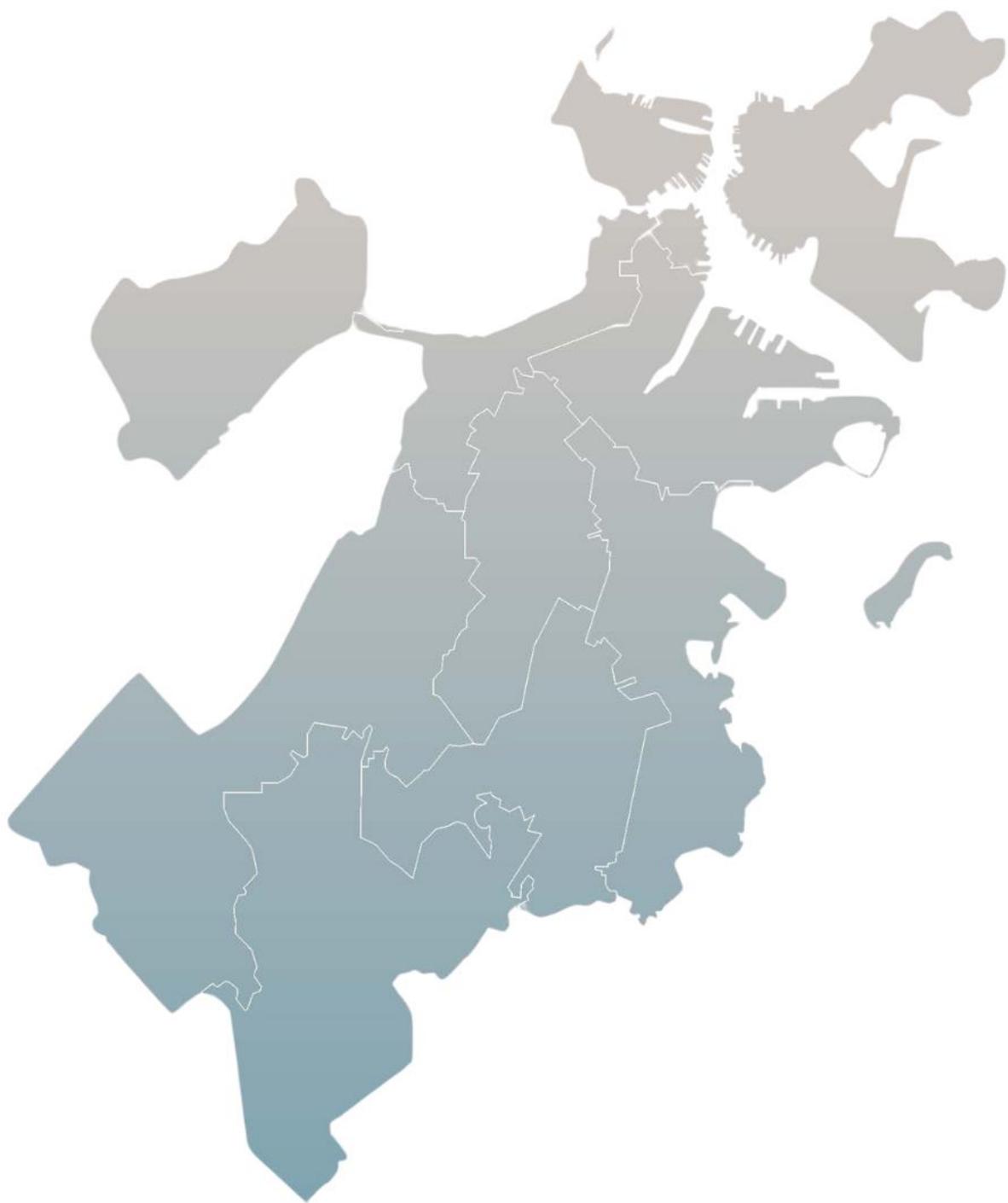


Boston Board of Health

June 11, 2025

AGENDA

1. Chairperson's Remarks
2. Executive Office Report
3. Acceptance and Approval of Minutes
4. FY26 Budget Presentation and Vote
5. Community Health Needs Assessment Overview
6. Adjourn



Executive Office Report

June 11, 2025



BPHC in the News

Carney Hospital task forces recommends continuing health care services at that site

SHARE   



Carney Hospital closed in August 2024. The working group was tasked with determining what would happen with the site.
Craig LeMoult / GBH News



NEWS > LOCAL NEWS

Officials break ground on \$16 million EMS facility in South Boston

SHARE   



An ambulance on a call drives on Commonwealth Ave. in Boston on Friday, April 24, 2020.
Michael Dwyer / Associated Press



NEWS > HEALTH

CDC cuts \$1 million from Boston community health programs

SHARE   



A health care worker talks on the phone next to hospital beds in this 2020 file photo in Los Angeles.
Jae C. Hong / AP

