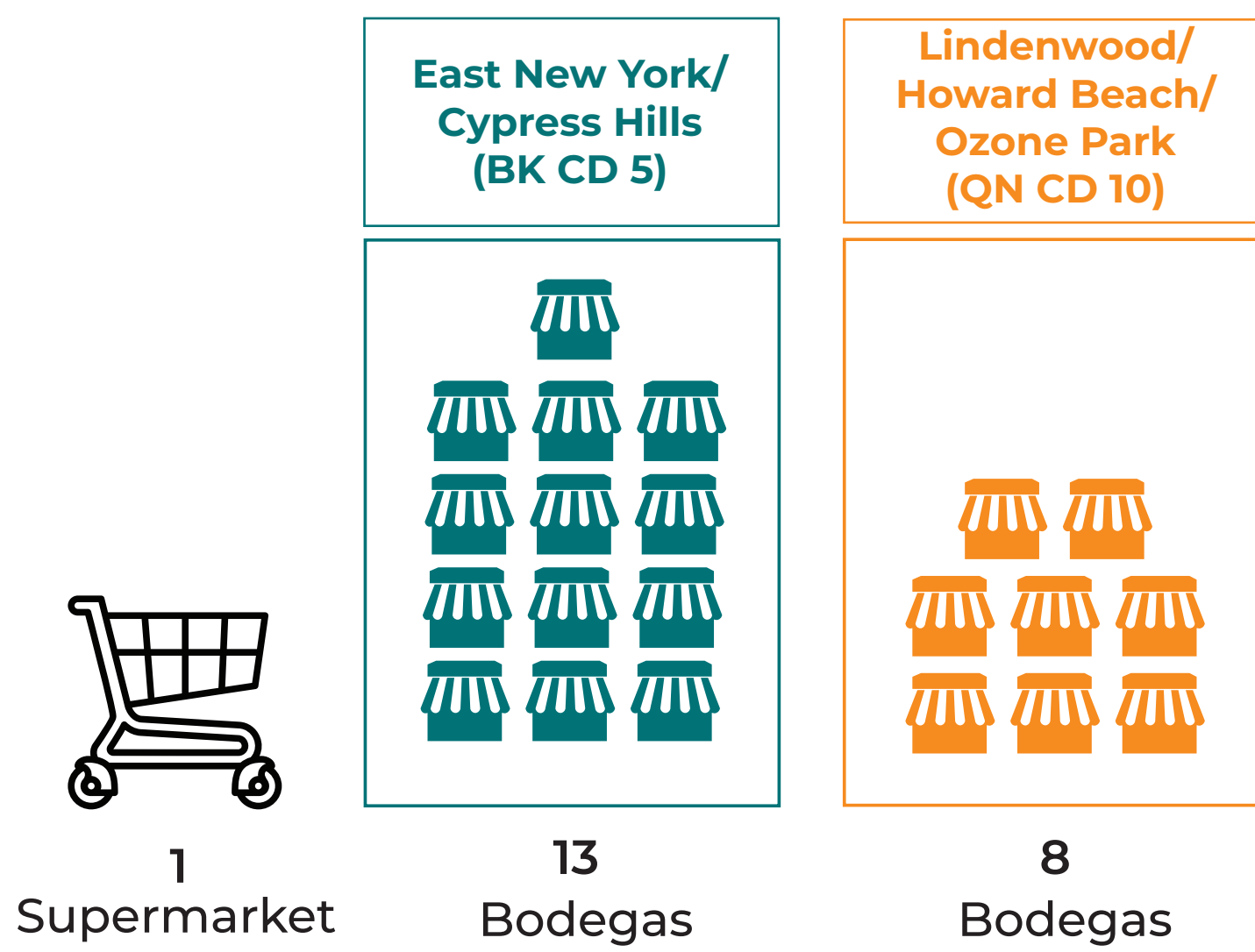
Health

Health conditions vary across the different neighborhoods in this area. On average, East New York residents experience more health challenges than their neighbors in Lindenwood or Howard Beach or New Yorkers as a whole. Some residents in the area experience extreme conditions from flooded streets or leaking septic tanks. These

