



**WEST PHILLY
PROMISE
NEIGHBORHOOD**

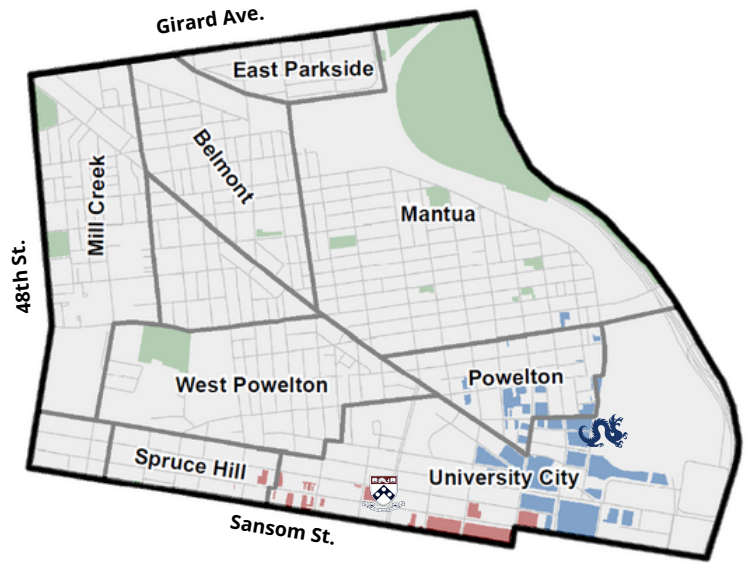
**ISSUE BRIEF:
HEALTH**



**WEST PHILLY
PROMISE
NEIGHBORHOOD**

The **West Philly Promise Neighborhood** is a 5-year initiative funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant to support cradle to career opportunities for children living or going to school in the Promise Neighborhood (PN) footprint.

The overall Promise Neighborhood footprint is about 2 square miles bordered by Girard Avenue to the North, Sansom St. to the South, 48th to the West, and the Schuylkill River to the East. This area includes Belmont, Mantua, Mill Creek, Powelton Village, West Powelton/Saunders Park, and East Parkside.



Source: US Census - American Community Survey

OUR APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING HEALTH

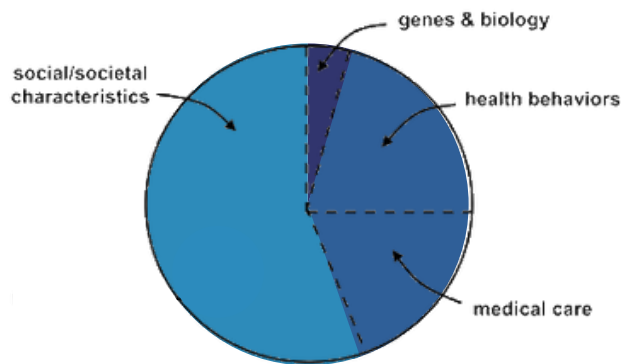
The pie chart to the right shows what percentage of a person's or a population's health is determined by different factors. In this brief, we will explore the health of residents in the PN by showing data on overall health and specific health conditions.

Wherever possible, we show the latest data from 2020, but some of these data may pre-date COVID-19 and health outcomes have likely worsened since then. Due to limitations in the availability of data on child health, this brief focuses on adult health. However, parent health impacts child health [2].

This brief will also review factors that shape the health of residents and can be shown at the neighborhood level, such as access to health care and health behaviors.

Please see our other West Philly Promise Neighborhood briefs [3] for more detail on the social factors and neighborhood conditions that also impact individual and community health.

DETERMINANTS OF POPULATION HEALTH



■ Covered in other PN briefs Source: Tarlov, 1999 [1]
■ Covered in this PN brief
■ Not applicable at the population level

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

- In a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area**
- In a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area**
- In a Primary Care Professional Shortage Area**
- In a Designated Medically Underserved Area**

