CARE AWARE ♀ ℞ ✚

In New York City, nearly 600,000 people don't have health insurance. Around half of those people can't receive coverage because of their citizenship status. To address this need, Mayor Bill de Blasio proposed a plan to guarantee affordable health care for every New Yorker, regardless of their citizenship status. This plan is called NYC Care.

In the spring of 2019, CUP collaborated with Teaching Artist April Wen and Andre Machado's science class at the International High School for Health Sciences in Elmhurst, Queens to investigate Mayor de Blasio's proposed plan to provide health care for all New Yorkers. To investigate, students got out of the classroom to speak to community members, interview stakeholders working on the issue, and create art to visualize how this change could impact their community.

Students created this pamphlet to teach others what they learned and to help other students and their families navigate the complicated world of health care.

What is health insurance?

Health insurance is a way to pay for your medical care if you're sick or in an emergency. You can even use health insurance if you're not sick, like for annual check-ups like with a doctor or a dentist.

NEW YORK CITY Insurance Fact!

"About 93% of people born in the U.S. and live in New York have health insurance…Of the people in New York who are non-citizens, only 78% have health insurance. This kind of difference is even wider for citizens versus undocumented immigrants. Only about 53% of undocumented immigrants have health insurance."

MARTIN AHM KIM, Policy Advisor at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Why is it important?

"We have a really complicated and costly health care system and if people don't have health insurance, they run the risk of going into debt if something really serious happens to them…It's a financial protection, but it's also a protection in terms of making sure that you can get care quickly."

CLAUDIA CALHOON, Senior Director of Immigrant Integration Policy at New York Immigration Coalition

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What is NYC Care?
What will it do?

"NYC Care is a program that guarantees health care access for all New Yorkers…NYC Care will help [people who don't qualify for health insurance] get appointments with doctors, access to pharmacies, and mental health and substance use services – programs that [New Yorkers] need."

– Martin Ahm Kim

"[NYC Care] will try to make sure that everyone has access to a primary care provider, regardless of their status. Either [New Yorkers] will get insurance if they're eligible for it, or if not, they will be able to sign up for a discounted program where they know how much health care will cost and they can afford it."

– Claudia Calhoon

"The hope is that through NYC Care, we'll be able to help immigrants access the health care they need before their health issues get too serious…Ultimately the city wants to make sure that immigrants stay healthy… regardless of ability to pay for healthcare and regardless of their immigration status."

– Martin Ahm Kim

Is there a difference between NYC Care and health insurance?

"If you have health insurance, the health insurance will help you pay for services at a variety of different providers. NYC Care is specifically a program of New York City Health + Hospitals, which operates public hospitals and clinics in NYC."

– Martin Ahm Kim

What is a primary care provider?

A primary care provider is considered your main doctor. They are responsible for dealing with the majority of your health care issues.

Find out if you're eligible!

www.nychealthandhospitals.org/nyccare/faq//#infocus

> **In New York City, we have the largest public hospital system in the nation and it provides care to anyone regardless of status, regardless of if they have insurance or what their immigration status is… but people also have challenges.**
>
> **– Claudia Calhoon**

What are the challenges immigrant New Yorkers face in accessing health care?
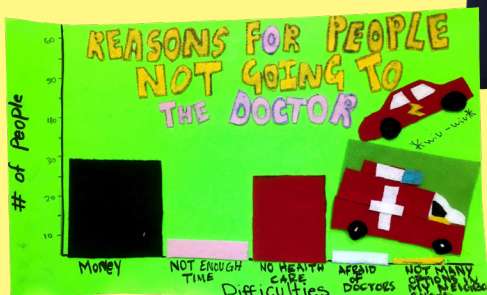
COST
$ $ $

> **For some immigrants, because [medical] care is so expensive, they can put off going to see the doctor until it's an emergency.**
>
> **– Martin Ahm Kim**

> **If [community members] are not aware that we [public hospitals and clinics] are here and go to a private-type practice, the challenge there is the cost, because they may not have insurance.**
>
> **– Dr. Rand David,**
> Chief Medical Officer for Ambulatory Services at Elmhurst Hospital