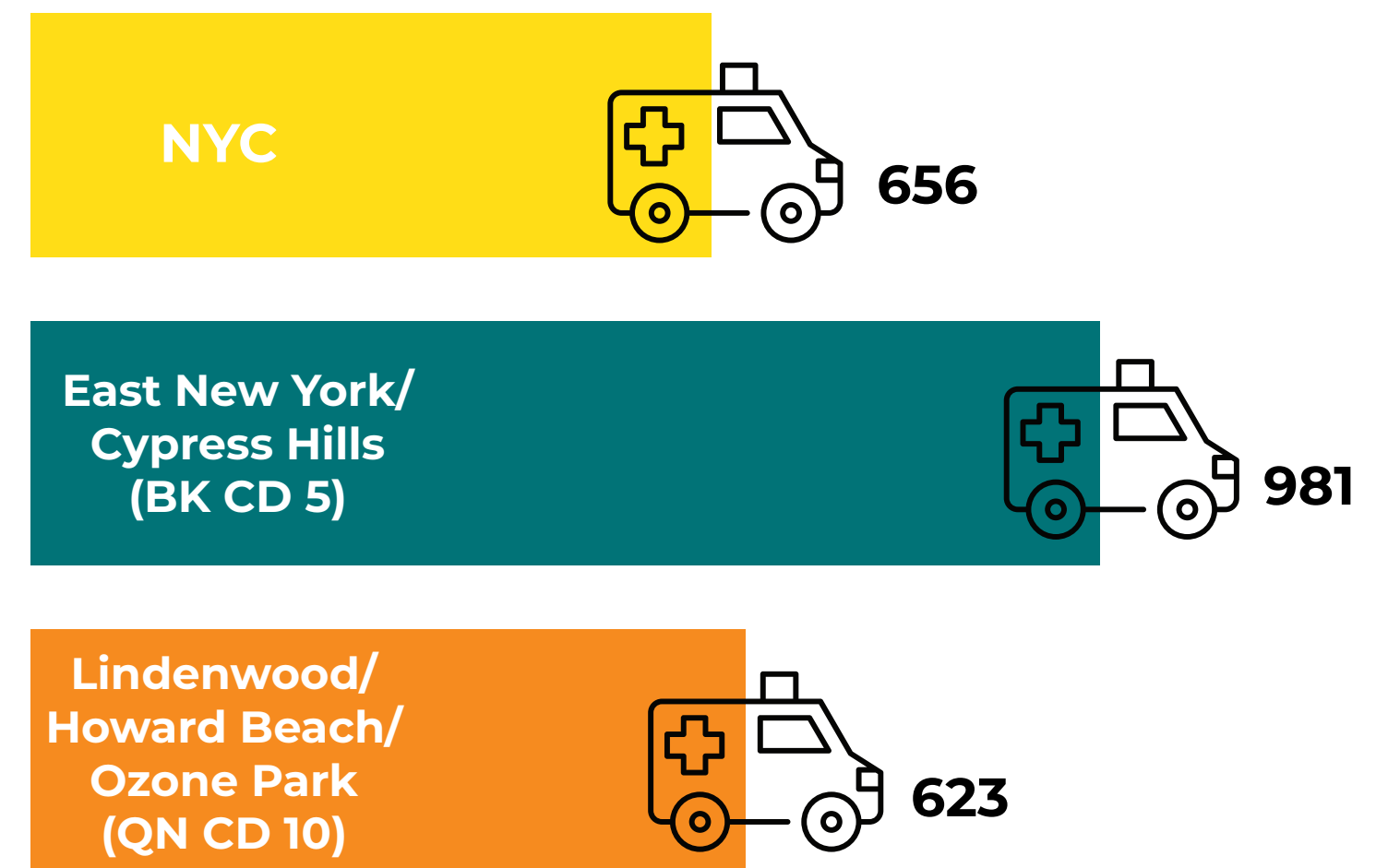
health inequities stem from decades of policies and practices that have shaped housing quality, food and healthcare access, and environmental conditions of these neighborhoods.