LOCAL NEWS June 4th, 2025

Public Health Commission reports decrease in opioid overdose deaths

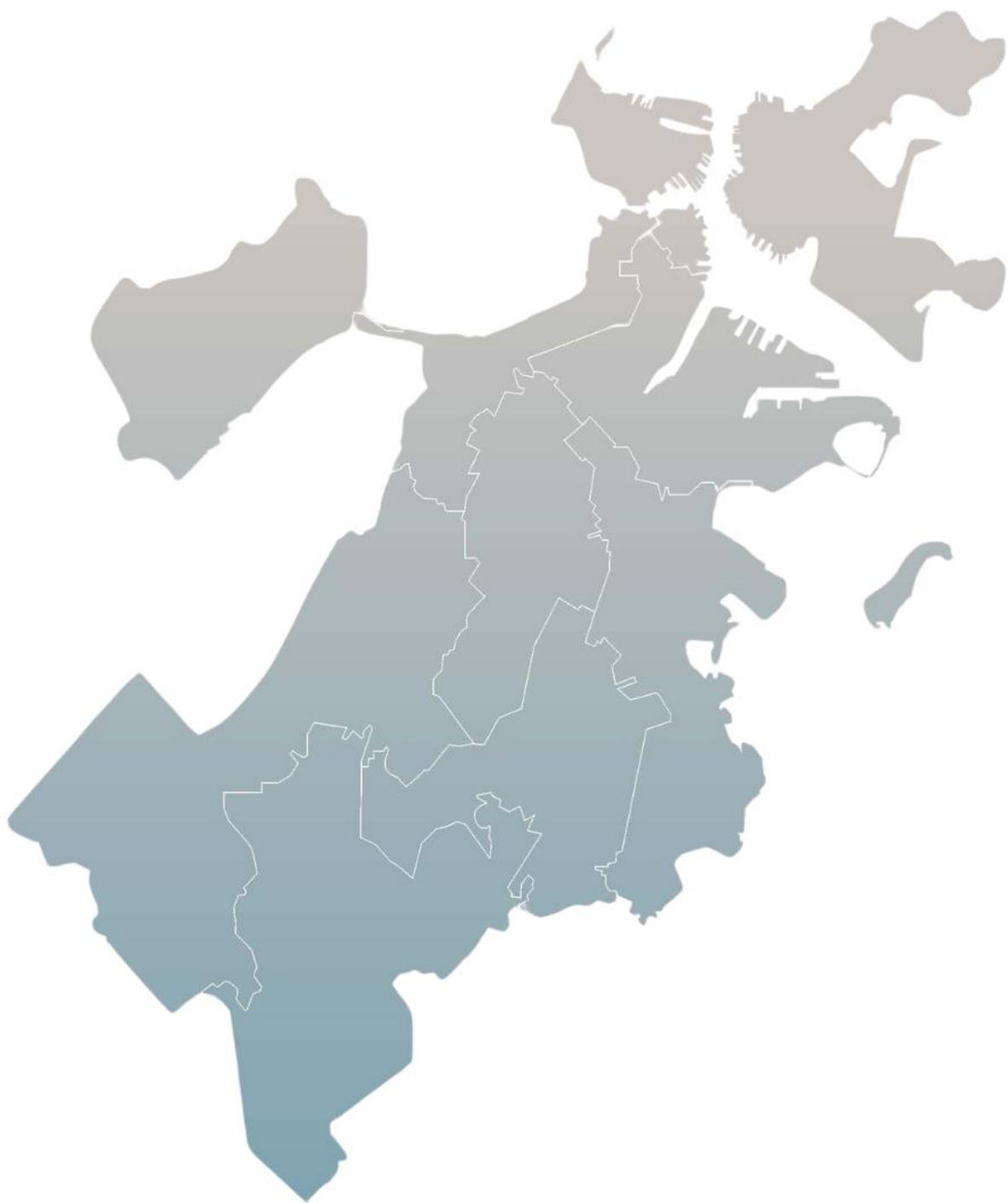
Avery Blitchfeld



HOME > LATEST CITY OF BOSTON NEWS > MAYOR WU ANNOUNCES CITY'S PLAN FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY SUMMER IN BOSTON

MAYOR WU ANNOUNCES CITY'S PLAN FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY SUMMER IN BOSTON



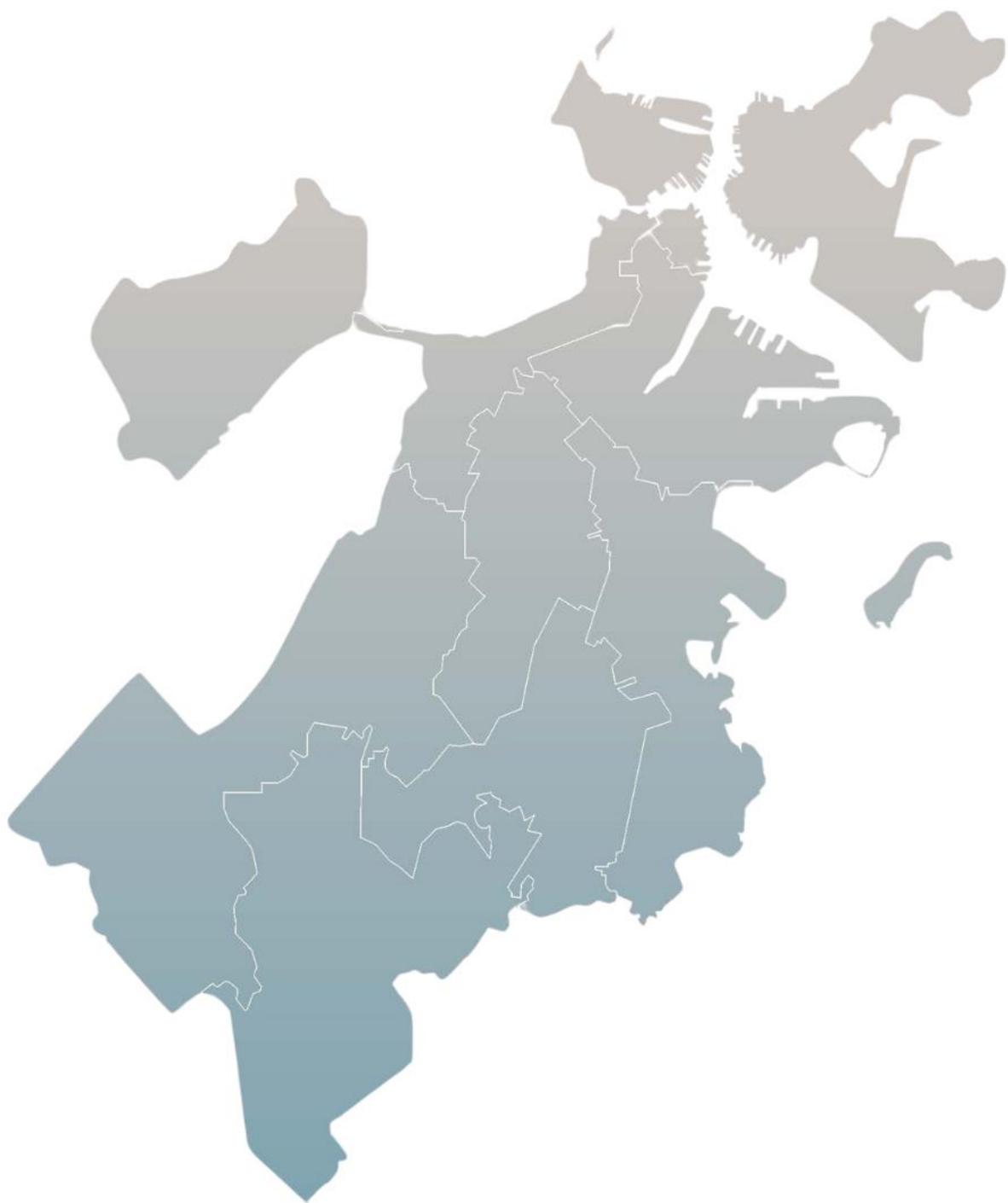


APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 2025 Meeting

By roll call vote





FY26 BUDGET PRESENTATION AND VOTE

Chris Valdez, Budget Director



FY26 Budget Timeline

1/13/25	FY26 Initial draft maintenance budget submitted to the City, proposed new investments as well as any new capital requests
1/22/25	January Board Meeting with Budget Process Update
March 2025	FY26 external funds budgets to the City
January – April 2025	Further meetings with OBM and Mayor’s Office around potential new budget proposals and revisions to draft FY26 maintenance budget
3/12/2025	Board meeting to review and vote to submit FY26 maintenance budget to the Mayor for review and approval
5/8/2025	City Council hearing date
6/11/2025	Final Board vote to approve FY26 budget

