

Mayor’s Proposed Budget Seeks to Provide the Bronx With More Rapid EMS Response. Is Queens Even More in Need?

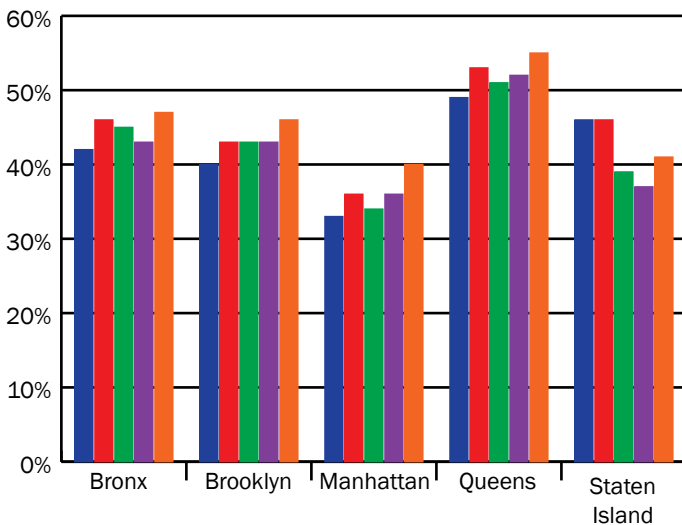
The Mayor’s Executive Budget for next year includes \$15 million to expand the Emergency Medical Service’s “Fly Car” pilot program in the Bronx. The program, first introduced in 2016, aims to get highly trained paramedics on the scene of serious medical emergencies such as heart attacks and choking as quickly as possible (emergency medical technicians are sent to less serious incidents). If a patient needs hospitalization, an ambulance with emergency medical technicians typically does the transport so the paramedics are free to respond to the next serious emergency. (For more details on the ambulance system, see [here](#)).

Citywide in 2018, paramedics responded within 10 minutes to 54 percent of roughly 314,000 serious, or Advanced Life Support, medical emergencies. This is well below the 90 percent goal set in 1996 when the city’s fire department took over ambulance operations from the public hospital system. We have compared paramedic response times in each of the boroughs.

Share of Paramedic Responses Taking Longer Than 10 Minutes

By calendar year

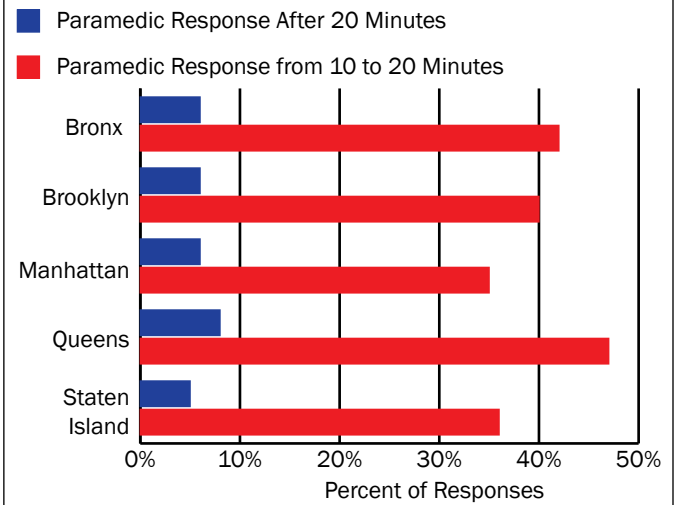
■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018



- In each of the years 2014 through 2018, Queens had a higher share of serious medical emergencies that took paramedics more than 10 minutes to respond to than any of the other boroughs.
- The share of Bronx paramedic responses exceeding 10 minutes declined in 2017, the year after the start of the Fly Car pilot program.
- But in 2018 the share of paramedic responses longer than 10 minutes rose in every borough, including the Bronx.

Paramedic Responses to Advanced Life Support Incidents in Excess of 10 and 20 Minutes

Calendar Year 2018



- Last year, of the nearly 62,000 medical emergencies in Queens requiring paramedics, help failed to arrive in less than 10 minutes 55 percent of the time. In the Bronx, where there were about 58,000 serious incidents, paramedics failed to arrive in less than 10 minutes 48 percent of the time.
- More than 20 minutes elapsed before paramedics arrived at over 5,000 (8 percent) serious medical emergencies in Queens in 2018, as compared with about 3,200 (6 percent) incidents in the Bronx.

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