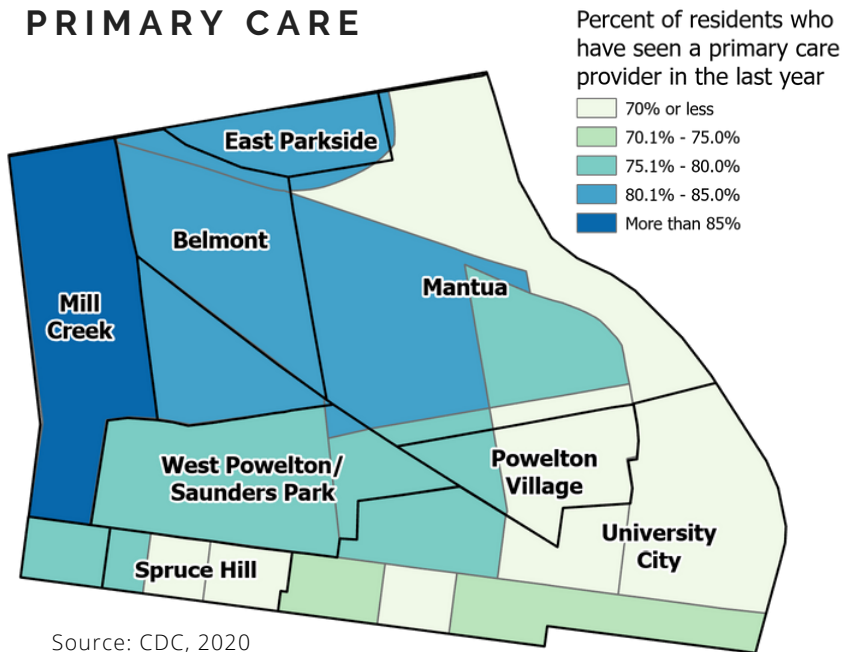
One way to understand healthcare access is whether there are enough providers to meet an area's needs. The US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) uses data on the number of providers per resident in an area, how long it takes to travel to receive care, poverty, and other factors relevant to that health care field (e.g., water fluoridation for dental health) to determine shortage areas. The PN is part of a designated Medically Underserved Area and a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area. This means accessing dental and medical care may be challenging due to shortages of dental and medical providers.

Source: HRSA, 2023

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Healthcare access is defined by availability and affordability. West Philadelphia is home to various healthcare facilities. While proximity to healthcare facilities is not a challenge, other issues such as resident insurance status or lack of medical provider cultural competency may make healthcare difficult to access and afford. The map below shows the percent of residents in each neighborhood who have seen a primary care provider in the past year, as recommended. In the PN, 76% of adult residents saw a primary care provider at least once in the last year, which is only 1% lower than the rate in Philadelphia and very similar to the rate in 2018.

PRIMARY CARE



76% OF PN ADULTS HAD A PRIMARY CARE CHECKUP IN THE LAST YEAR

Source: CDC, 2020

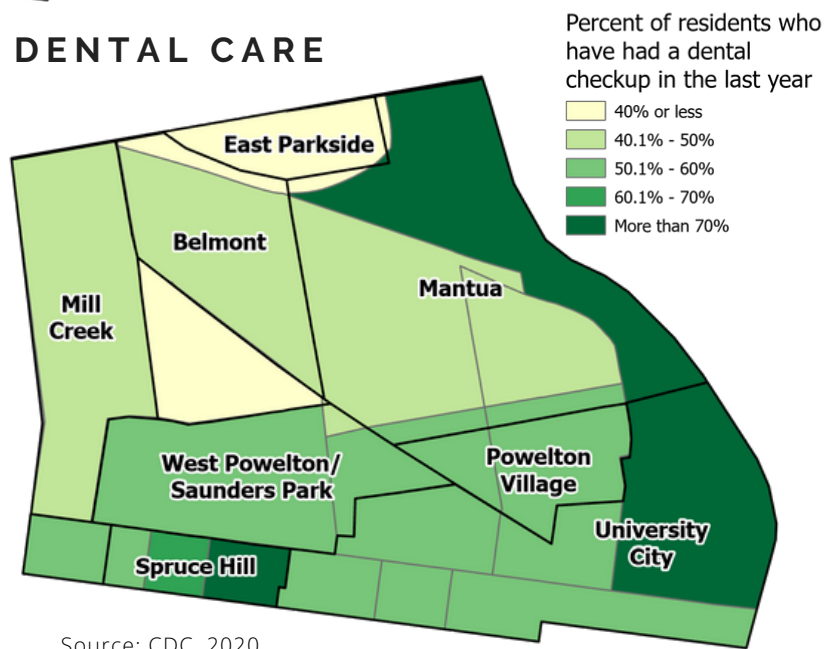
As we move west in the PN, the percentage of adults who saw a primary care provider in the last year increases, as indicated by the darker blue color on the map to the left. Age, among other factors like proximity to health care providers, may explain the neighborhood differences. Older adults are more likely to visit primary care as they age because they are more likely to have chronic conditions and access to insurance [4].