The charts below describe some of the neighborhood and health conditions today.

Food Access: Supermarket to bodega ratio (1)

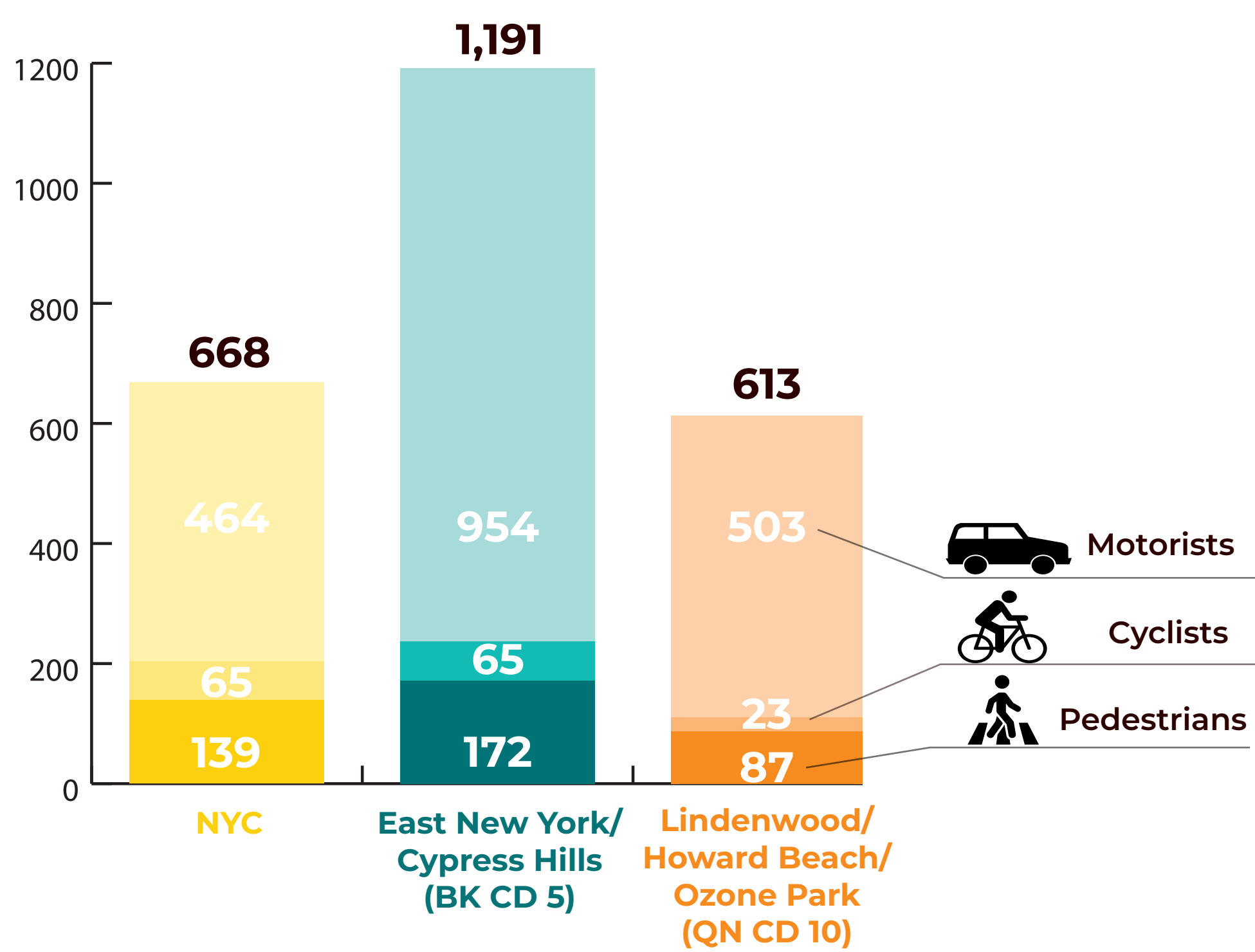


Avoidable asthma hospitalizations among children (per 100,000 children ages 4 and younger) (2)