FY26 Budget

Bureau	FY25	FY26	Variance	%
RSB	\$ 9,881,256	\$ 10,197,579	\$ 316,323	3.2%
CAFH	\$ 11,918,115	\$ 12,031,236	\$ 113,121	0.9%
CIB	\$ 6,589,572	\$ 6,719,364	\$ 129,792	2.0%
<i>EMS Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 84,814,819</i>	<i>\$ 86,805,755</i>	<i>\$ 1,990,936</i>	<i>2.3%</i>
<i>EMS Revenue</i>	<i>\$ (41,208,575)</i>	<i>\$ (41,208,575)</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
EMS Net	\$ 43,606,244	\$ 45,597,180	\$ 1,990,936	4.6%
HSB	\$ 12,705,583	\$ 13,181,262	\$ 475,679	3.7%
IDB	\$ 7,058,772	\$ 6,946,103	\$ (112,669)	(1.6%)
PHSC	\$ 19,122,581	\$ 19,901,030	\$ 778,449	4.1%
Other Prg Rev	\$ -	\$ (200,000)	\$ (200,000)	-
Admin Net	\$ 23,203,259	\$ 23,932,581	\$ 729,322	3.1%
Property Net	\$ 5,993,380	\$ 6,066,785	\$ 73,405	1.2%
Council Amendment	\$ -	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	-
Total	\$ 140,078,762	\$ 145,073,120	\$ 4,994,358	3.6%

VOTE TO APPROVE FY26 FINAL BUDGET

2025

Boston Community Health Needs Assessment Key Findings

Krystal Garcia
Tibrine da Fonseca
June 11, 2025



BOSTON COMMUNITY
HEALTH COLLABORATIVE



Boston Community Health Collaborative

Multi-sector collaborative of Boston health institutions, community organizations, residents, and the Boston Public Health Commission working to improve the health of Bostonians through aligning community health assessment and improvement planning efforts.

Vision: A healthy Boston with strong communities, connected residents and organizations, coordinated initiatives, and where every individual has an equitable opportunity to live a healthy life.

Mission: To achieve sustainable positive change in the health of Boston by collaborating with communities, sharing knowledge, aligning resources, and addressing root causes of health inequities.

Leadership:

Beth Israel Lahey Health

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Boston Children's Hospital

Boston Medical Center

Community Residents, Vivien Morris and Ricky Guerra

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Fenway Health

Madison Park Development Corporation

Mass General Brigham

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Brigham and Women's

Faulkner Hospital, Mass General Hospital, Mass Eye and Ear

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Tufts Medical Center

Urban Edge

YMCA of Greater Boston

Central Coordinator: Boston Public Health Commission



2025 Boston Community Health Needs Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan Timeline

Spring -Summer 2024

- Project Development
- Finalize Project Plan
- Survey Development and Recruitment Strategy
- Convene Primary and Secondary Data Work Groups



Fall 2024

- Project Launch
- Community Survey Dissemination and Community Engagement
- Begin Collecting Secondary Data



Winter 2025

- Conduct Key Informant Interviews and Focus Groups
- Data Analysis and Interpretation



Spring 2025

- Report Production and Revision
- Preliminary Data Shared with Steering Committee and CHIP Work Groups



Summer - Fall 2025

- Community Prioritization Process and Selection of CHIP Priorities
- Identification of CHIP Strategies
- Engage Community Partners to Align Strategies



WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY AND THRIVING BOSTON?

Boston CHNA Data Sources

Community Health Survey

Open to all residents of Boston age 14 and up.

Key Informant Interviews

Discussions with Systems Experts and Community Leaders

Focus Groups

Group Discussion with population cohorts with a higher burden of health inequities and with organizational partners in key sectors (housing, economic mobility, climate justice, community health workers, mental and behavioral health).

Data Partnerships

Partnerships with city departments conducting community assessment processes to share high-level findings with one another.

Surveillance and Place-Based Secondary Health Data

Available local, state, and federal data that monitors disease trends, self-reported health outcomes, census data, etc.

Complementary Assessment and Report Review

Literature review of assessments and reports with community engagement components conducted within last two years.



CHNA Primary Data Collection Methods

Community Survey

- N=1,866 residents
- In person and virtual recruitment (over 40 events)
- Disseminated in 9 languages in paper and web-based formats.
- Explored **community health priorities** and **access to care and vital resources** to support health and well-being.

Interviews

- N=11 with 13 systems experts and community leaders
- Representatives from public health, health care, EMS, food justice, housing, education/early childhood, social services, and climate justice.
- Emphasis on **systems, policy, and environment**

Focus Groups (Community Residents)

- Community Residents (N= 8 groups; 62 Participants)
- Notes analyzed from 9 additional focus groups conducted by BIDMC and NEBH
- Deep-dive into community health topics, **community strengths and assets**

Focus Groups (Sector-Based)

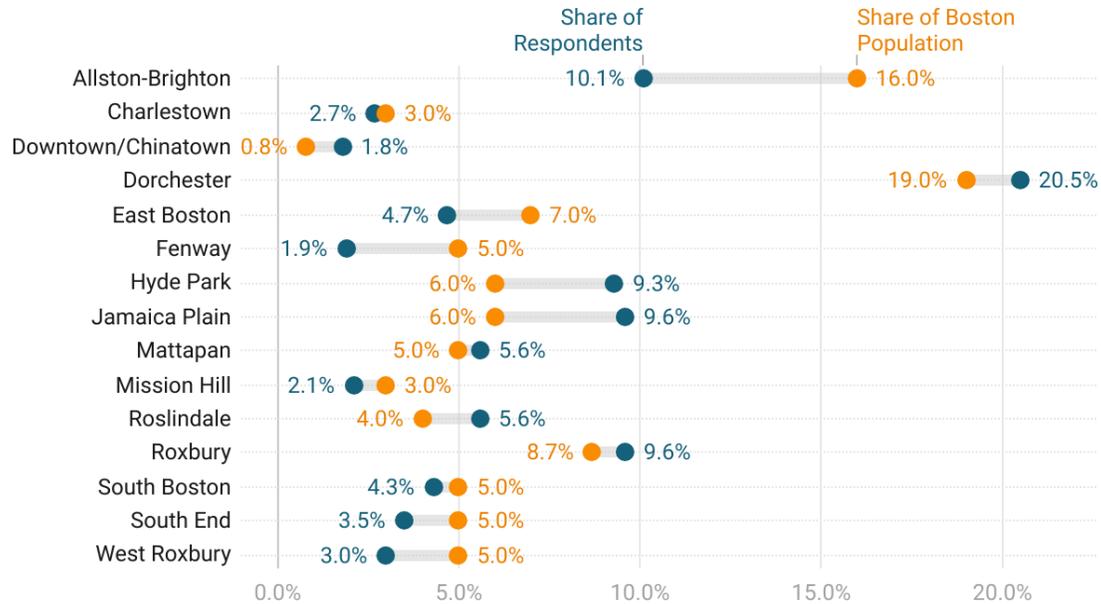
- N= 5 groups with 28 participants)
- Sectors: Climate Justice, Housing, Community Health Workers, Mental/Behavioral Health, Economic Mobility
- Emphasis on **promising practices** and **recommendations for action**