Source: CDC, 2020

Annual dental visits are important for health but are less common than primary care visits in Philadelphia (58%) and the Promise Neighborhood (49%). There are fewer government programs that provide dental insurance or assistance with dental care visits. Given that Promise Neighborhood is in an area designated with a dental health professional shortage, accessing care, even with insurance, may be difficult.

There are greater differences between areas in the PN for access to dental care than access to primary care providers. The difference between the area with the highest percent of yearly dental checkups and the lowest is 37%. This is a very large span, when compared to the map above with a 17% difference. These ranges are nearly identical to 2018.

DENTAL CARE



Source: CDC, 2020

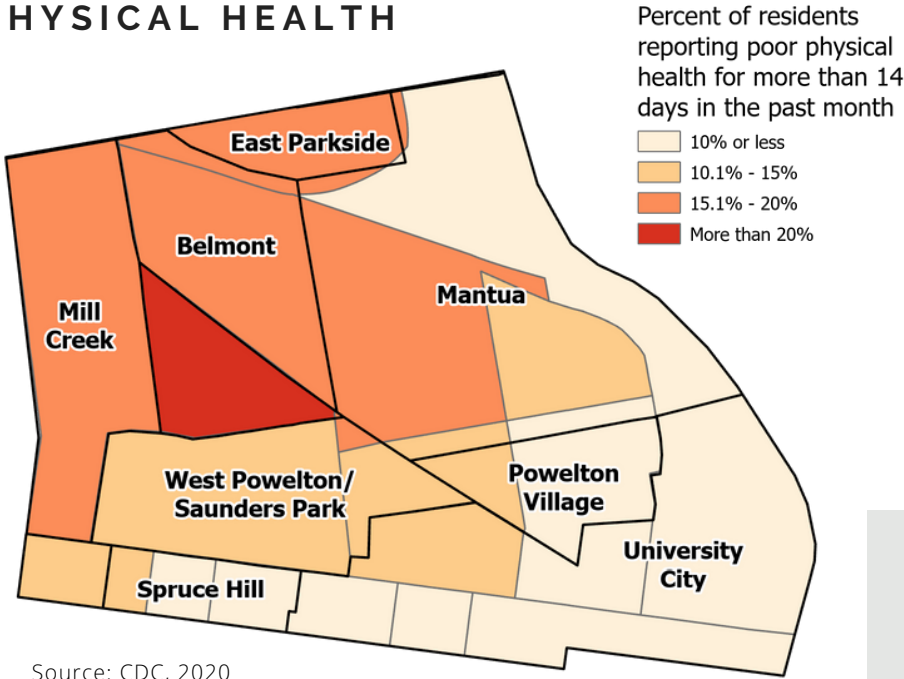
49% OF PN ADULTS HAD A DENTAL CHECKUP IN THE LAST YEAR

Source: CDC, 2020

OVERALL HEALTH

Overall health includes physical and mental well-being. The maps below show the responses to a commonly-used question about how people perceive their current health status: respondents 18 years or older who report 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their physical or mental health was not good. Healthcare coverage is also important for well-being. 85% of adults and 97% of children are insured in the PN. These rates are identical to those in 2018.