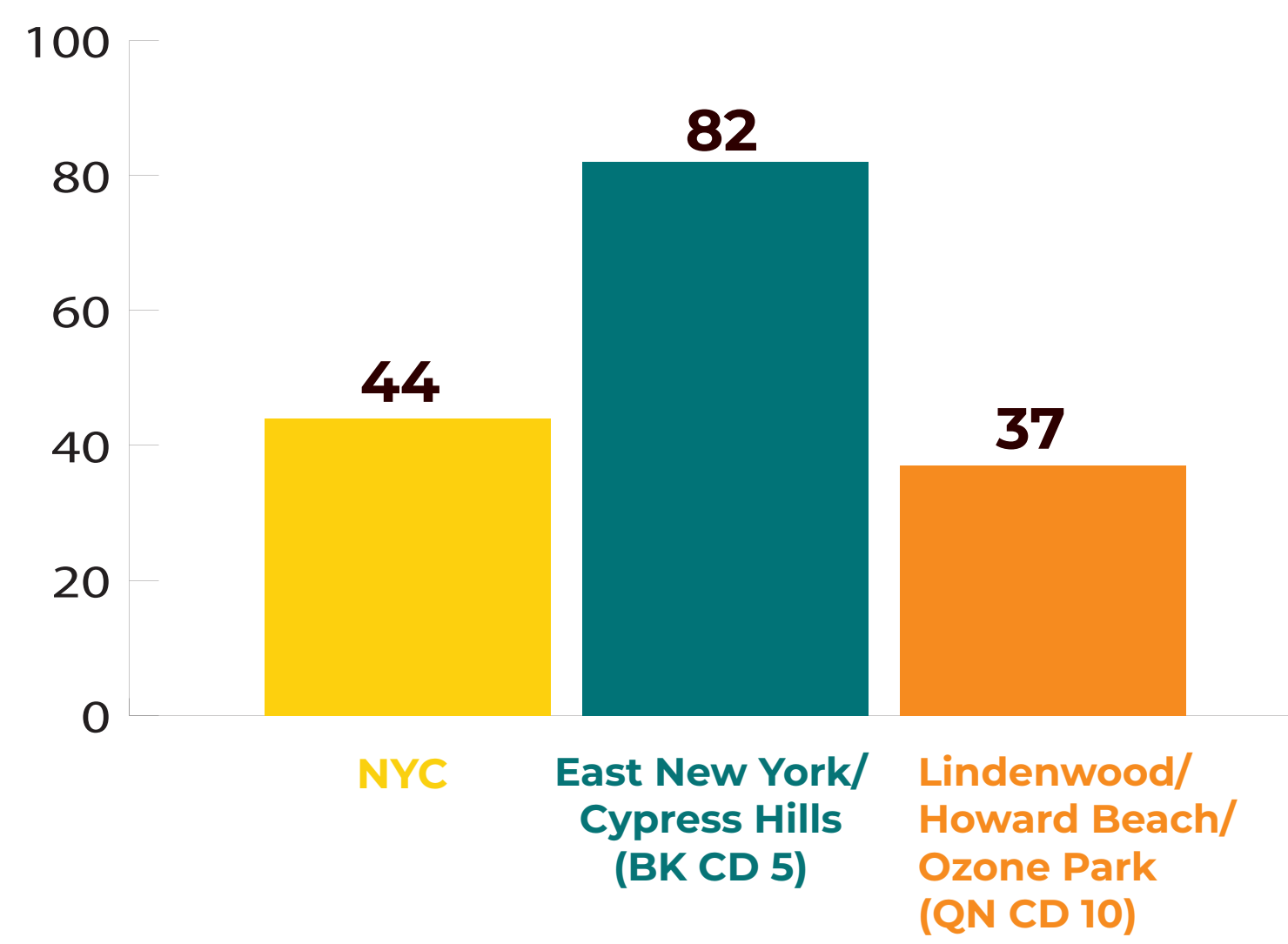
Traffic injuries per 100 street miles (3)

