

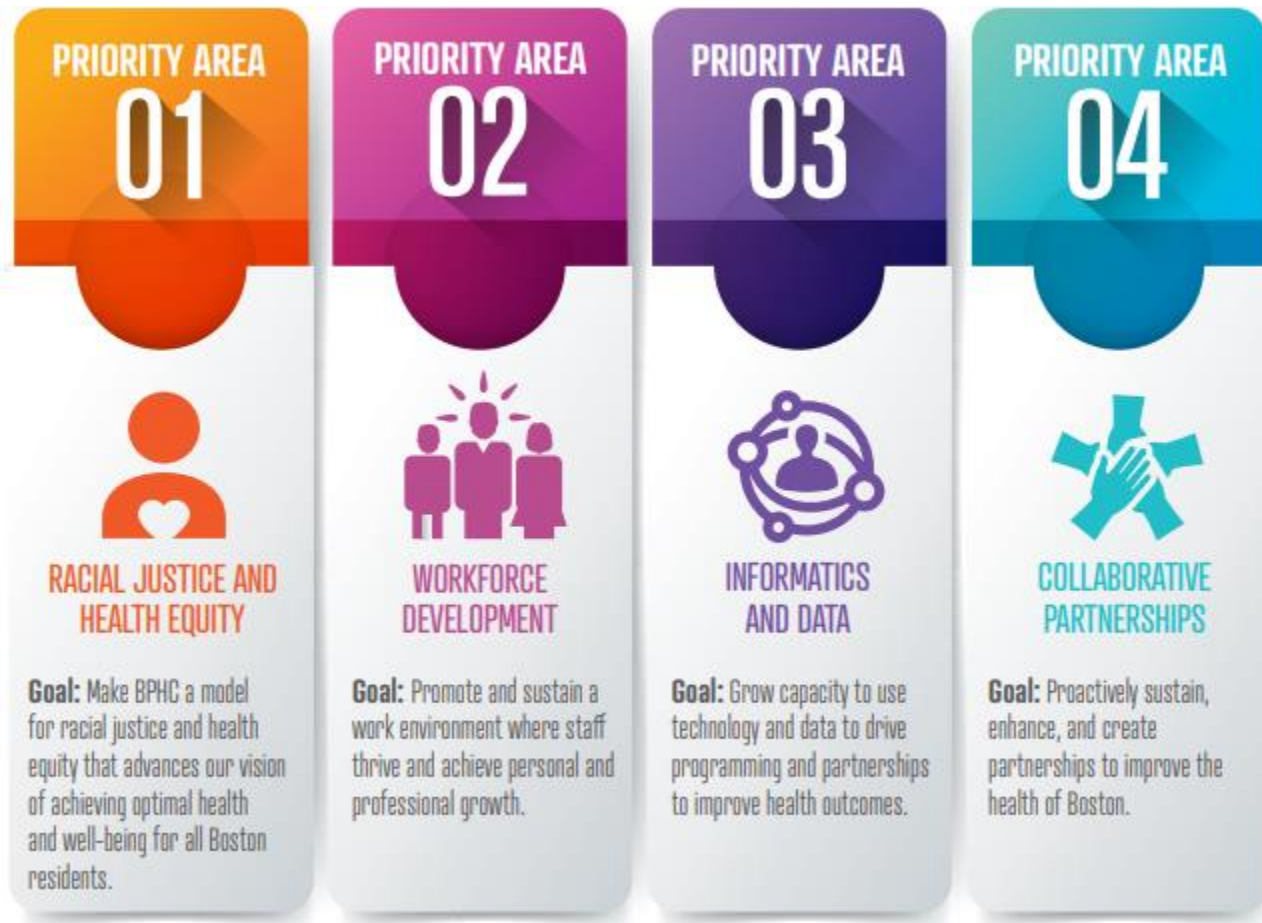
Approaches to Housing and Health: Cross Sector Collaborations in Boston, MA

Federal Reserve Bank
Cincinnati Policy Summit
July 21, 2019

Eugene Barros-
Boston Public Health Commission



BPHC Strategic Plan Priority Area



Effective Approaches

- Partnerships
- Enforcement
- Policy, systems & environmental changes
- Training and technical assistance
- Public awareness campaigns
- Programs & resources