In May 2019, IHSHS students surveyed their community about health care. They created graphs to visualize the information they gathered:

REASONS FOR PEOPLE NOT GOING TO THE DOCTOR

"Problems"

Service

Language

IDIOM

LANGUAGE BARRIERS

> **We have city laws, state laws, and federal laws that guarantee that if you go to the hospital and you are a Spanish speaker, they have to provide services to you in Spanish, either with a person who speaks Spanish, or by telephone…but that doesn't always happen.**
>
> **– Claudia Calhoon**

Fear

> **It's hard enough to go to a doctor when you speak the same language. It's hard enough to feel safe and comfortable talking to a doctor when you're sick. When you have to do that with a language barrier…that creates fear.**

> **For our immigrant population, particularly those that are undocumented, it's the fear. There is an underlying fear with everything going on in the news and people being deported… that's become a challenge for us.**
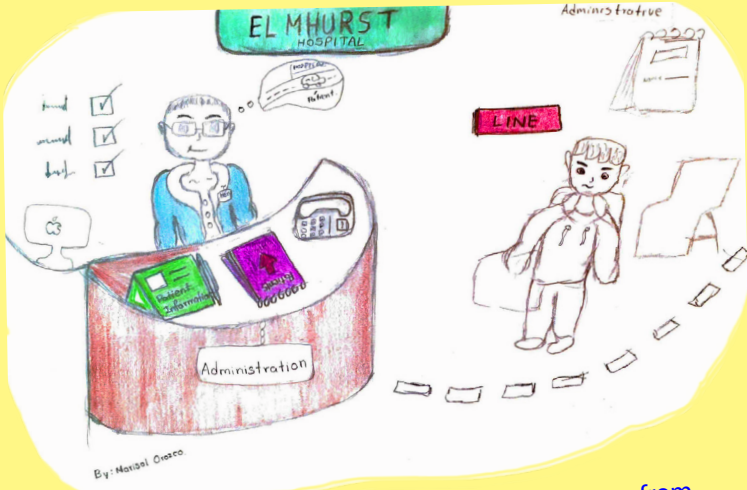
HENRY GRULLON,
Associate Director of Ambulatory Care Services at Elmhurst Hospital
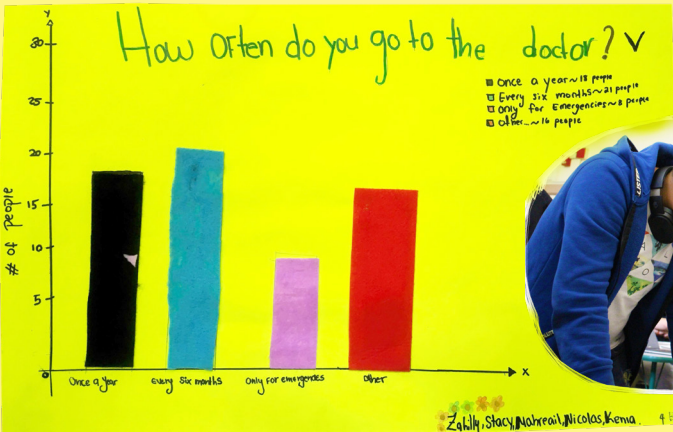
DR. RAND DAVID,
Chief Medical Officer for Ambulatory Services at Elmhurst Hospital

Lack of Previous Care

ELMHURST HOSPITAL

Administrative

LINE

Administration

By: Maribel Orozco

" Most people who come to Elmhurst Hospital come from some other country. They tend to have illnesses that are more advanced than someone who grew up here and got sick and went to the doctor right away…It's a challenge for this group of people because they're sicker than they would be if they got care earlier in their illnesses. "

– Dr. Rand David

How often do you go to the doctor?

- once a year ~18 people
- Every six months ~21 people
- only for Emergencies ~8 people
- other ~16 people

# of people

Once a year   every six months   Only for emergencies   other

Zahia, Stacy, Nabreail, Nicolas, Kenia

BENEFITS

OuTreach COMMUNities ReSources UniveRsal

Healthy Accessibility

How will this change impact immigrant New Yorkers?