2016-2020 annual average



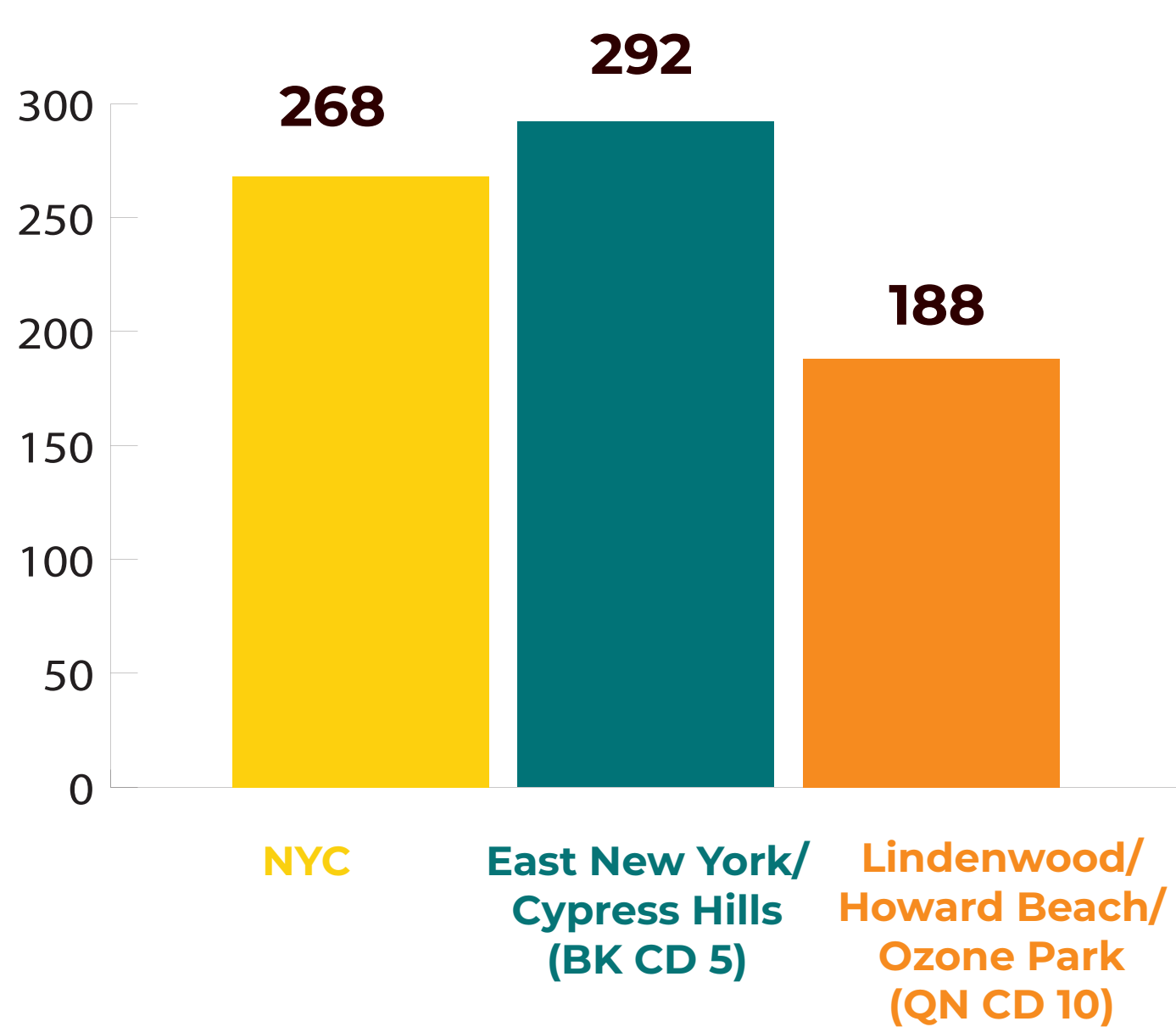
Non fatal assaults per 100,000 residents (4)