PHYSICAL HEALTH



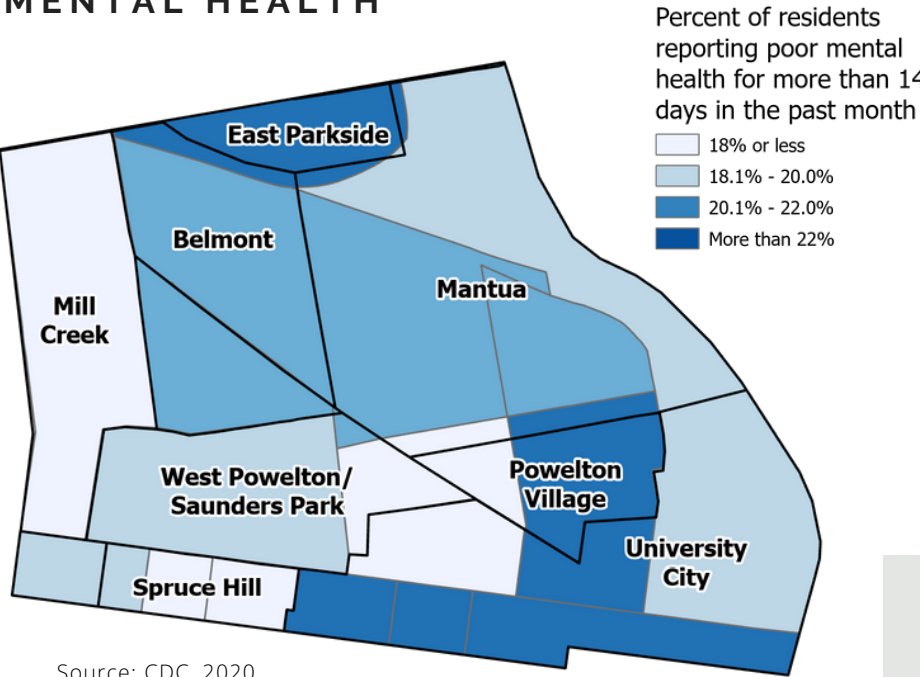
Source: CDC, 2020

The darker areas in the map to the left show where a higher percent of residents had 14 or more poor physical health days in the last 30 days. This was highest in areas of Belmont. However, residents reports of physical wellbeing improved throughout the PN from 2018 to 2020. Additional support and services may further improve residents' health.

85% OF PN ADULTS ARE INSURED

Source: CDC, 2020

MENTAL HEALTH



Source: CDC, 2020

Overall, more residents reported having poor mental health days than poor physical health days in the past 30 days. However, fewer residents across the PN reported more than 14 poor mental health days in 2020 than in 2018. On average, PN residents reported worse mental health (20%) when compared to the city (18%). This points to a need for more mental health resources in the PN.

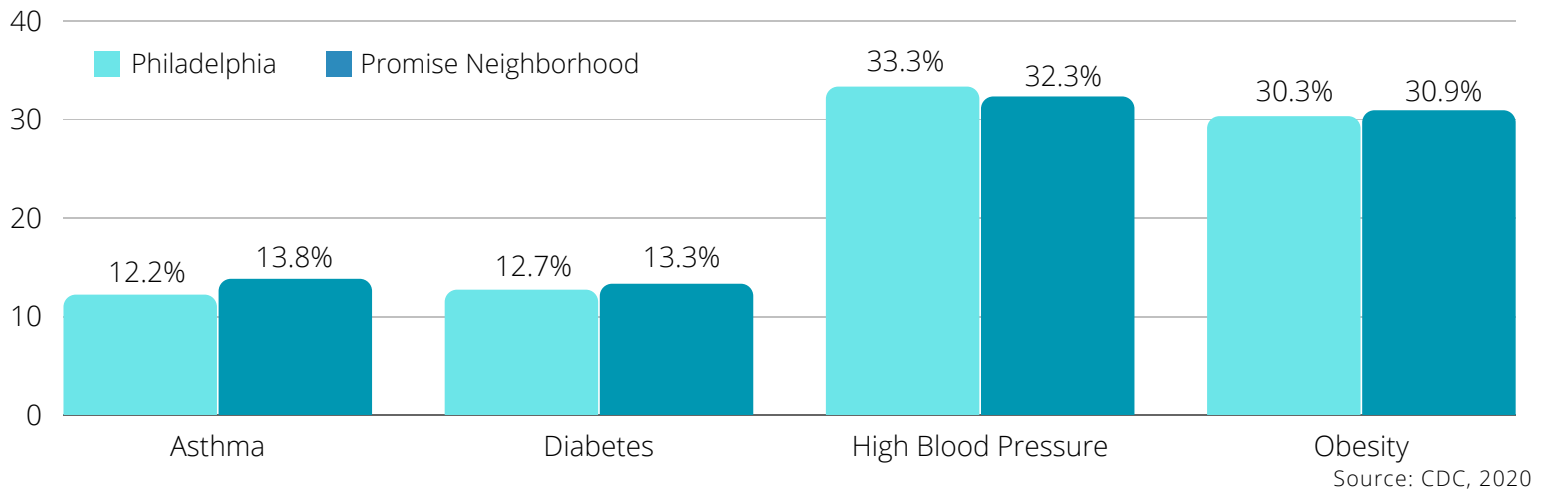
97% OF PN CHILDREN ARE INSURED

Source: US Census - American Community Survey 2020

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

The graphs below show the rates of chronic health conditions in the Promise Neighborhood and in Philadelphia overall. The PN has slightly higher rates of diabetes, asthma, and obesity compared to Philadelphia. However, these rates have remained relatively stable since 2016. It is worth noting that 1 in 3 adults in the PN have high blood pressure which can cause serious health problems.