" We definitely think it's an important step to getting immigrants and other people who haven't been receiving [medical] care to access [medical] care. And the hope is, by making it easier for people to make appointments and knowing what their benefits are, more people will start to use healthcare services. "

– Martin Ahm Kim

" Many people right now don't go to the doctor because they're afraid that if they don't have insurance, they can't go to a doctor. For those individuals without insurance, more [will be] aware that they can come to [public hospitals and clinics] to help them. "

– Dr. Rand David

" If NYC Care works correctly, people will be able to get appointments more quickly. It will also better link people with primary care specialists, and primary care with mental health services. "

– Claudia Calhoon

AMBulAtory heLp RIghTs

Students got out of the classroom and onto the streets of Elmhurst, interviewing people in the neighborhood about health care in their lives today. One question they asked community members was:
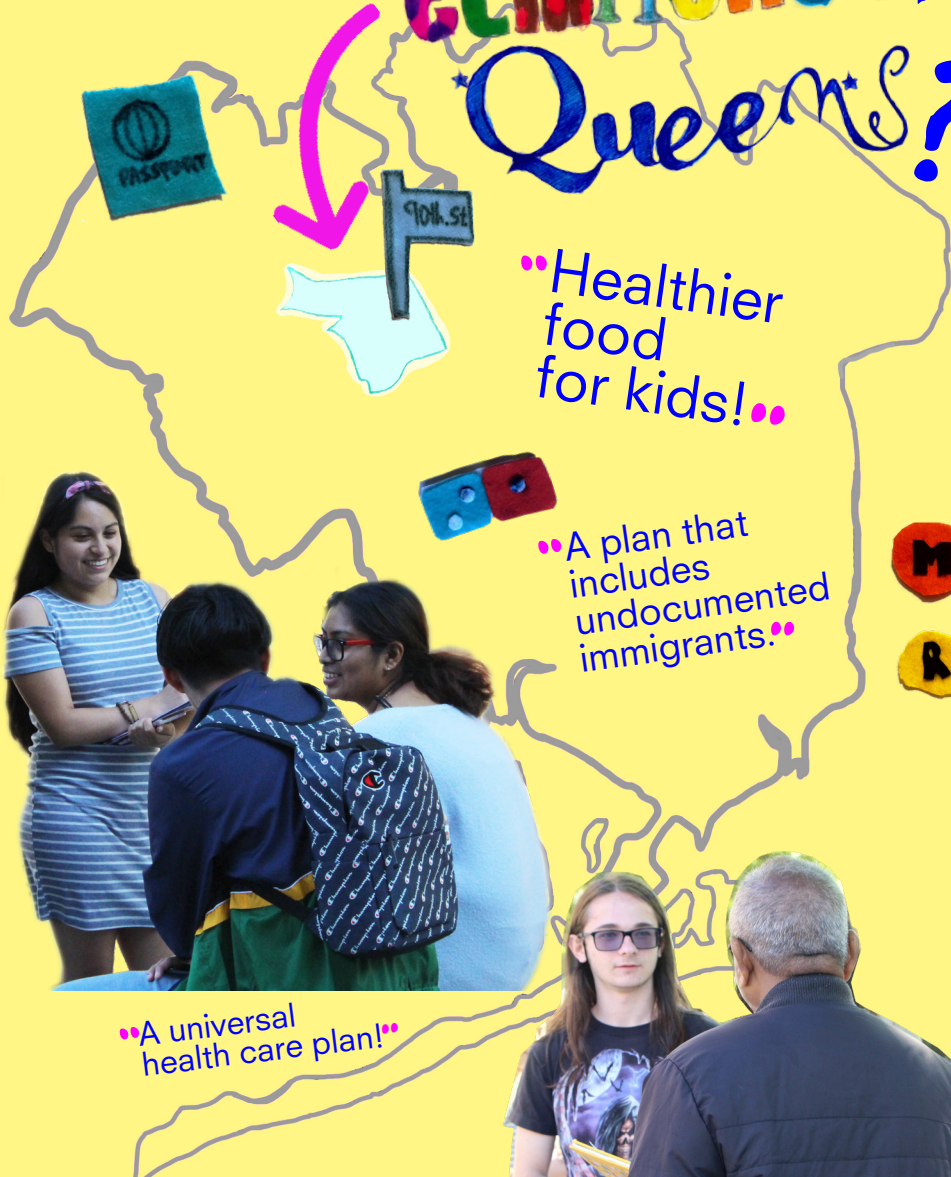
What changes do you want to see in ELMHURST, Queens?