Community Health Survey Data Collection

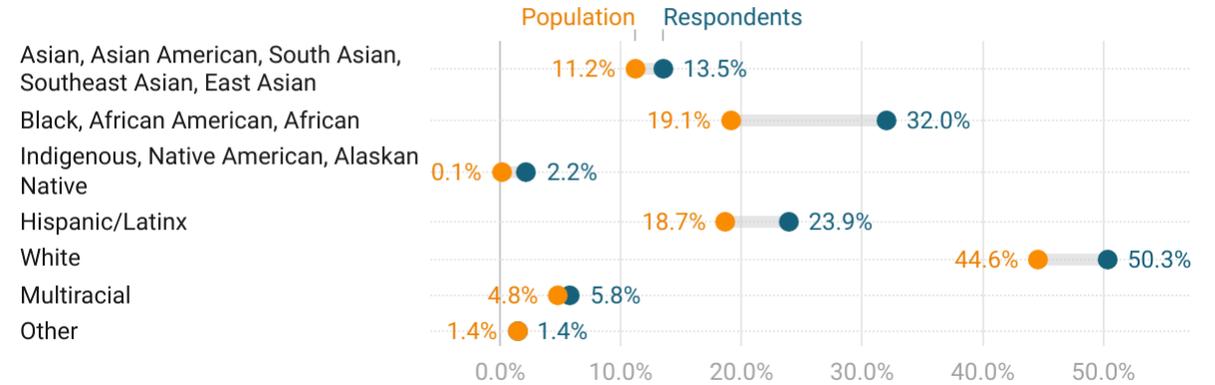


CHNA Survey Demographics

CHNA Survey Respondents by Neighborhood



CHNA Survey Respondents by Race/Ethnicity



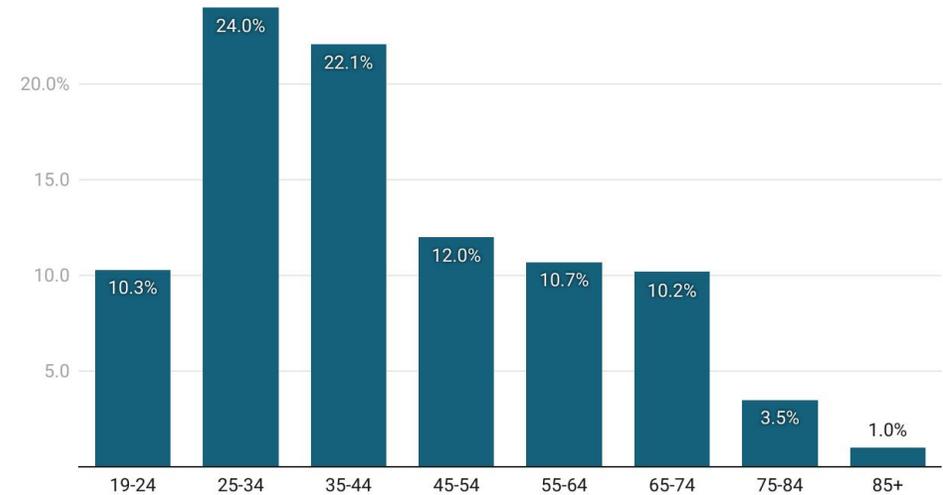
CHNA Survey by Gender Identity



CHNA Survey Respondents by Nativity



CHNA Survey Respondents by Age



Overview of CHNA Key Findings

2025 BOSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

KEY FINDINGS

Key Data Points: What are areas of strength and progress?

Boston is a **richly diverse city**.

Boston has **maintained a high percentage of insured residents** (97% percent of residents have some form of health coverage).

Significant **decrease in heart disease mortality rate** (2019-2023).

Significant **decrease in opioid overdose mortality** (2023-2024)

Compared to previous CHNAs:

- Rates of **ED visits for asthma** are lower
- Rates of **youth substance use** (alcohol and marijuana) and **physical activity** have improved

Key Data Points: What are continuing or emerging challenges?

There is a **23 year gap in life expectancy** at the census tract level.

Food insecurity is rising (significant increase, 2015-2023).

Housing costs remain high (50.2% of renters are cost-burdened); low-income households are particularly burdened.

Behavioral health concerns continue. Rate of persistent anxiety among adults is higher in the 2024 CHNA report compared to previous reports and almost 2 in 5 Boston high school youth report feeling sad or hopeless.

Climate change is an ongoing and growing concern that disproportionately impacts populations and neighborhoods.

Key Community-Identified Concerns

Similar to previous CHNAs, **housing affordability** and **mental health/substance use** rise to the top as key concerns.

Economic insecurity emerges as a top concern.

Food insecurity and **access to affordable and healthy food** also emerges as a key concern.

Climate change is a new key concern.

Key Strengths

Social Capital, Diversity, Recreational and Green Spaces, Walkability, Community Health Centers, Community-Based Organizations.

Community Strengths and Assets

Top Community Strengths

- **Diversity and inclusiveness** of communities.
- **Convenience and walkability.**
- **Strong social capital** and spaces that facilitate connection
 - Neighborhood groups, community centers, churches, recreational spaces, etc.
 - Friendly neighbors who help each other out.
- Presence of **CBOs and community-based health centers** that provide resources and have a spirit of collaboration and innovation.

“A real asset for the city is the network of community health centers. It’s unique for a large city.” – Interview participant

Community Concerns

Top Community Concerns, by Race/Ethnicity

	Overall (N=1737)	Asian (N=198)	Black (N=475)	Latinx (N=368)	White (N=757)
1	Housing Quality or Affordability	Housing Quality or Affordability	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Housing Quality or Affordability
2	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Housing Quality or Affordability	Housing Quality or Affordability	Mental Health
3	Mental Health	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Mental Health	Economic Insecurity, Employment
4	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Mental Health	Mental Health	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Alcohol or Substance Misuse
5	Chronic Stress	Chronic Stress	Diabetes	Chronic Stress	Environment (air quality, traffic, noise)

- **Housing, substance misuse, mental health and chronic stress, and economic insecurity** remain key community health concerns and align with previous Community Health Improvement Plan priority areas.