Timeline of Boston Healthy Homes Collaborations



1999

BPHC establishes Healthy Housing Office



2005

Breathe Easy at Home is piloted



2006

Healthy Pest Free Housing Initiative



2010

BHA announces smoke free housing



2012

Rental Inspection Ordinance



2014

Office of Fair Housing & Equity

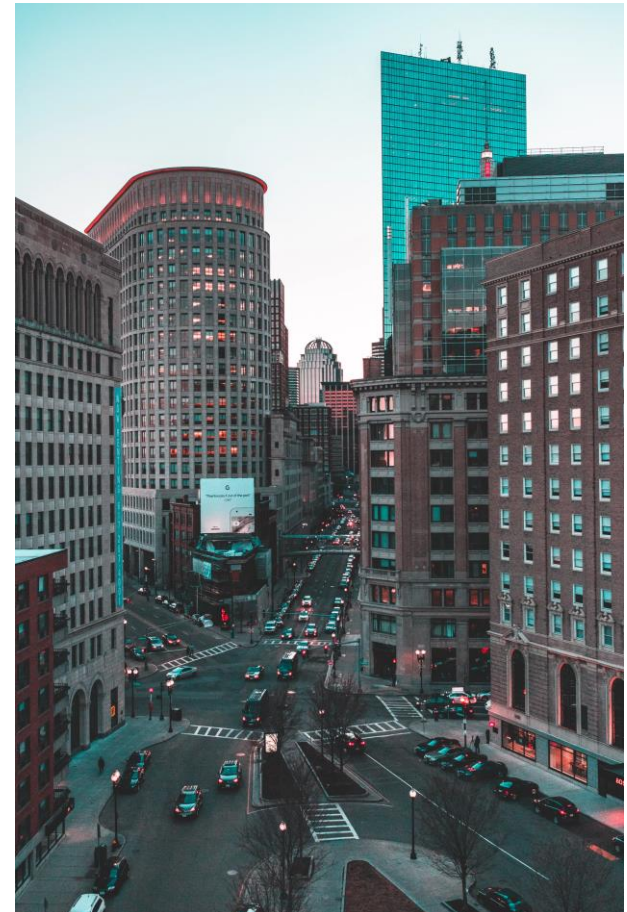


2014-2018

Boston REACH Partners in Health & Housing

A Snapshot of Boston

- Total 617,591 residents
 - 44.7% non-Latino White
 - 22.9% non-Latino Black
 - 19.5% Latino
 - 9.5% Asian/Pacific Islander
 - 2.3% 2 or more races
 - 1.1% other race
 - 20% of population living in poverty
- 17% of population age 18 or younger
- Active advocacy and health care presence





Boston Housing Authority

- Houses about 10% of Boston population
- 14,000 units, 64 Developments
- Average Income @ \$15,573 for a family of four
- Aging properties and pest infestation