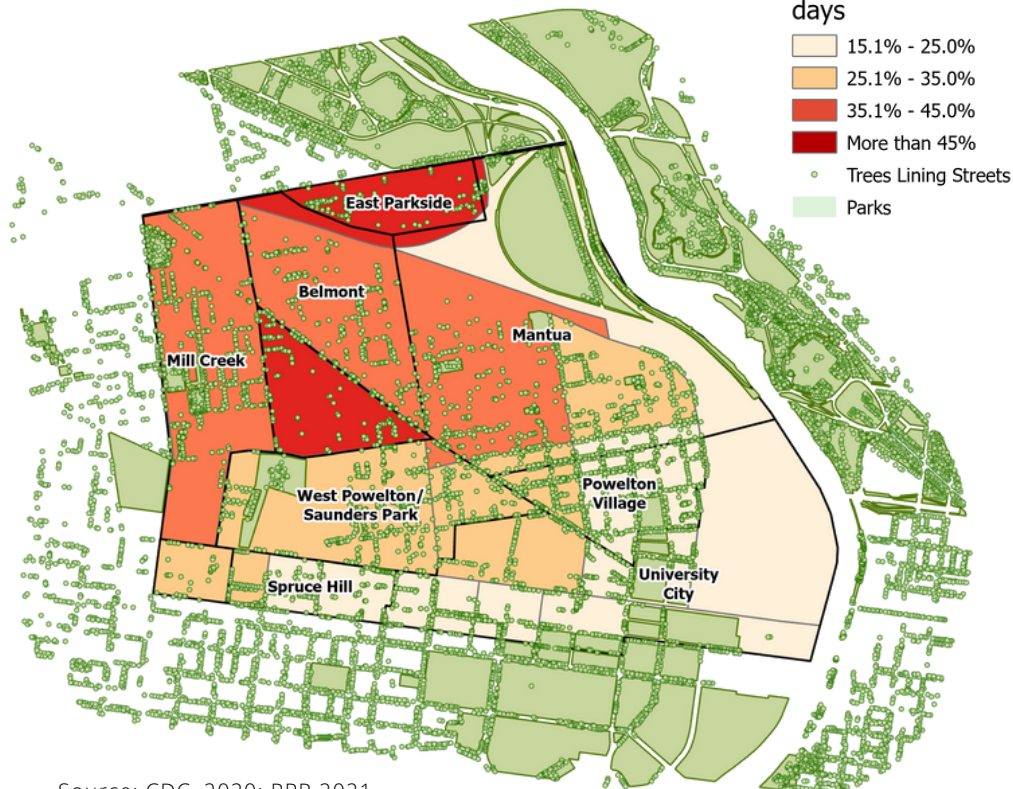
RATES OF CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD AND PHILADELPHIA IN 2020



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND BEHAVIORS

Exercise is an important health behavior for preventing chronic diseases and contributing to physical and mental wellness. The map below shows residents aged 18 and older who report not having done any physical activity during their free time in the past month and green space in the PN.