Top Community Concerns, by Population Characteristics

	Overall (N=1737)	LGBTQ+ (N=382)	Caregiver (N=1029)	Unhoused (N=96)	Born Outside US (N=419)	Aged 55+ (N=427)
1	Housing Quality or Affordability	Housing Quality or Affordability	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Housing Quality or Affordability
2	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Mental Health	Housing Quality or Affordability	Homelessness	Housing Quality or Affordability	Alcohol or Substance Misuse
3	Mental Health	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Mental Health	Housing Quality or Affordability	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Elder/Aging Challenges (arthritis, falls, dementia, etc)
4	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Alcohol or Substance Misuse	Economic Insecurity, Employment	Substance Use Disorder	Mental Health	Mental Health
5	Chronic Stress	Chronic Stress	Chronic Stress	Poverty	Homelessness/High Blood Pressure	Diabetes

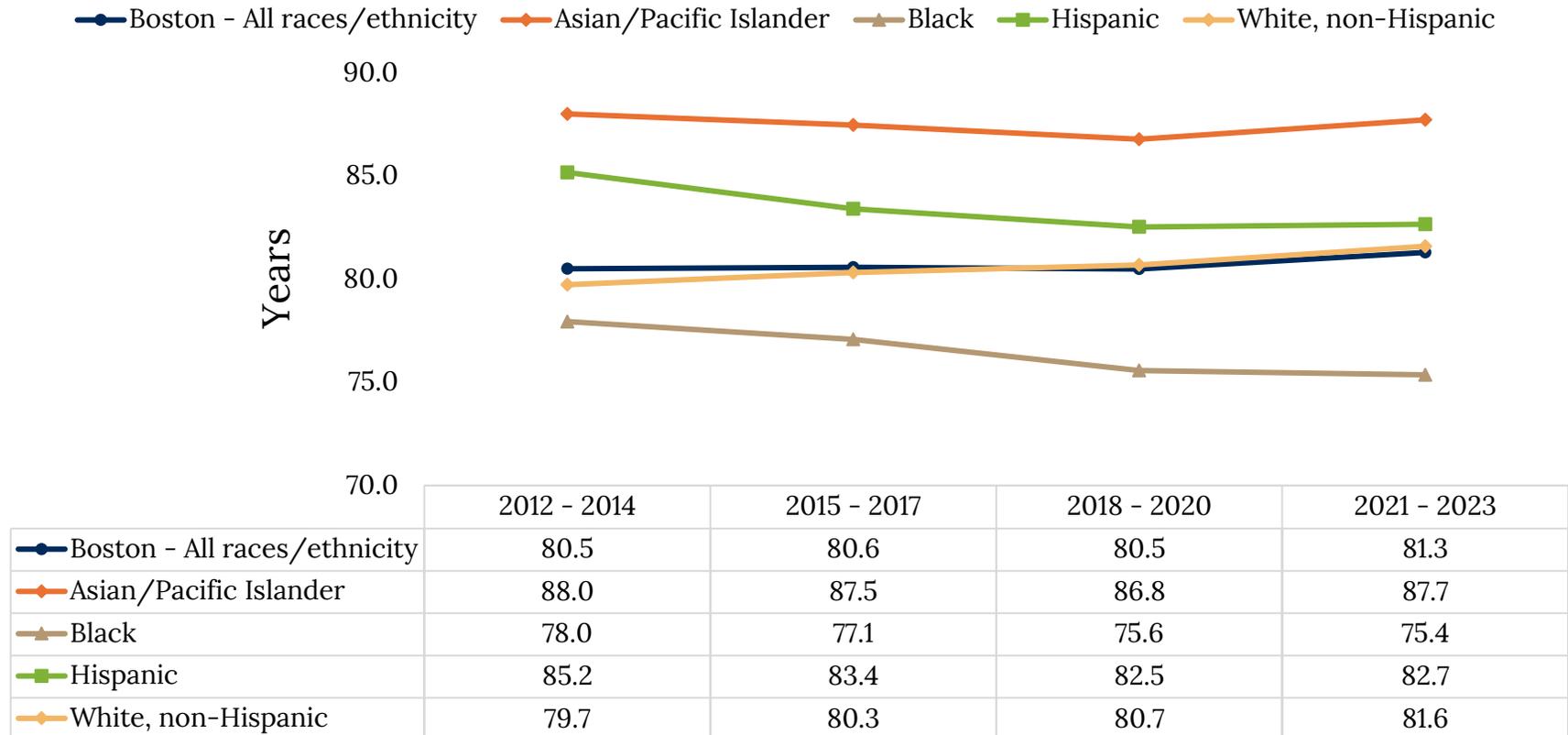
- **Housing (stability, quality, affordability) and/or substance misuse** are among the top 2 concerns for all
- **Mental health and economic insecurity/employment** also among the top concerns

Community Health Issues

Life Expectancy

The life expectancy gap has persisted over time, with life expectancy for Black residents remaining lower than Boston overall. We see even greater inequities by census tract.

Life Expectancy in Boston: Trends by Select Race and Ethnicity Group



DATA SOURCE: Massachusetts resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health



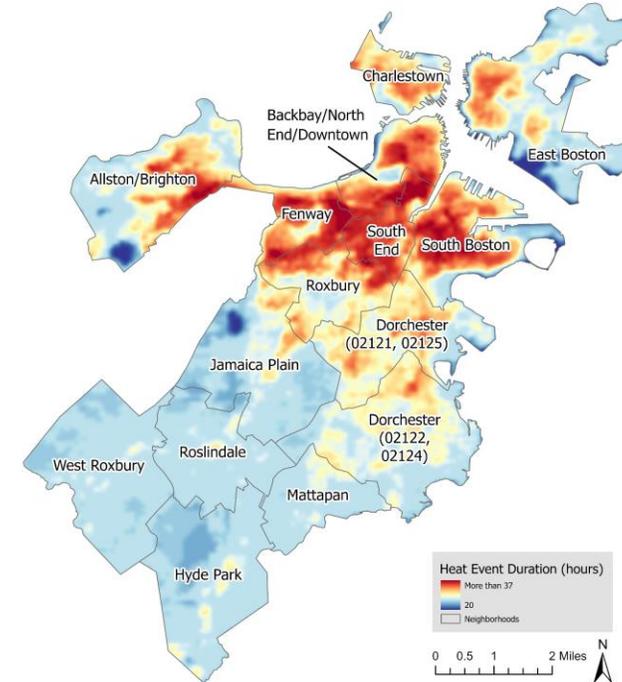
Climate Change

- Temperatures in MA have **increased by 3.5 degrees since 1900** and are projected to continue
- **Temperature extremes impact housing and financial stability**
- **Climate change disproportionately impacts certain neighborhoods and populations (older adults, etc.)**
- **Climate change impacts health vulnerabilities:** birth outcomes, asthma, efficacy of medications, managing acute conditions, and anxiety about the climate crisis

“...the extreme heat is impacting communities of color more by design through decades of disinvestment.”