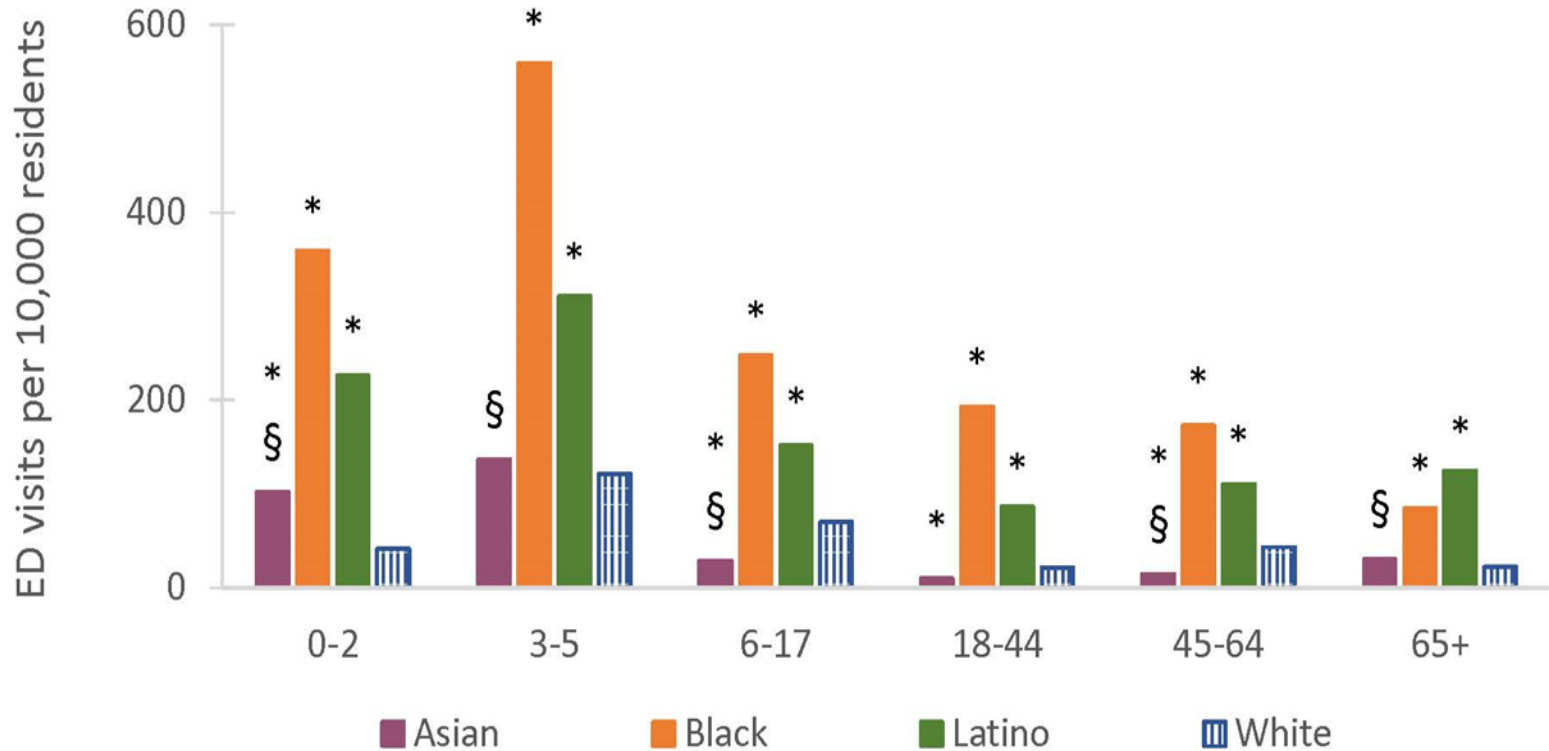
Asthma in Boston

- Boston has the highest rate of asthma hospitalizations for children under 10 in the state of Massachusetts*
- 23.8% of adults in rental assistance & 10.8% in public housing report doctor diagnosed asthma compared to 9% in market rate housing**
- 66% of Boston residents live in renter-occupied housing units

Health of Boston 2017, Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

**2017 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Boston Public Health Commission

Figure 8.12 Asthma Emergency Department Visits by Age and Race/Ethnicity, 2015



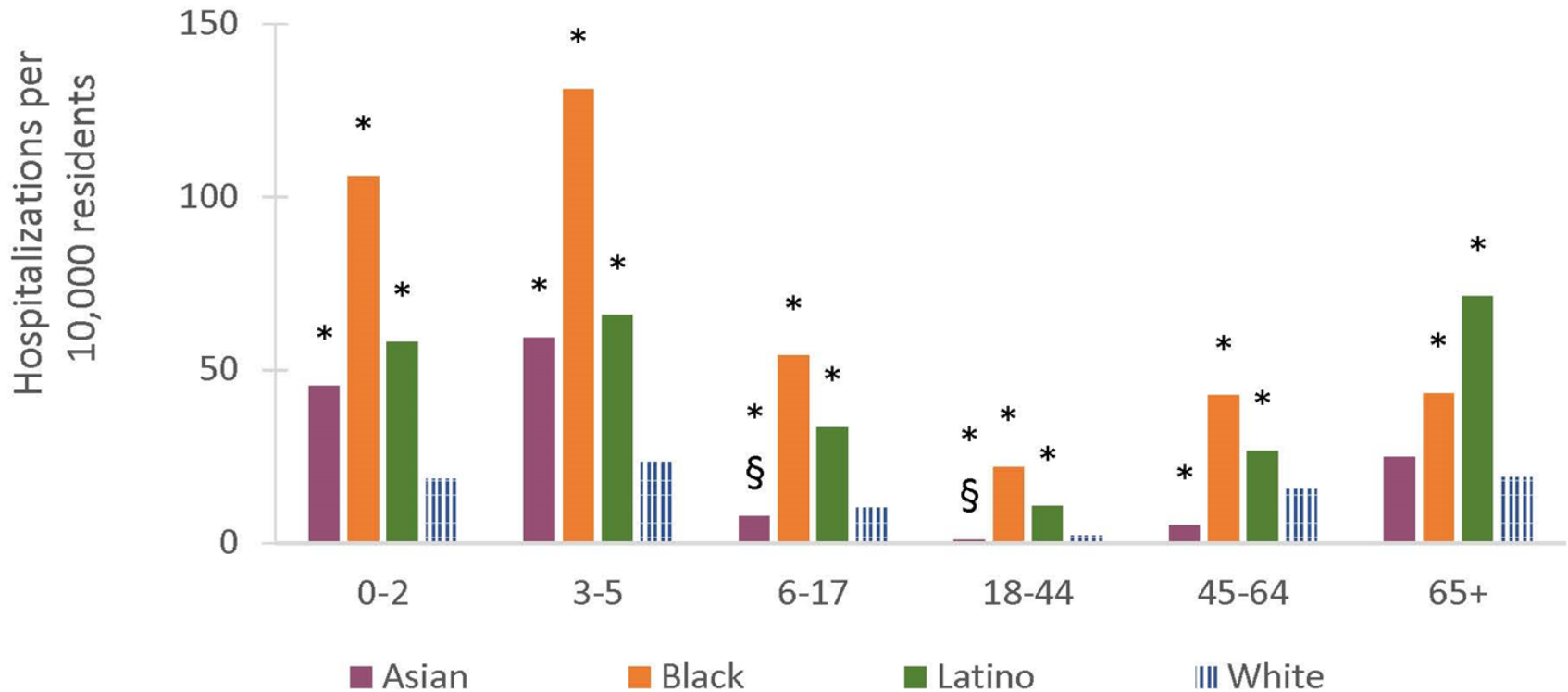
* Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group (striped bars)

