

# Do you care?: Exploring Healthcare in East Liberty

Jendaya M. Johnson, Sha'Myia N. Johnson, and Adwoa N. Ababio

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### Introduction

Residents in the East Liberty community have insufficient access to local hospitals and medical care. Not having access to hospitals leaves residents and support services to travel farther for medical care. In the article "Healthcare access in rural communities," researchers found that the lack of nearby hospitals can be "costly and burdensome" for families living in remote areas. It is important to investigate the lack of hospitals and medical care in East Liberty because many residents are economically and physically impacted by limited access to medical care. Highlighting this matter may help residents gain closer access.

### Research Question

How does the lack of hospitals in East Liberty affect the community and the people in need of medical care?

#### Nearest Hospitals

UPMC Mercy	4.0 miles
UPMC Shadyside	1.3 miles
West Penn Hospital	1.45 miles
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	1.7 miles

### Methods

Researchers conducted a survey on the lack of medical care in East Liberty. Researchers created this survey using questions developed during an in class assignment for their community-based research projects. The survey consisted of 24 questions. The first set captured demographics characteristics. The second explored community needs. The next set included study specific questions about barriers to medical care, transportation and access to medical services.

Additionally, researchers distributed their survey by canvassing and receiving consent from respondents.



### Results

Race	White/Caucasian (55%)
Gender	Female (68%)
Age	26-30 (27%)
Household Status	Rent (39%)
Household Income	\$50,000 (27%)

68% said they have a reliable source of transportation

45% said they travel using a vehicle

50% said money is a major factor to consider when traveling distances to MC

79% said East Liberty would benefit from a hospital

50% said they visit their Primary Care Physician annually for a physical checkup.

### Hypothesis

Residents are negatively impacted by limited medical facilities in East Liberty.

### Discussion

With any study there are limitations. In our study, we experienced unwilling survey respondents and participants with limited time. We also confronted individuals who were in the East Liberty but not residents. Finally, given the time of day we canvassed, we missed important individuals in our data collection time - working individuals who have valuable insights to contribute.

### Conclusion

The findings from this study will help bring attention to the lack of medical care in East Liberty. The results from our study suggest that people pay significant funds to travel to the nearest hospital or medical clinic. Researchers should continue exploring different ways to bring medical facilities to East Liberty. In following studies, researchers should consider reaching individuals for whom medical care is an issue and investigating transportation programs for medical care.