– Sector focus group participant

Heat Event Duration



DATA SOURCE: City of Boston, Climate Ready Boston, 2023

“I used to always use the air conditioning, but now I can’t because the cost of electricity has gone up and the rent has gone up and I can’t afford to use it.” – Focus group participant

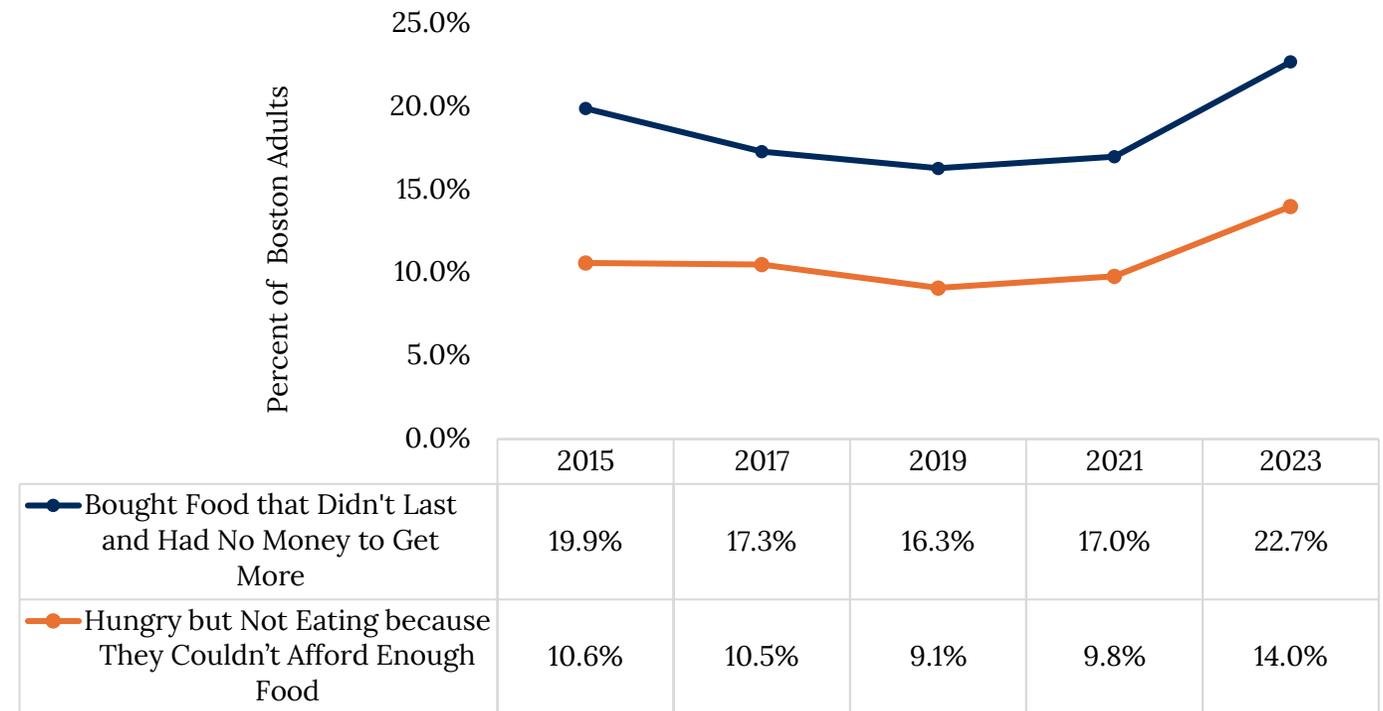
Access to Healthy Food, Nutrition, and Physical Activity

- Access to low-cost, healthy food rated highly by CHNA survey respondents to improve quality of life / health of their communities

“The amount for Food Stamps was lowered drastically recently, and now we have to pay more out of pocket for fruits and vegetables and healthy foods... So what that means is we end up eating less healthy foods.”

– Focus group participant

Percent Adults Reporting Food Didn't Last and Reporting Hunger, by Boston Over Time, 2015-2023



DATA SOURCE: Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2015,2017,2019,2021,2023), Boston Public Health Commission

DATA ANALYSIS: Population Health and Research, Boston Public Health Commission

NOTE: Percentage for food not lasting and hungry **significantly increased** between 2015 and 2023

Access to Care

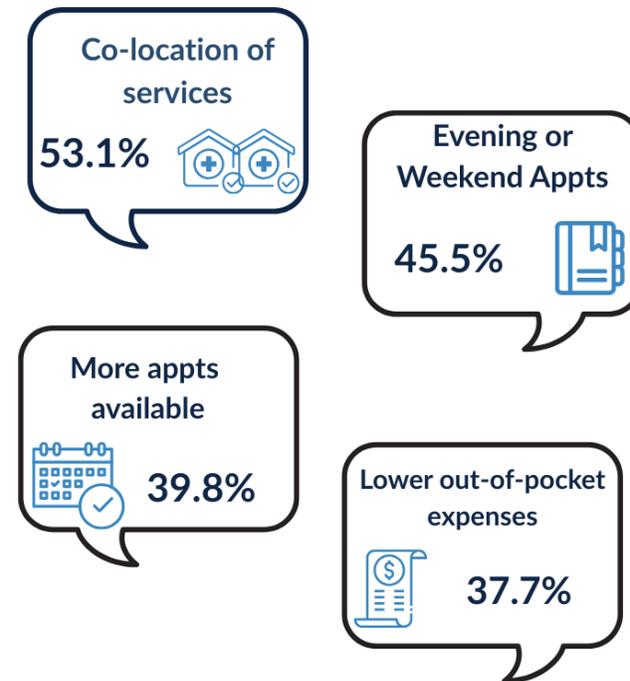
- **Barriers to access:** insurance challenges, structural challenges (waitlists/ wait times, provider turnover, etc.), engagement with health care providers or staff (e.g., lack of cultural humility)

“Black men have the lowest life expectancy in Boston. That ties into seeing [a] primary care doctor, getting routine checkups.”

– Interview participant

What would help you get the care that you need?