§ Rates are based on 20 or fewer cases and should be interpreted with caution

DATA SOURCE: Acute hospital case-mix database, Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis

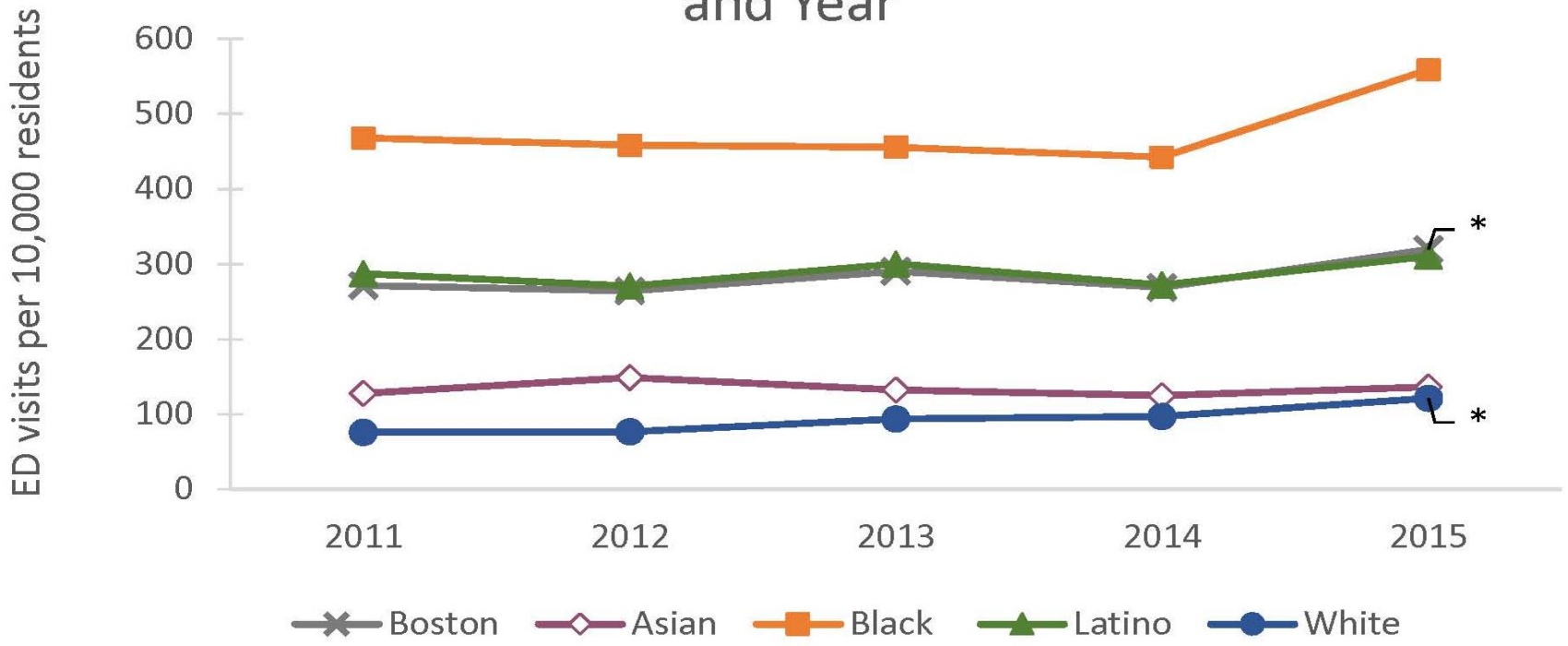
DATA ANALYSIS: Research and Evaluation Office, Boston Public Health Commission

