

# Brooklyn Arab American Community Assessment of Needs and Priorities

Key findings describing top health issues and needed resources collected Sept - Dec 2019



OUR HEALTH IS OUR FUTURE

## Survey Purpose

With support from the NYU Langone Health (NYULH) Community Service Plan and NYULH Center for Study for Asian American Health (CSAAH), a working group was formed made up of local Brooklyn Arab American organizations and teams from NYULH.

**511** Arab American adults living in Brooklyn responded to the survey

**58%** Of surveys were conducted in Arabic

## Top Health Issues

Brooklyn Arab American adults selected **diabetes, cancer** and **heart disease** as the top health issues facing the community.



### Diabetes

16% have or had diabetes



### Cancer

Timely cancer screening for breast, cervical and colon cancer are lower than the city



### Heart Disease

25% have or had high blood pressure



### Obesity

24% had obesity



### Mental Health

20% were at risk for current depression



### Diet and Nutrition

36% experienced food insecurity



### Asthma/ Breathing Problems

23% of adults surveyed selected asthma/breathing problems as a health issue



### Women's Health

39% of women rated their health as excellent or very good



### Dental Health

58% saw a dentist for regular teeth cleaning in the past year

## Top Needed Resources

Brooklyn Arab American adults selected **affordable housing, access to quality medical and dental care, vaping/ hookah prevention, and job opportunities** as the top needed resources.



Affordable housing options



Access to high quality medical care



Access to high quality dental care



Smoking prevention (Cigarettes, vaping/ hookah)



Jobs/ job training



Access to mental health services



Programs for the elderly



Help enrolling in benefits



Substance use treatment



Safety (including family violence resources)

## Health Care Access

About 28% of adults surveyed were unable to get needed medical care in the last year.

Barriers to accessing care among those unable to get needed medical care were:

1



Transportation problems

2



Couldn't afford care

3



Didn't have time/ took too long

# Resource Guide

## These organizations are here to help

### Arab American Association of NY (AAANY)

6803 Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn  
info@arabamericanny.org  
(718) 745- 3523

- Immigration legal services
- Adult education & women's empowerment courses
- Mental health services
- Domestic and gender-based violence case management
- Social services (SNAP, HRA, employment, etc.)
- Insurance enrollment and referral services
- Youth programming and workforce development
- Advocacy and civic engagement

### Arab American Family Support Center (AAFSC)

150 Court Street, 3rd Fl, Brooklyn  
info@aafscny.org  
(718)643-8000

- Health insurance enrollment assistance
- Domestic & gender-based violence case management
- Benefit navigation support (SNAP, HRA, etc.)
- ESL classes, citizenship preparation, and legal assistance
- Caregiver child bonding circle
- Young women empowerment
- Mental health counseling
- Emergency financial and material assistance

### Arab Health Initiative at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

633 3rd Avenue, 4Fl, New York  
ayashc@mskcc.org

- Educational workshops in Arabic and English, including breast cancer, colorectal cancer and general health education
- Cultural competency training for healthcare professionals who work with Arab Americans
- Culturally and linguistically tailored case management and supportive services
- Accessibility to cancer and biometric screenings through the Mammogram Screening Van, Mobile Health Unit and appointment assistance

### Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

6025 6th Avenue, Brooklyn  
(718)630-7000

Primary and preventive health care and supportive services for adults and children, including:

- Adult, pediatric and adolescent primary care
- Women's health
- Behavioral health
- Supportive services (benefit enrollment, etc.)
- Early childhood education
- Leadership development for adolescents and young adults
- Services for older adults

### Moroccan American House Association

383 Raritan Avenue, Staten Island  
(347)651-7603

- Provides Arabic language classes to young children
- Assist newcomers from Morocco to connect with various services
- Refer community members to get legal support

### NYU Langone Department of Population Health

Community Service Plan (CSP)  
nyucsp@nyulangone.org

- Preventing chronic diseases
- Promoting healthy women, infants & children
- Promoting a healthy & safe environment

### Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH)

rebecca.lee3@nyulangone.org

- Promoting population health equity through research, training, and partnership
- Enabling community engagement in research
- Increasing use of community-based participatory research principles and data science methods

These organizations participated in the working group to develop and conduct the survey.