Boston Overall (N= 1,752)



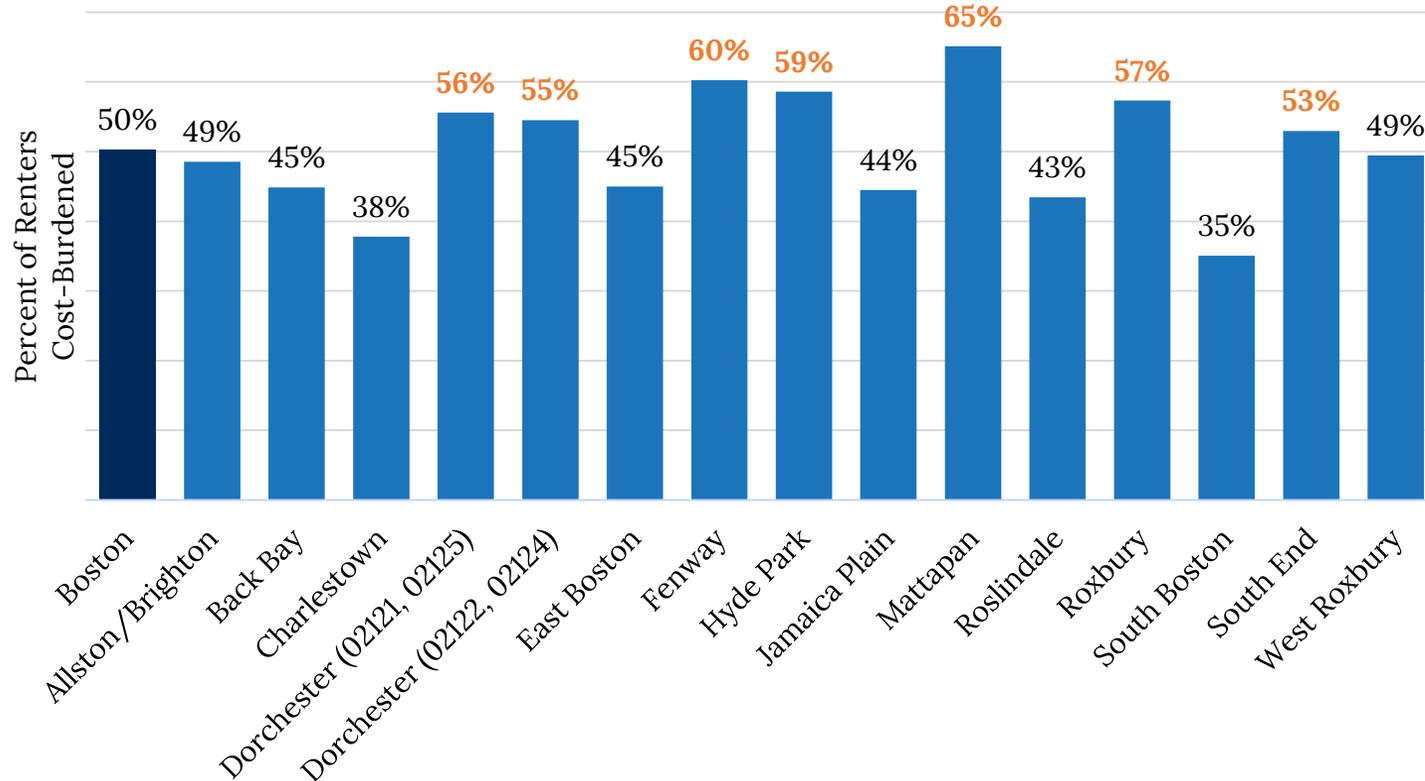
DATA SOURCE: Boston Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2024



Community Social and Economic Environment

Social and Economic Factors: Housing

Percent of Renters Whose Housing Costs are 30% or More of their Household Income (Cost-Burdened), by Boston and Neighborhood, 2019-2023



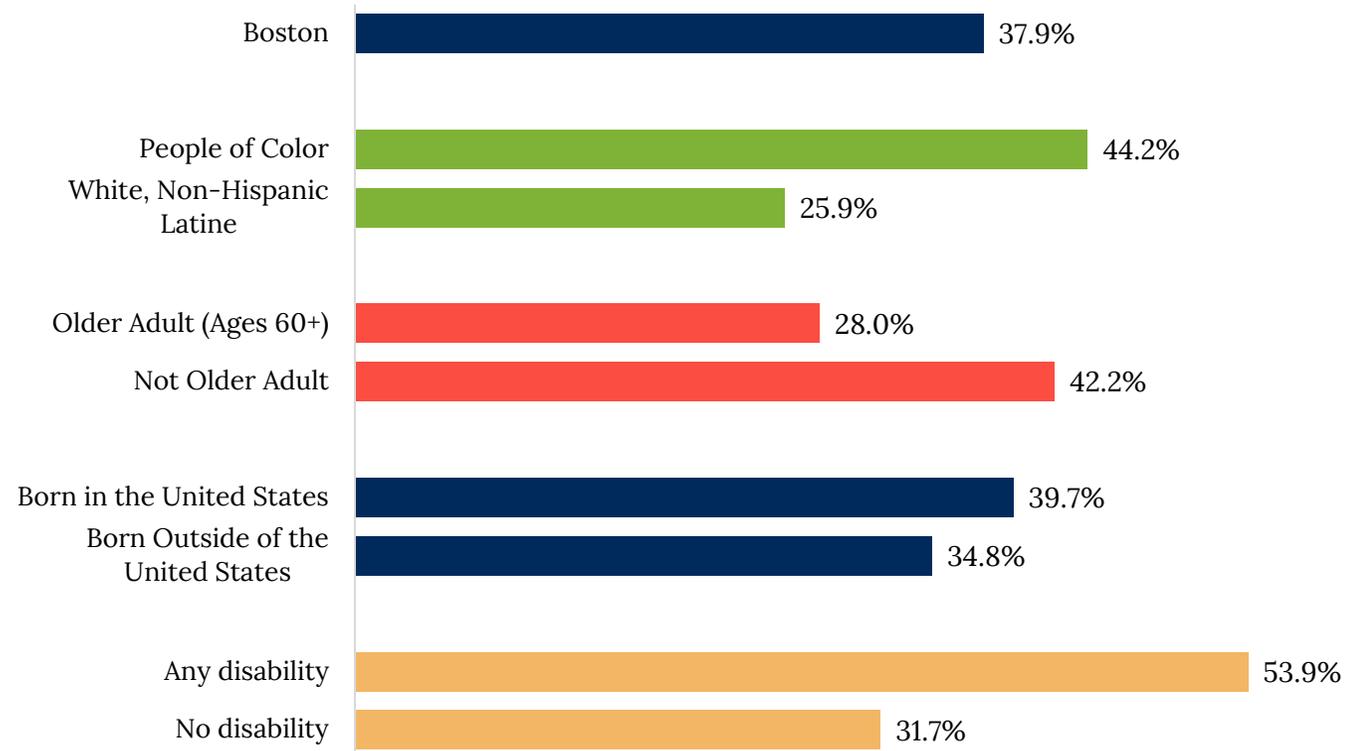
- **Housing quality or affordability** is a top concern among survey respondents
- **Housing concerns discussed frequently:** affordability, rising costs, unequal dynamics with landlords, barriers to assistance programs.
- The percentage of **cost-burdened renters in Boston overall** (50.2%) is only slightly lower than in the 2019 CHNA (52.1%).
- **Suggestions:** more affordable housing, more low-barrier housing, eviction prevention, land trusts, etc.