Figure 8.20 Asthma Hospitalizations¹ by Age and Race/Ethnicity, 2012-2015



* Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group (striped bars)
 § Rates are based on 20 or fewer cases and should be interpreted with caution
 DATA SOURCE: Acute hospital case-mix database, Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis
 DATA ANALYSIS: Research and Evaluation Office, Boston Public Health Commission

Figure 8.14 Asthma Emergency Department Visits Among 3- to 5-Year-Olds by Race/Ethnicity and Year



* Statistically significant difference when compared to reference group (striped bars)

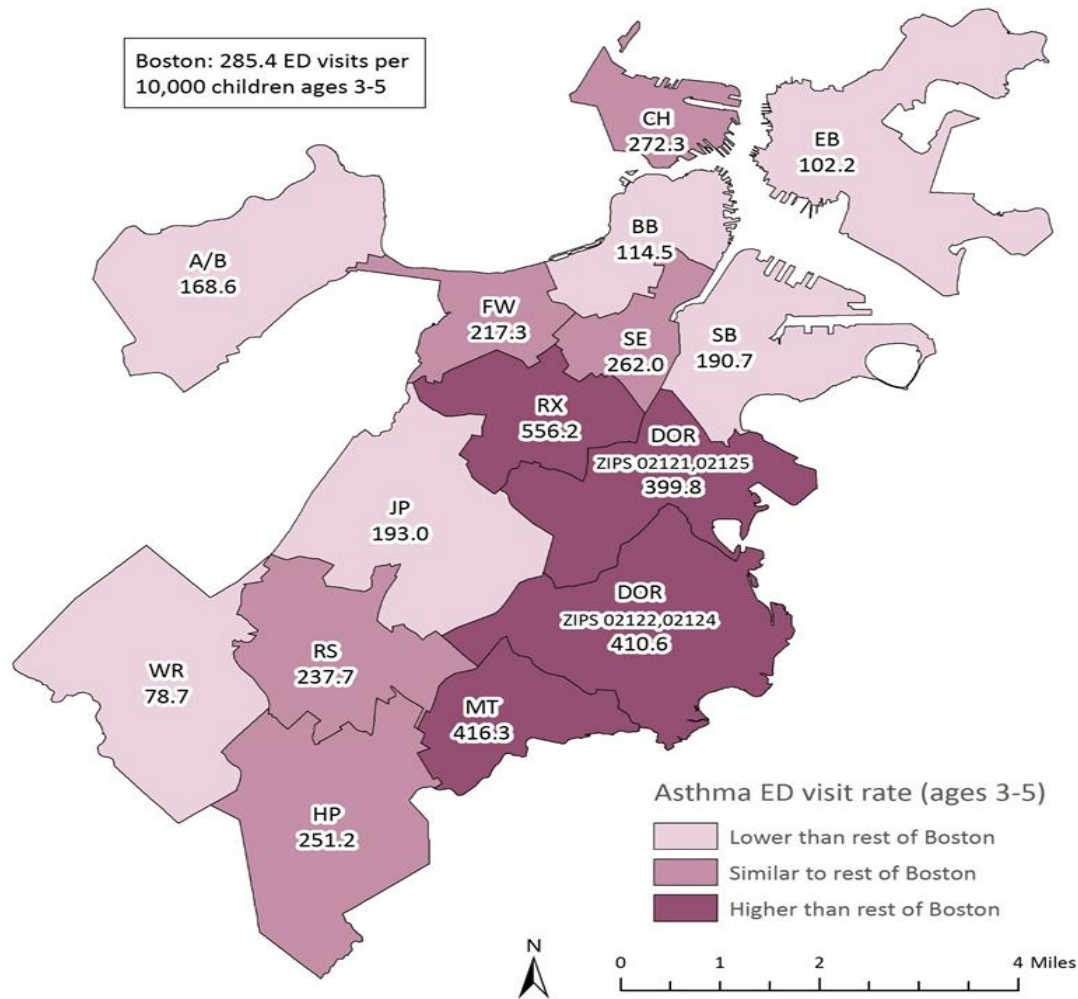
§ Rates are based on 20 or fewer cases and should be interpreted with caution

