

# PROMOTING EQUITY IN RECOVERY SERVICES

*BPHC Board of Health  
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# Promoting Equity in Recovery Services

- **Defining Equity Gaps**
- **Youth Prevention**
- **Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention**
- **Criminal Justice Initiatives**



# Defining Equity Gaps

- Will use community process and partnerships to:
  - **Engage communities** that are often left out of the conversation about substance use and recovery services
  - **Better understand how Boston's Black and Latinx communities conceptualize substance use**, addiction, and recovery services
  - **Identify gaps in care and barriers to accessing recovery services** for Black and Latinx communities in Boston
  - **Identify possible approaches to addressing these barriers to care**



# Youth Prevention

- Released “Youth Substance Use Prevention Strategic Plan” in summer 2018
  - Partnership with MGH and BCBSMAF
  - **Emphasis on ensuring that prevention efforts promote racial, ethnic, and economic equity**
  - Majority of BPS students (86%) identify as Black, Latino/a, or Asian, but prevention efforts statewide are often geared towards white, upper-middle class students



# Youth Prevention

- **Since the launch of the Strategic Plan:**
  - **Equity Change Project** with the Network of Coalitions
  - LifeSkills Learning Collaborative to **adapt evidence-based curriculum** for Boston students
  - Developing recommendations to address substance use for **youth who are currently using**
  - **Skills-based training** for youth-serving professionals across city departments (BPHC-CAFH, BPS, BCYF)
  - **Expanding partnerships** across underrepresented neighborhoods



# Harm Reduction & Overdose Prevention

- Received funding from Office of Minority Health (OMH) to **reduce the impact of the opioid crisis in Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan**
- Objectives:
  - Partner with **community health centers** to address gaps in care and/or services for persons who use drugs
  - Provide **training and technical assistance** to improve community capacity to respond to the opioid crisis, including harm reduction, safe injection practices, overdose prevention, and engagement strategies
  - Expand **street-level outreach** and engagement to persons who use drugs



# Criminal Justice Initiatives

- **People of color represent three-quarters of those convicted of mandatory minimum drug offenses in Massachusetts** though they make up less than one-quarter of the Commonwealth's population (Boston Indicators Project)
- New initiatives focused on:
  - Supporting individuals re-entering from incarceration
  - Educating key stakeholders on SUD and diversion opportunities
  - Increasing diversion from the criminal justice system



# A Year in Review: Highlights

- Filed Civil Litigation in Suffolk Superior Courts against Opioid Manufacturers and Distributors
- Launched Long Island Planning Process
- Shattuck Planning Process
- Visit to Toronto and Montreal Safe Consumption Sites
- Joint Strategic Planning Process for ORS and BRS



# Thank You!