LACK OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACCESS TO NATURE



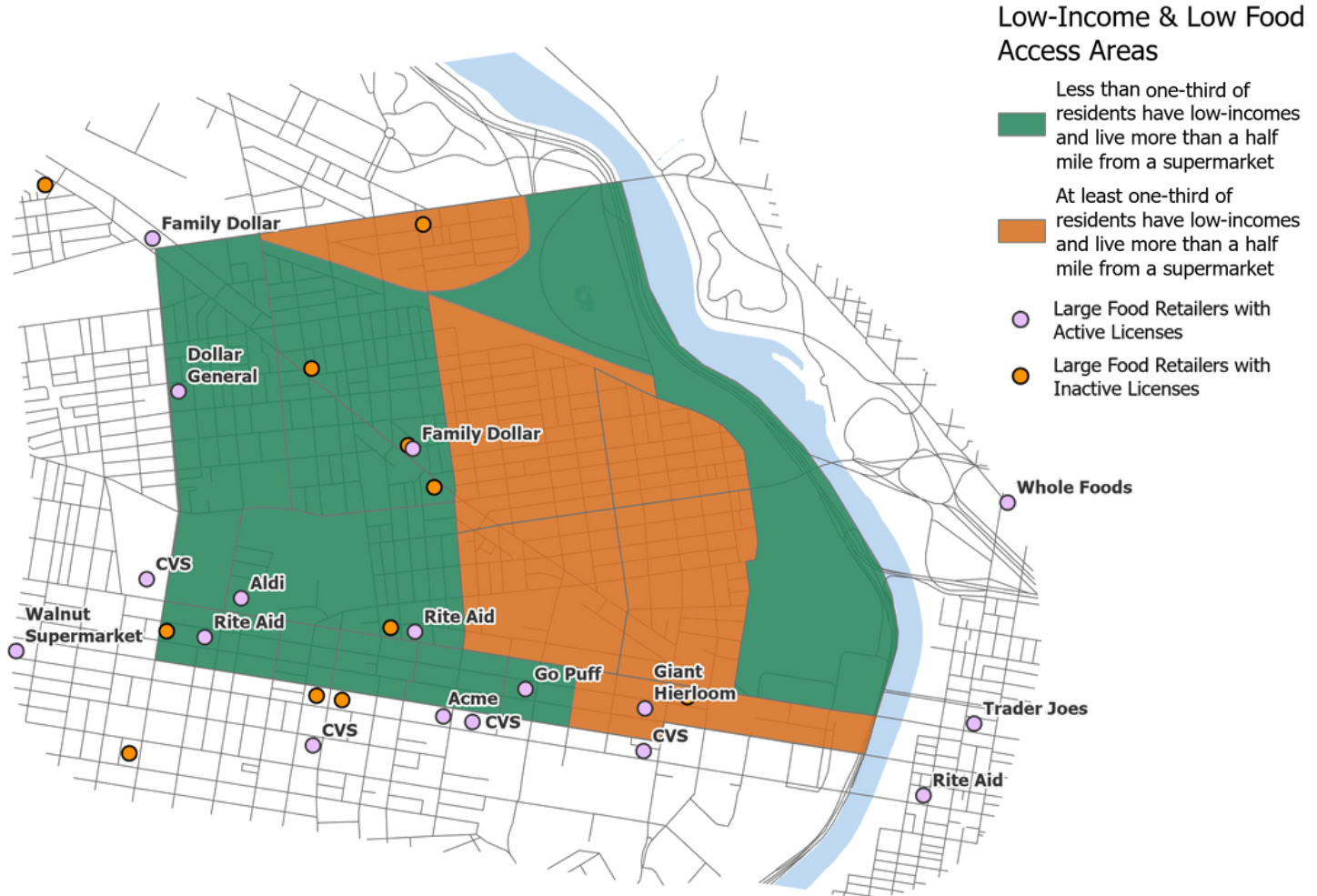
Access to parks and trees is linked to higher rates of physical activity [5]. The green points on the map show trees that line streets, providing shade for folks walking or biking. Areas with more tree cover like Powelton and University City have fewer residents reporting no leisure time physical activity than areas like East Parkside and Belmont where there are fewer trees. This may contribute to more than 1 in 3 residents reporting no physical activity in the past month. Other reasons may be lack of public safety, caregiving responsibilities, or overwork.

Source: CDC, 2020; PPR 2021

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND BEHAVIORS

It is more difficult to achieve a healthy lifestyle if the neighborhood environment does not encourage or allow healthy decision-making. On this page we take a deeper dive into the food environment in the Promise Neighborhood.

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD



Source: L&I, 2019; USDA, 2019

Healthy food is important for nutritional needs and to prevent chronic diseases, but it can be challenging to access. In this map, food access is defined as living within a half mile of a supermarket and in an area where fewer than one-third of residents have income below the poverty line (as noted in green). Areas highlighted in orange, like parts of Mantua, East Parkside, Powelton Village and University City have low access to stores that are likely to sell produce and one-third or more of residents have incomes below the poverty line. This means the neighborhoods highlighted in orange have a more difficult time making healthy choices regarding their diets.