¹ 4-year average annual rates per 10,000 residents

DATA SOURCE: Acute hospital case-mix database, Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis

DATA ANALYSIS: Research and Evaluation Office, Boston Public Health Commission

Figure 8.15 Asthma Emergency Department (ED) Visits¹
Among 3- to 5-Year-Olds by Neighborhood, 2012-2015

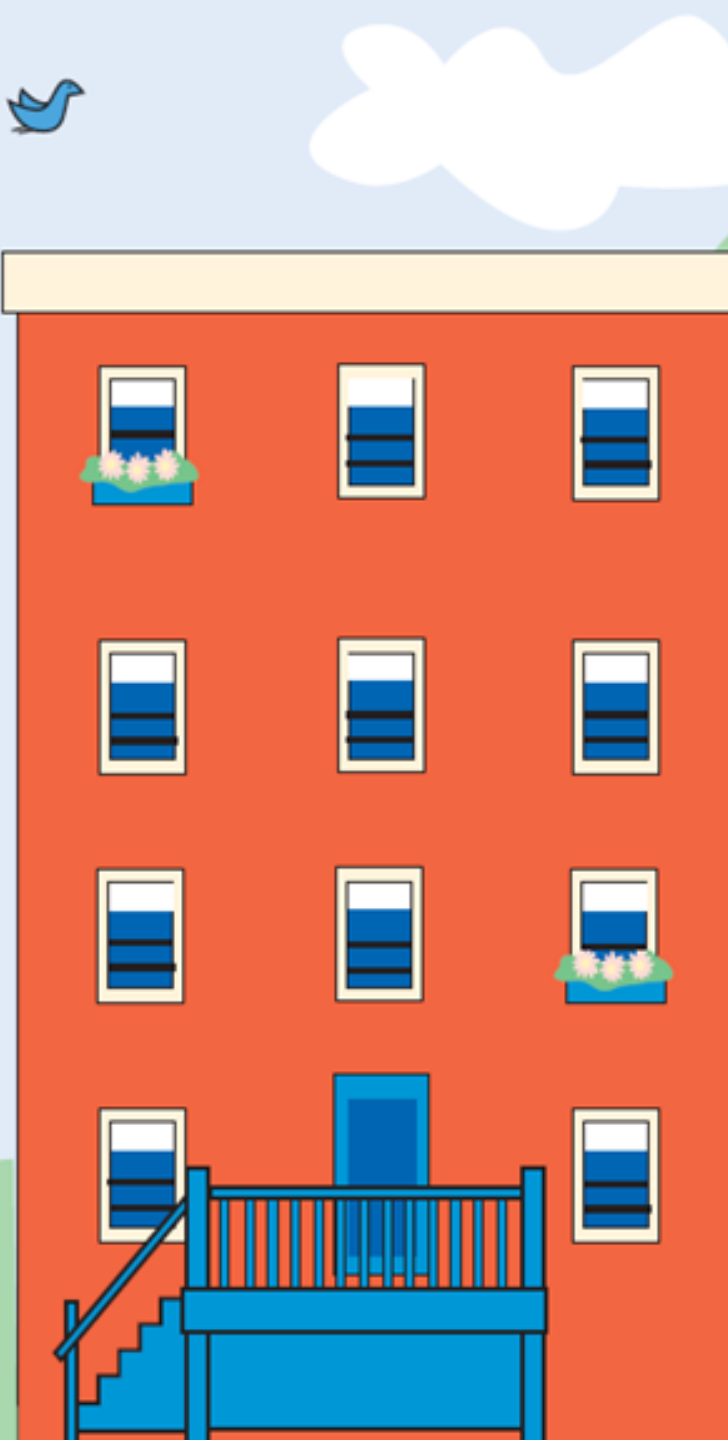


¹ 4-year average annual rates per 10,000 children ages 3-5

Note: “BB” includes the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Downtown, the North End, and the West End. “SE” includes the South End and Chinatown.

