**Brooklyn, NY: Canarsie, Flatlands and Flatbush Participatory Action Research**

**The Main Idea**
Use a grassroots organizing model to amplify community voices and address how residents perceive the assets and challenges to health and wellbeing in their neighborhoods in order to advocate for initiatives and policies to improve health and wellness in Canarsie, Flatlands and Flatbush areas of NY.

**The Project**
In 2018, students from Central Brooklyn high schools, colleges and universities formed the Wellness Empowerment for Brooklyn (WEB) team. The WEB team provided a youth and community-generated understanding of resident perceptions of personal health and the health of the community as well as what types of changes they would like to see to improve health and wellbeing in their neighborhoods.

**Impact**
The project resulted in these overarching recommendations:
- Promote racial equity and addressing structural racism;
- Advocate for the financial health of community-based organizations; strengthen the civic infrastructure through joint planning
- Continue to include community members in ways exemplified in the WEB Participatory Action Research (PAR) projects.

As well as specific recommendations in each of 12 domains (such as housing, sanitation, etc.).

**Community Role**
The students developed the central research question, which drove the construction of a survey that explored access to healthy food, the physical and social environments, awareness of community resources, and economic, cultural and social health.

Over 1,000 community residents were surveyed. The student WEB team also conducted focus groups and interviews to document community experiences.


Earlier PAR projects in:
- Brownsville and East New York (2016)

**Project sponsors:** Community Care of Brooklyn at Maimonides Medical Center, Interfaith Medical Center, CCB Community Action and Advocacy Workgroup

**Research team:** MIT Community Innovators Lab, DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy, Medgar Evers College and Kingsborough Community College

For information on community-based research projects, please see https://www.communityvoicesforhealth.org/tools-resources. These materials were created by Altarum, a nonprofit health solutions company, working in partnership with Public Agenda, and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Please send any corrections or suggestions for improvement to Sabah at Sabah.bhatnagar@altarum.org.