



The East and Central Harlem District Public Health Office: Who We Are and What We Do

The Health Department's **East and Central Harlem District Public Health Office** promotes health equity and works to reduce health disparities at the neighborhood level.

About the District Public Health Offices

The Health Department's District Public Health Offices (DPHOs) were established in 2003. The DPHOs target resources, programs and attention to high-need neighborhoods in the South Bronx, East and Central Harlem, and North and Central Brooklyn. Each DPHO is based in the neighborhood it serves and cultivates relationships with residents, community groups and local leaders to better understand neighborhood concerns and needs, and engage communities in effecting change. DPHO priorities include:

- Developing innovative programs to improve community health;
- Working with community organizations, faith-based organizations, government agencies, local leaders, residents, elected officials and others to promote public health policies; and
- Conducting local research to better understand public health problems.

East and Central Harlem DPHO Focus Areas

Nutrition and Physical Activity

- Implementing *We All Want Healthy Children*, a campaign to educate community-based organizations and residents about unhealthy food marketing to children.
- Coordinating and promoting the *Excellence in School Wellness Award* program to celebrate elementary schools' success in promoting physical education, physical activity, nutrition and wellness.
- Working with after-school programs to address barriers to incorporating physical activity into their programming.

Asthma Management

- Operating the *East Harlem Asthma Center of Excellence* (EHACE) to help children with asthma receive optimal care. EHACE asthma counselors help families address persistent asthma in children through appropriate medication. EHACE also provides non-toxic pest control and mold remediation services, runs a walk-in center for families, and conducts educational workshops. EHACE's research and evaluation unit tracks progress in meeting program goals. EHACE also convenes the Harlem Asthma Network, a forum for local organizations involved in asthma-related work.
- Implementing the *New York Citywide Asthma Initiative* (NYCAI). NYCAI helps day care centers identify children with asthma and connect parents to resources, provides non-toxic pest control services to homes of children with asthma, and trains school nurses to deliver an asthma curriculum. NYCAI also coordinates the *NYC Asthma Partnership* (NYCAP), comprised of over 200 organizations and individuals. NYCAP works to improve policies and systems that affect people with asthma, particularly in early childhood, home and emergency department settings.

Contact the East and Central Harlem DPHO

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