Social and Economic Factors: Economic Mobility

- Concerns generally about **high cost of living, income inequality, gentrification, and impact on mental health**
- Challenges specifically named for working parents, immigrants, young people, and persons with history of incarceration
- Median household income in Boston is \$94,755 but **varies substantially across neighborhoods** ranging from \$47,921 in Roxbury to \$162,257 in Seaport/South Boston.*

“With all of the bills that have to be paid... it all just leads to depression. Especially when benefits are so low that you barely have enough to pay the basics.” – Focus group participant

Percent Adults Who Had Trouble Paying for Any Basic Needs in the Past Year, by Selected Demographics, 2023



DATA SOURCE: MA Department of Public Health, Community Health Equity Survey (CHES), 2023
NOTE: “People of Color” includes individuals identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, Middle Eastern or North African, Multiracial
*U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023



Community Vision and Suggestions for the Future

Top Factors to Improve Quality of Life and Health in the Community, by Subpopulation

All survey respondents

1. More affordable housing
2. Access to low-cost healthy foods
3. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
4. Access to health care
5. Access to reliable public transportation

Asian respondents

1. Access to health care
2. More affordable housing
3. Access to low-cost healthy foods
4. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
5. Access to reliable public transportation

Black respondents

1. More affordable housing
2. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
3. Access to low-cost healthy foods
4. Access to health care
5. Lower crime and violence

Latinx respondents

1. More affordable housing
2. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
3. Access to low-cost healthy foods
4. Access to health care
5. Lower crime and violence

White respondents

1. More affordable housing
2. Access to low-cost healthy foods
3. Access to reliable public transportation
4. Access to health care
5. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities

LGBTQ respondents

1. More affordable housing
2. Access to low-cost healthy foods
3. Access to reliable public transportation
4. Access to health care
5. Access to mental health care

Caregiver respondents

1. More affordable housing
2. Access to low-cost healthy foods
3. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
4. Access to health care
5. Lower crime and violence

Unhoused respondents

1. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
2. More affordable housing
3. Access to health care
4. Access to mental health care
5. Access to low-cost healthy foods
5. Lower crime and violence

Respondents Born Outside U.S.

1. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
2. Access to low-cost healthy foods
3. More affordable housing
4. Access to health care
5. Lower crime and violence

Respondents Aged 55+

1. More affordable housing
2. Access to low-cost healthy foods
3. Access to health care
4. Lower crime and violence
5. Access to good jobs and economic opportunities
5. Access to mental health care



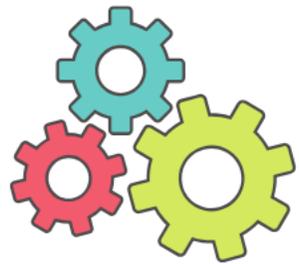
Data Source: Boston 2024
Community Health
Assessment Survey
NOTE: Asterisk (*) indicates
tied rankings

Promising Practices and Suggestions for the Future

- **Focus upstream** on addressing policy, systems, and environmental factors
 - *Examples: expand affordable housing, reduce housing barriers for formerly incarcerated individuals, build resilient food systems, improve public transit, expand decarbonization strategies, expand childcare infrastructure, and more*
- Expand **activities and services** available to communities
 - *Examples: youth recreational activities, career development and job training programming, immigrant welcome centers, substance use treatment services specifically for women, and more*

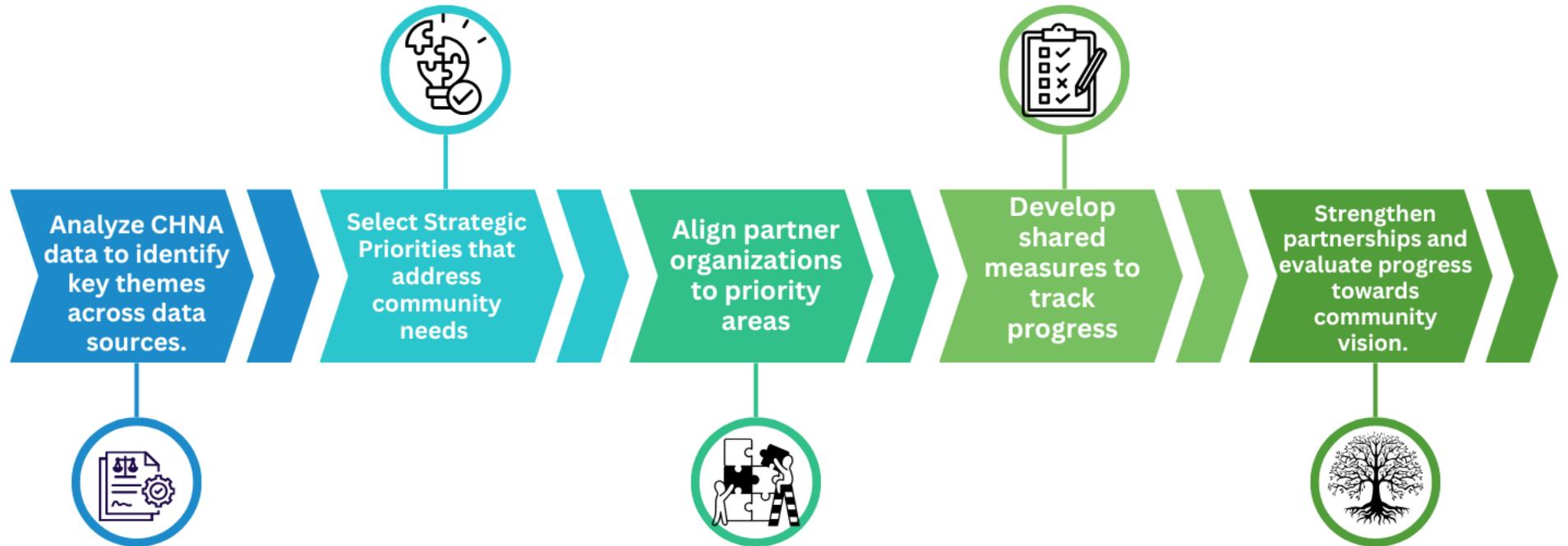


Where do we go from here?



CHNA Data

Key Themes from
Community Input Data
Sources (Interviews, Focus
Groups, Survey), Secondary
Data



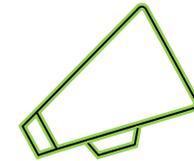
Get Involved in the 2025-2028 CHIP!



Learn More:
[Boston.gov/bphc-
bostonchna](https://Boston.gov/bphc-bostonchna)



Contact Our Team:
bostonchna@bphc.org



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Thank
you!

Boston Board of Health

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