HEALTHY

PASSPORT

90th St

"Healthier food for kids!"

"More clinics that provide service in Spanish or other languages."

"A plan that includes undocumented immigrants."

"A universal health care plan!"

What do students have to say?

CANCER & Treatment Quilt

NYC Health+Hospitals Cancer Care includes screenings, chemotherapy, special nutrition, medication, and more. Under NYC Care, people can have access to cancer treatment based on what they can afford to pay. Students made a quilt to represent different kinds of cancers and treatments that affect their community.

"I learned that health care is a human right even if you are an immigrant in this country."

– Karen Guaman,
IHSHS student

"Universal healthcare is not a bad idea because there are many immigrants who don't know how to pay for healthcare and if NYC Care is created, it would help them."

– Shelyi Chavez,
IHSHS student

"If I could provide life saving treatment for any cancer I would choose the cancer that has the lowest survival rate and is the hardest to treat."

– Robin Dragan, IHSHS student

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically underrepresented communities.

City Studies are CUP's project based, in-class and afterschool programs that use design and art as tools to research the city. To learn more, visit **welcometocup.org.**

The International High School for Health Sciences helps new non-English speaking immigrant students acquire English language skills and develop the determination, compassion, and discipline for successful college study in medicine, nursing, health counseling, research, or in the administration of health care services.

Students: Melany Astudillo, Cristian Bravo, Jesus Cajo, Stacy Campbell Nuñez, Erick Cardenas, Carlos Carrasco, Joel Cerpa, Shelyi Chavez, Ming Hua Chen, Dipina Chhetri, Roberto Chicas Velasquez, Nicolas Chiguasuque, Rosalina Chitiq, Kenia Cholom, Kevin Degante, Robin Dragan, Lisseth Duchimaza, Christie Duverger, Lojain Emam, Maria Escalante, Jhon Escobar, Jose Espinal Medrano, Dulce Espinoza, Enmanuel Garzon, Wens Goiz-Reyes, Karen Guaman, Bryan Guapinala, Humberto Guch, Julianna Herrera, Zahilly Herrera, Erlin Hernandez, Poe Hmue, May Zin Htun, Monica Hurtado, Antonuos Ishak, Valeria Izaguirre, Israt Jahan, Jeimison Javier, Daniel Lopez Jimenez, Fabian Kuclo, Axel Lama, Jose Jimenez Medina, Alsidelvis Mora, Arcideuris Mora, Kathely Moura Baia, Maiesha Muntaki, Marisol Orozco, Maria Osorio, Sara Pandey, Paula Peralta, Ketchina Pierre, Mikaela Pinto, Randy Pena, Janaki Rai, Braian Ramirez, Jennifer Reynoso, Cristian Rocha, Angie Rodriguez, Camila Rodriguez, Bryan Roldon, Ana Rosario, Karelynn Sanchez, Carla Sarmiento, Habibur Sejon, Genesis Suero, Edward Tavarez, Santiago Tec, Sonam Tsetso, Giara Vasquez, Mahraeil Yacoub, Leticia Vasquez, Juan Carlos Vitinio

CUP

Teaching Artist: April Wen
Project Lead: Leigh Taylor
Project Support: Fielding Hong

IHSHS

Classroom Teacher:
Andre Machado

Thanks to our **interviewees:**
Claudia Calhoon,
Dr. Rand David, Martin Ahm Kim,
Henry Grullon

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