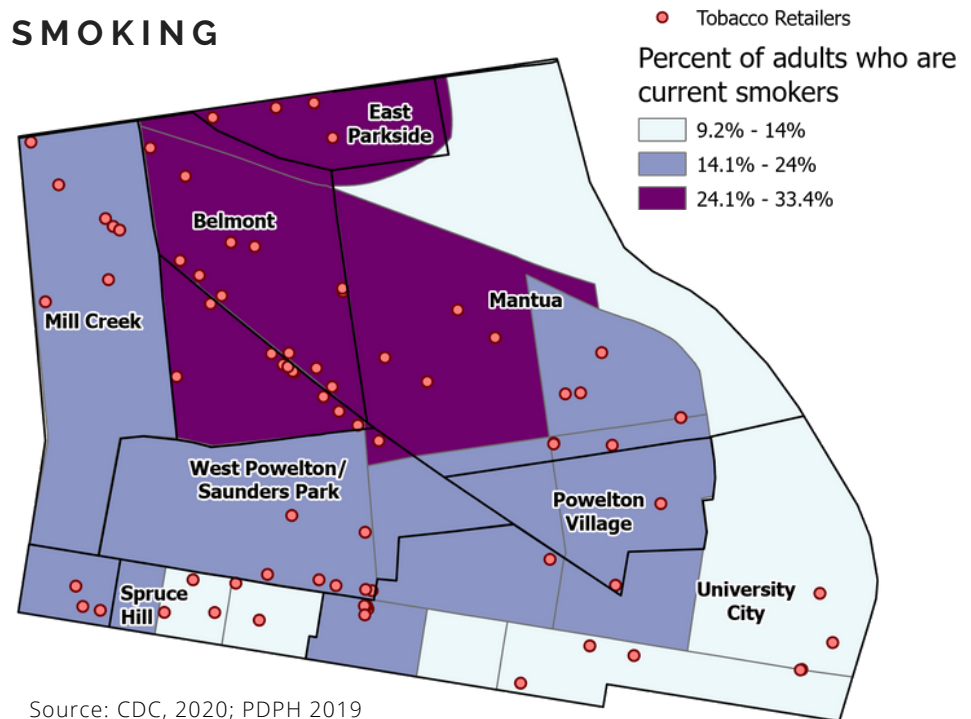
The colored dots on the map represent large businesses that have licenses from the city to sell food. Large is defined by square footage, not necessarily by the number of shoppers or quantity of food. However, not all businesses that are large food retailers sell produce or fresh food. More supermarkets and stores that sell produce are needed in these areas of the Promise Neighborhood.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND BEHAVIORS

Where you live can also determine what you are exposed to in your neighborhood. On this page we take a deeper dive into the housing circumstances and environments for lead exposure and tobacco outlets.

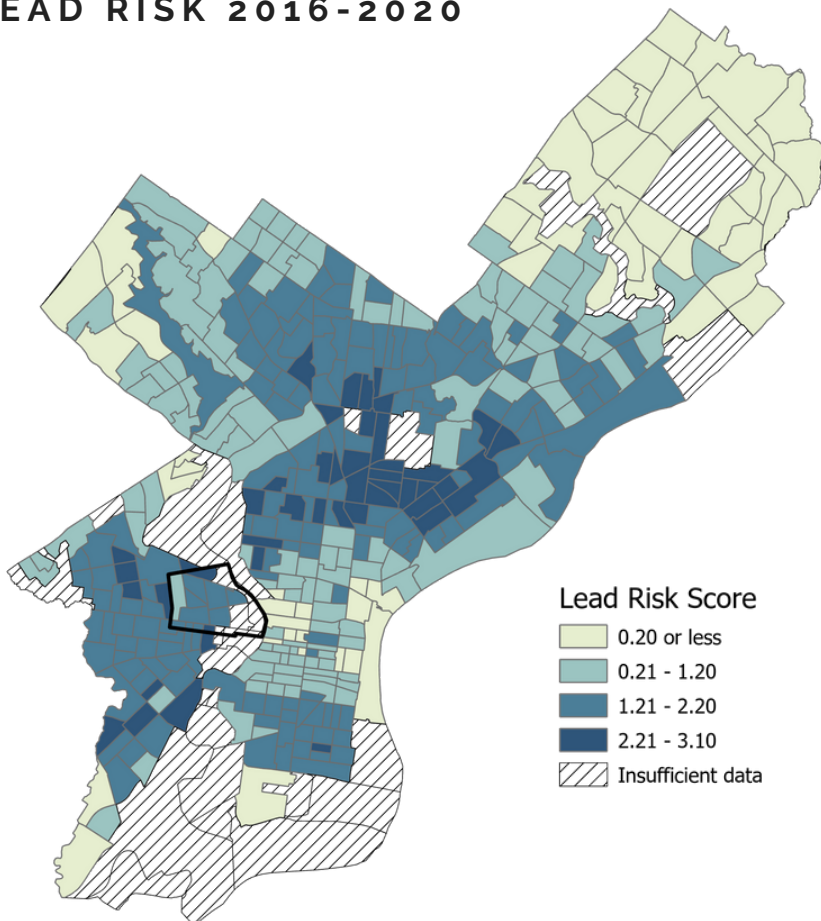
Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness in the US. Smoking rates in Philadelphia have gradually declined from 2011-2019, but Philadelphia still has one of the highest smoking rates of large cities in the US. One of the key determinants of smoking is access to tobacco products [6]. This map shows the location of tobacco retailers in the Promise Neighborhood and the percentage of smokers over 18 years old in each neighborhood who are current smokers. Areas with more retailers are home to more smokers.