DATA SOURCE: Acute hospital case-mix database, Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis

DATA ANALYSIS: Research and Evaluation Office, Boston Public Health Commission



BPHC Establishes Healthy Homes

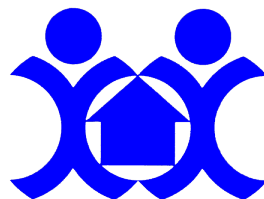
- Created the program in 1999 to address high disparities rates of asthma in Boston & public housing through:
 - Asthma home visit (education & interventions) provided by sustainable model using CHW
 - Integration of asthma services across clinical and community-based settings
 - Data surveillance & monitoring by housing type
 - Policies, systems and environmental change (PSEs)

Description of Healthy Pest Free Public Housing

- Supported by W K Kellogg Foundation
- Partnership between Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Housing Authority and Boston University School of Public Health
- Multi-pronged intervention with standardized IPM contracts for developments, resident education, and pesticide buy back
- Reductions in work orders for pests



Boston University School of Public Health



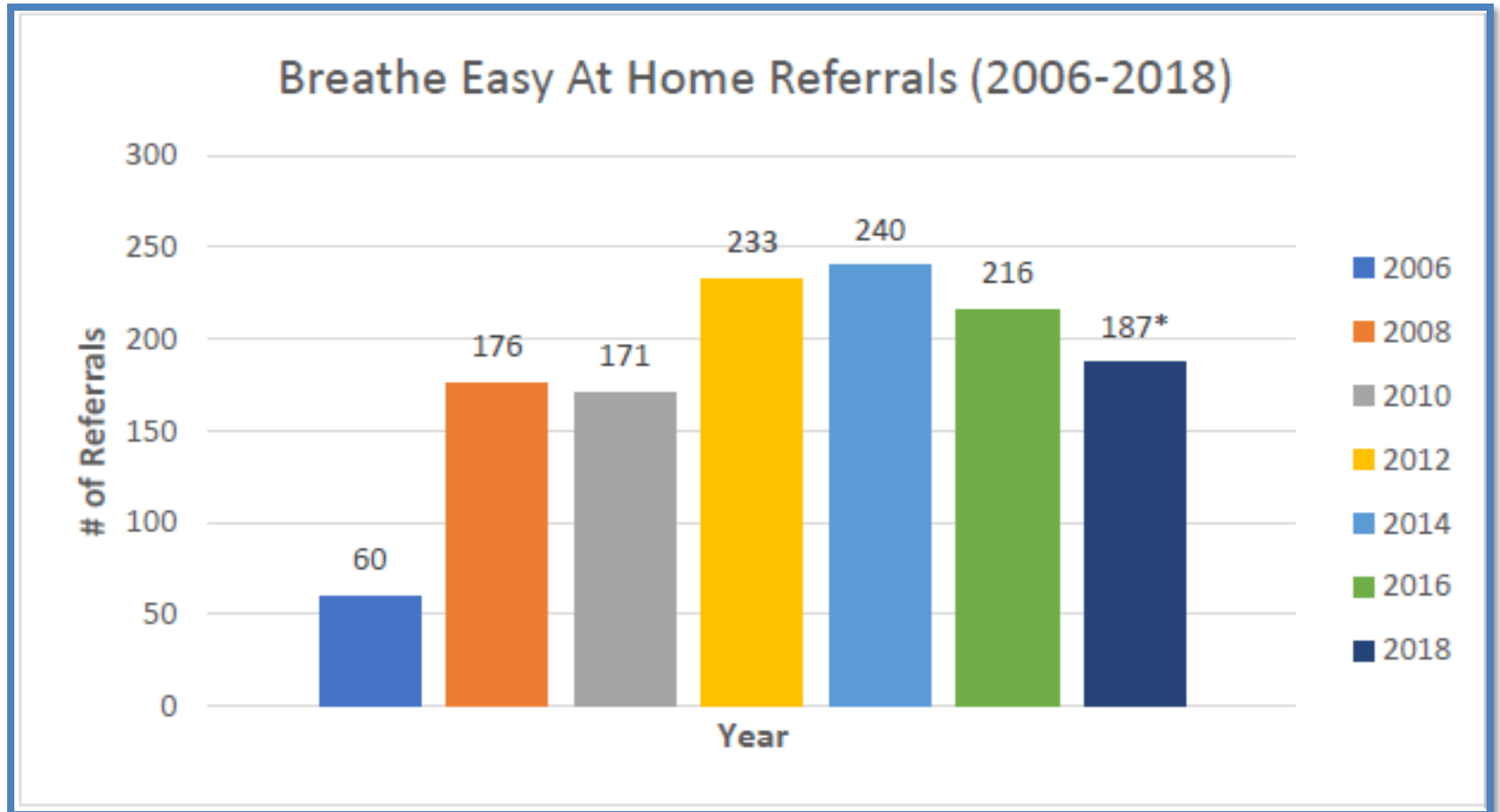
W.K.
KELLOGG
FOUNDATION™

Breathe Easy at Home Program



- Innovative web-based referral program in Boston to address asthma in the home environment. Partners include (medical, enforcement, legal, housing and community advocates)
- Allows clinicians to request home inspections for patients with asthma electronically in fast paced environment
- 70% of cases are resolved without court intervention

