Introduction

Ward 7 is located in the easternmost tip of the District of Columbia. A predominantly African-American community, almost 30% of the population is 19 years old or younger. In the area of health care access, about 86% of Ward 7 residents possess some type of health care coverage. Approximately 78% of female residents have been screened for breast cancer and over 67% of male residents have been screened for prostate cancer. HIV screening has been conducted for over 70% of the Ward 7 population. Major health challenges include the relatively high death rates due to heart disease, cancer, diabetes and essential hypertension. Homicide is the fifth leading cause of death. Health risk behaviors of concern include obesity, lack of physical activity and current smoking.

SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Chart 1. Population by Race and Ethnicity, Ward 7

- Between the 1990 and 2000 census, the total population declined by approximately 10%.
- The percent of Blacks remained the same, while the white population declined by 45%.
- The population of persons of Hispanic origin also remained unchanged during the decade. During the same decade the proportion of foreign born residents, though small, increased by over 16%. 

Source: US Census Bureau
Approximately 30% of the Ward 7 population is comprised of children and youth, 19 years or younger.
- Adults, aged 20-64, make up about 56% of the population.
- Older adults, age 65 and above, make up 14% of the population.

Chart 3. Educational Attainment, Ward 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment, 2000, Ward 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High school +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population 25 years and over
Source: US Census Bureau
Table 1. Economic Indicators, Ward 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Indicator</th>
<th>DC</th>
<th>Ward 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Population in labor force</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>54.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Population unemployed</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Median income</td>
<td>$40,127</td>
<td>$30,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Per capita income</td>
<td>$28,659</td>
<td>$16,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Median monthly gross rent</td>
<td>$618</td>
<td>$521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Families in poverty</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Individuals in poverty</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Average household size</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Average family size</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau

- Compared to other District wards, residents of Ward 7 are about 15% less likely to work in the city’s labor force.
- The median income is 24% lower in Ward 7, as compared to other District wards.
- The percent of families in poverty is 29% higher in Ward 7, as compared to the District overall.

Chart 4. Language Spoken at Home, Ward 7

- Over 4% of the residents of Ward 7 speak a language other than English in their home.
- Spanish is spoken in the homes of about 3% of the ward’s population.
In Ward 7, 63.2% of mothers received adequate prenatal care, which is lower than the District’s overall rate of 70.3%.

The percent of births to single mothers was 82.6%, which was almost 1.5 times higher than 56% of births to single mothers in the District of Columbia.

Ward 7 had 14.9% of low birth weight (weighing under 2,500 grams or 5 pounds, 8 ounces) live births compared to 11.1% in the District.

Mothers younger than 17 years of age gave birth to 7.7% of infants born in Ward 7, a rate of 1.8 times higher than the city’s average of 4.4%.
Table 2. Indicators of Maternal and Child Health, and Infant Mortality
District Overall vs. Ward 7, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>DC</th>
<th>Ward 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census 2000 Population</td>
<td>572,059</td>
<td>64,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Births Rate/1,000 pop&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>7,937</td>
<td>898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Unmarried Women (Percent)</td>
<td>4,442</td>
<td>742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Births to Unmarried Women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>71.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers age &lt;20 yrs (Percent)</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers 15-19 yrs (Percent)</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Rate/1,000 Women 15-19 yrs&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Birth Weight Live Births&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt; (Percent)</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Low Birth Weight Births&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Birth Weight&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt; to Mothers &lt;20 yrs (Percent)</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Births With Adequate Prenatal Care&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>70.3</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Births With Prenatal Care Beginning First Trimester&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>79.4</td>
<td>72.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Deaths (under 1 yr.) Rate (per 1,000 live births)&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> Rates based on Census 2000 population.
<sup>2</sup> Hispanics include persons of all Hispanic origin of any race.
<sup>3</sup> Low birth weight (under 2,500 grams or 5 lbs. 8 oz.).
<sup>4</sup> Adequate prenatal care is based on care initiated in the first trimester with a minimum of nine prenatal visits.
<sup>5</sup> Excludes not stated from total number of births before percentages were computed.
<sup>6</sup> Due to the small number of infant deaths, infant mortality rates are highly variable and should be interpreted cautiously.

Source: DOH, Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics.
Heart Disease is the leading cause of death in Ward 7 and it is 24% and 26% higher than the District and US, respectively.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Ward 7 and the crude death rate is about 22% higher than the District wide rate and 26% higher than the nation.

Deaths due to essential hypertension occur eight times more often in Ward 7 compared to the US.

The HIV death rate is almost twelve times higher than the US rate.

Cerebrovascular Diseases (stroke) related death occur at a rate that is 10% lower than the US population, but is 26% higher when compared to other District residents.

Homicide, the fifth leading cause of death in Ward 7, is 44% higher than the District’s overall rate and nine times higher than the US rate.
Chart 7. Health Care Access, Ward 7
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Data, 2004

Source: DOH, Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics

BRFSS questions:
1. During the past 12 months, have you had a flu shot?
2. Have you ever been tested for HIV? (Do not count tests you may have had as part of a blood donation)
3. Have you ever had a PSA test? (men age 40+)
4. How long has it been since you last visited a dentist for any reason?
5. How long has it been since your last mammogram (had one in past 2 years, women 40+)?
6. Do you have any kinds of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, doctor or health care provider?

- Over 85% of Ward 7 residents have some kind of health care coverage.
- Less than one third of persons over 65 received influenza vaccine.
- Over 71% of Ward 7 residents were tested for HIV.
- About two thirds of men were screened for prostate cancer.
- Almost 78% of women were screened for breast cancer.
Chart 8. Health Risk Behaviors, Ward 7
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Data, 2004

BRFSS Health Risk Behaviors, 2004, Ward 7

Source: DOH, Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics
BRFSS questions:
1. Currently smoke: is a calculated variable and is equal to respondents who indicated they had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their life and now smoke every day or some days.
2. Obesity: is equal to a BMI of 30 or higher.
3. Binge Drinking: refers to how many times during a thirty day period five or more alcoholic beverages were consumed on an occasion.
4. During the past month, other than your regular job did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?
5. Healthy weight: percent of healthy weight

- Less than one third of Ward 7 residents report having a healthy weight, while over 38% report being obese.
- Over 38% reports participating in no physical activity.
- Almost one in three residents of Ward 7 is currently smoking.
- Approximately 11% of residents are binge drinkers.
**Chart 9. Selected Health Conditions, Ward 7**
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Data, 2004

BRFSS Selected Health Conditions, 2004, Ward 7

- **Current asthma**: DC 9.2, Ward 7 13.0
- **Diabetes**: DC 8.3, Ward 7 10.3
- **Sexual Assault**: DC 9.9, Ward 7 9.7
- **Disabilities-limited activities**: DC 12.5, Ward 7 15.2

Source: DOH, Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics
BRFSS questions:
1. Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had asthma?
2. Have you ever been told by a doctor that you had diabetes?
3. Have you ever been sexually assaulted?
4. Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental or emotional problems?

- One in ten citizens of Ward 7 has been a victim of a sexual assault.
- Over 13% of the population has been diagnosed with asthma.
- One in ten Ward 7 residents has diabetes.
- Over 15% of Ward 7 residents are limited in their daily activities by physical, mental or emotional problems.

**Publication Notes**: Information appearing in this sheet may be freely reproduced. However, in the use of these data, it is requested that credit be given to the District of Columbia, Department of Health, Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics. For further information, please contact, the State Center for Health Statistics, 825 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002 (Phone: 202-442-5865).

**************************