2019



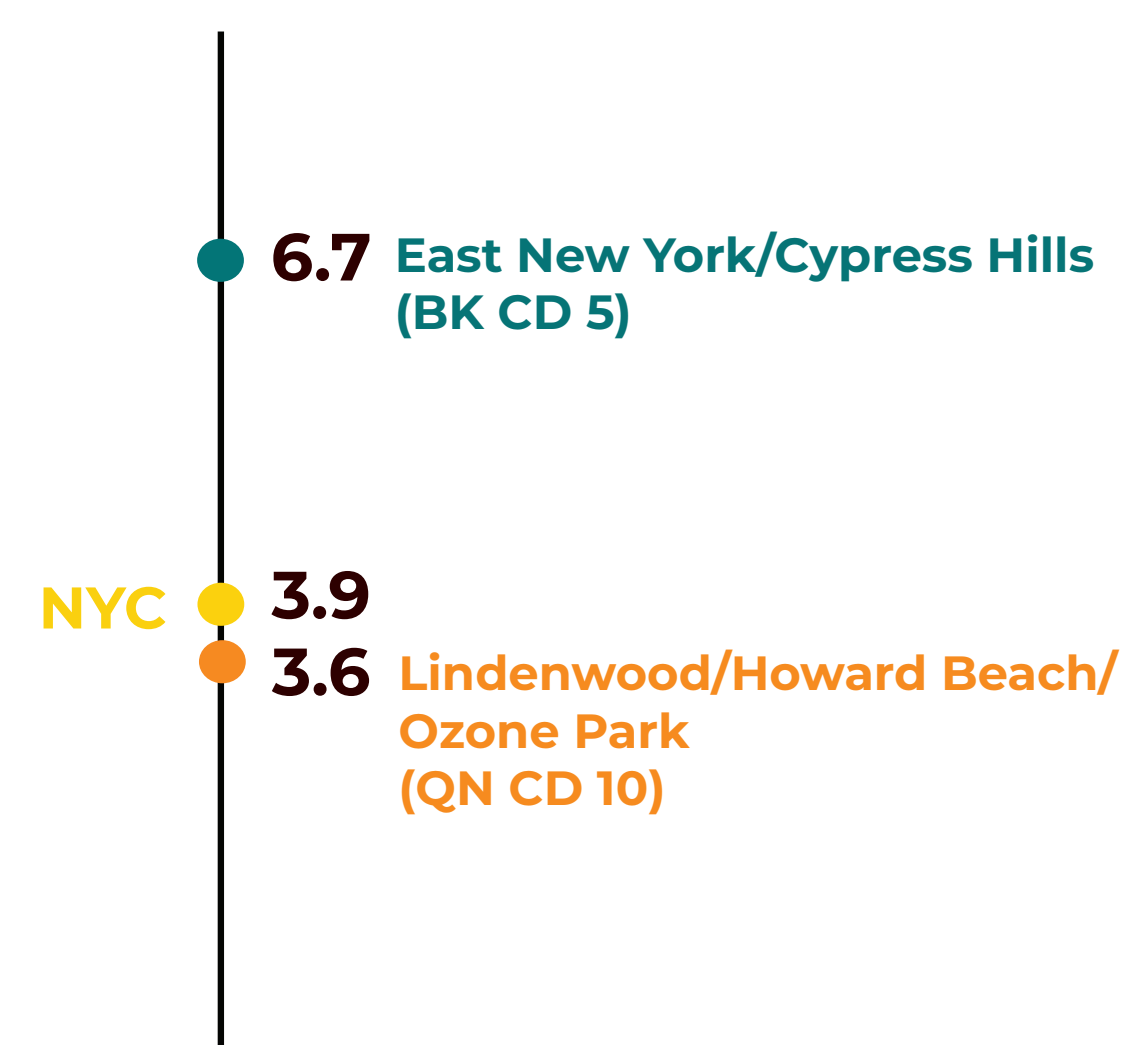
Deaths before age 65 per 10,000 residents (Premature deaths) (5)

2016-2020 average annual rate



Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (6)

2016-2020 average annual rate



What we've heard

Do you agree or disagree with these statements?
What would you add or change?