SMOKING



Source: CDC, 2020; PDPH 2019

LEAD RISK 2016-2020



Source: PolicyMap, 2021

Lead exposure is a health concern, especially for children. Repeated exposure to lead in children under six years of age can cause developmental delays, issues with hearing and speech as well as learning difficulties, among other health problems [7]. Low-income areas where homes were built before 1978, when lead paint and plumbing were banned, are more likely to be at risk [7].

The map to the left estimates the risk of exposure to lead from 2016 to 2020 using data on housing and poverty levels. Areas in darker blue are those that have a higher risk for lead exposure. Almost all of the Promise Neighborhood has a risk above the city average of 1.2.

West Philly Promise Neighborhood Data and Research Team

The role of the Data and Research Team is to build an infrastructure for research, evaluation, data access, and dissemination for the West Philly Promise Neighborhood initiative. The goal of the Team is to develop and implement data systems to sustain lasting change within the Promise Neighborhood community. Data is collected at the child, family, and school level to support, inform and evaluate the project. Biennial neighborhood surveys are conducted with households with children ages 0-18 in the Promise Neighborhood footprint to better understand contextual factors and population-level improvements over time. As a part of the Data and Research Team, the goal of the indicators briefs is to provide community stakeholders with data snapshots that can be utilized to advance community programming and social change. Through data analysis and visualization, these briefs provide data and information to contextualize the factors impacting the West Philly Promise Neighborhood.

Data Sources:

This brief uses contextual data to describe baseline conditions for the West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood Community. The data is from 2020 with the exception of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health data on tobacco retailers (2019), the US Department of Agriculture (2019) data on food access, the Department of Licenses and Inspections (2019) data on food retailers, and the Parks and Recreation Department data on trees (2021) and the PolicyMap data on lead risk (2021). All data was the most recent available.

- [Health Resource and Service Administration \(HRSA\) - Find Shortage Areas](#)
- [Centers For Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) - Places](#)
- [US Census - American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#)
- [Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department \(PPR\)](#)
- [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)- Food Access Atlas](#)
- [Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections \(L&I\)- Business Licenses](#)
- [Philadelphia Department of Public Health \(PDPH\)](#)
- [PolicyMap- Lead Risk](#)

In-Text Citations:

1. Tarlov, A. R. (1999). Public policy frameworks for improving population health. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 896, 281-293. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.1999.tb08123.x>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, March 8). Mental health of children and parents -a strong connection. <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/features/mental-health-children-and-parents.html>
3. <https://westphillypn.org/how-we-measure-success/neighborhood-indicators>
4. Willis J, Antono B, Bazemore A, Jetty A, Petterson S, George J, Rosario BL, Scheufele E, Rajmane A, Dankwa-Mullan I, Rhee K. *The State of Primary Care in the United States: A Chartbook of Facts and Statistics*. October 2020.
5. Wolf, K. L. (2008). City trees, nature and physical activity: A research review. *Arborist News*, 17(1), 22-24.
6. Philadelphia Department of Public Health. *Tobacco Use in Philadelphia*. CHART 2021;6(8):1-7.
7. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, September 2). Health effects of lead exposure. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 15, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm>

Recommended citation:

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For more resources related to these data, please visit our website:

<https://westphillypn.org/how-we-measure-success/neighborhood-indicators>



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