There's a lot of standing water in the neighborhood. Mosquitoes are a huge problem.

The only medical care in the area is urgent care.

There aren't many grocery stores in the area. It's not easy to find fresh food.

Add sticky notes with your reactions to prior comments or share new ideas below

What do you think?



Housing Quality and Infrastructure

- Homeowners have experienced **flood damage and unsanitary living conditions** due to sewage backups.
- **Street raising** has been discussed as a potential solution, but some homeowners expressed concerns about the **impact to their homes' foundations**.
- Jewel Streets residents want the city to **connect existing homes to sewers** along Linden Boulevard and to **reimburse residents who are reliant on septic systems**.
- Residents reported a number of **vacant, small homes that appear abandoned**.
- Some residents blamed new construction for **increased flooding in older parts of the neighborhood** that aren't hooked up to the sewer system.



Transportation

- While residents agreed that the **northern part** of the neighborhood **benefits from better subway access**, they described how **inconsistent bus service** can be.
- There's a **need for more north-south bus routes** to better connect the entire neighborhood.
- While it's relatively easy for residents to get to JFK by bus and train, residents **want to see better bus connections** to places like nearby **Shirley Chisholm Park, Cityline, and Howard Beach**.
- **Buses** are often **late and unreliable**, and some bus stops feel **unsafe**.
- Some **residents walk 15 minutes** to Howard Beach to catch a bus to the Rockaway Boulevard A-train station **rather than crossing busy Linden Boulevard** and walking through the Jewel Streets to the Grant Avenue station because **the area north of Linden Boulevard feels dangerous**.
- The **lack of sidewalks and streetlights** on side streets along with high-speed traffic on Linden Boulevard and the Conduit make residents feel unsafe.
- Residents recounted their experiences with the **unsafe conditions on avenues**. One workshop **participant was struck by a car** and broke her shoulder while trying to cross Linden Boulevard.
- Residents were **split on** their opinions about **bike lanes**, with some concerned that they **take away parking spots** and others seeing bike lanes as a **traffic calming measure**.
- Participants expressed a **strong desire to see more sidewalks** in the neighborhood to make it **safer to walk around** and access **commercial areas and transit**.

What We Heard at Workshop 1 (June 24th)



Flooding and Resiliency

- **Flooding is a major issue** in the neighborhood, and the **Jewel Streets are especially impacted** due to the **lack of a comprehensive sewer system and low-lying streets**.
- Residents reported that recent efforts to pump water out of the Jewel Streets on Amber and 78th Street have resulted in **flooding elsewhere in the neighborhood**.
- A participant reported that the pump station along Amber Street and Linden Boulevard doesn't work properly, and that flooding is bad along Loring Avenue. **Residents want to see short and long-term solutions**, including investments in additional stormwater and sewer infrastructure, but have concerns about how that would affect existing buildings.



Land Use

- For residents in the Jewel Streets, **resolving illegal industrial uses is the number one priority** to address a slew of quality-of-life concerns, including **sanitation, illegal dumping, and nuisance uses** next to residences, which all contribute to a **sense of danger**.
- Residents expressed that the **current zoning doesn't align with the industrial uses** in the area, and that there **should be a larger residential and green space focus**.
- Some participants had **concerns around the scale of recent development**, like the 12-story Linden Terrace.
- However, other community members want to see **vacant lots** in the Jewel Streets and large parking lots along Linden Boulevard, like the one behind the former Linden Boulevard Multiplex Cinemas, **brought to productive use, such as affordable housing**.
- Residents reported that the **area only has a small commercial hub**.



Essential Services

- Multiple residents have experienced **unreliable services** for **garbage collection and mail delivery**.
- There was a general sentiment that **Jewel Streets residents** were being **left out of improvements** happening in other parts of the city, like new street paving and other infrastructure improvements.

*These four topics are the subject of today's workshop
Go to the other stations to learn more and share your thoughts!*



Economic Development and Community Services

- While small **strip malls and big box retail** exist along Linden Boulevard, essential **retail amenities and community facilities** are severely lacking in the neighborhood.
- **Residents often leave the neighborhood for everyday errands** like buying groceries, dining at restaurants, mailing packages, visiting libraries, going to the bank, and doing laundry.
- Residents want to see **continuing education centers, schools, community colleges, youth programming, and immigrant services** in the neighborhood.
- **Gathering spaces and cultural centers**, including performance and theater spaces for local arts groups, are also **missing from the community**.



Open and Green Spaces

- Residents want to see **more green space** in the neighborhood, including **more trees**, because there are **very few parks, greenery, and areas for recreation**.
- In addition to more trees and park spaces, space for **urban agriculture and gardening** was a **big priority** for the participants.
- Residents described how prevalent **wildlife and trees** like weeping willows used to be in the Jewel Streets and **would like to see more of them again**.
- Families enjoy going to **Robert Venable Park** on Sutter Avenue and **want to see more spaces like it** but noted that consistent **maintenance is needed** for the space to feel clean and safe.
- Residents also like going to **Gemini Fields** and to the **cricket grounds at Tudor Park** but want to see **better lighting** at the fields and have a **hard time accessing the cricket grounds** because they have to cross Conduit Avenue.



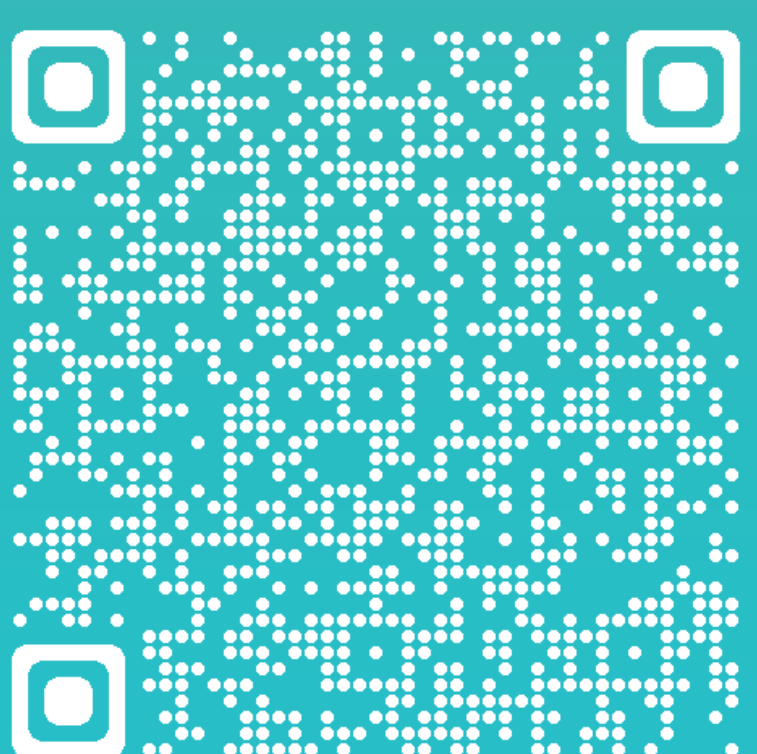
Health

- Residents reported a **lack of access to fresh foods** due to few grocery stores.
- While there are **urgent care facilities**, more **high-quality medical offices**, along with reliable **emergency medical services**, are needed.
- **Mosquitoes** exposed to **chronic standing and contaminated water** in the Jewel Streets **pose health risks** to residents.

**Want to talk about
the future of the
neighborhood?**

**Join the community
conversation inside!**

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