Breathe Easy Through the Years



Smoke Free Housing

- Boston Housing Authority (BHA) began the process to go Smoke Free with all rental housing in 2010 and implemented in 2012
- Collaboration between BHA, Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), and Committee for Boston Public Housing for resident outreach/education
- BPHC also began Smoke free rental housing registry

BOSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY RESIDENTS: HOW TO REPORT A SMOKING VIOLATION

**No smoking allowed inside BHA
apartments, buildings, or within
15 feet of the building.**



(617) 988-5030



SmokeFree@bostonhousing.org

For more information, visit: www.Bostonhousing.org/SmokeFreeBHA.aspx

BHA CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIL RIGHTS (CCECR)



Smoke Free Housing

Boston Smoke-Free Homes:

- Works with landlords and housing management across every market spectrum on the adoption & implementation of smoke free policies



Meena Carr, BHA resident who was a vocal supporter of smoke free efforts |



To date over 63,000 affordable units has transitioned into smoke free units, impacting 157,000 Boston residents

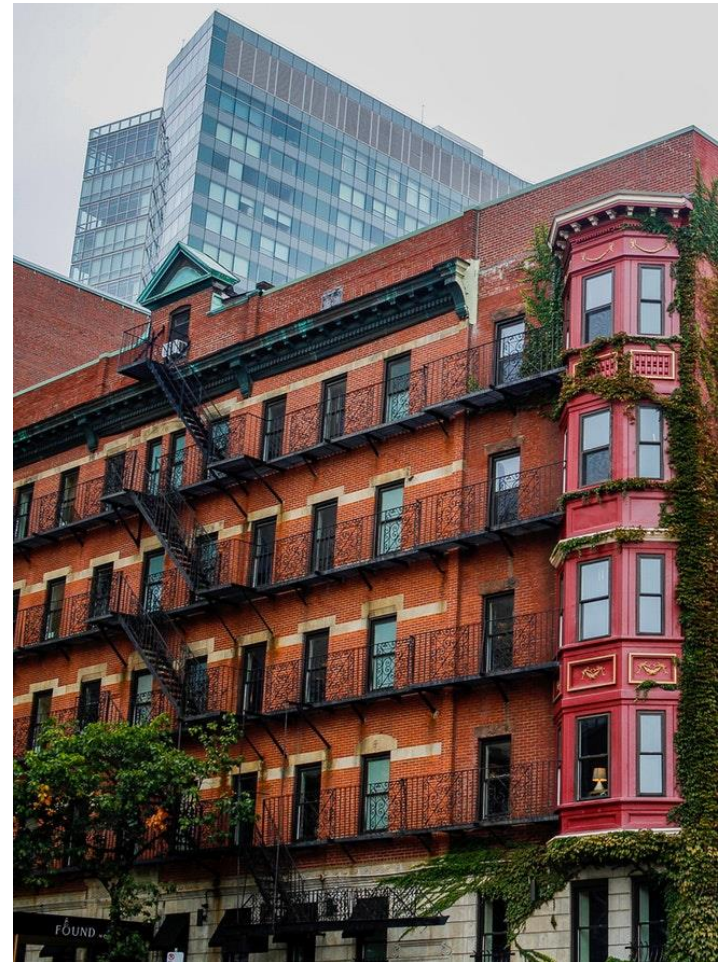
Boston REACH: Partners in Health & Housing

- Initiative goal was to improve the health of residents, especially Black and Latino residents, living in BHA and BHA-Administered Rental Assisted/Section 8 Housing to:
 - **Improve the quality of & access to smoke free housing**
 - Improve access to & consumption of healthy food
 - Increase linkages to community health and social services and resources



Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance

- In 2012, Boston Inspectional Services passed a pro-active "Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance"
- Requires annual registration of all 150,000 private rental units in Boston with contact phone number, in state agent
- All units inspected every 5 years
- Important advocacy to pass ordinance from medical providers, tenant advocate, public health partners



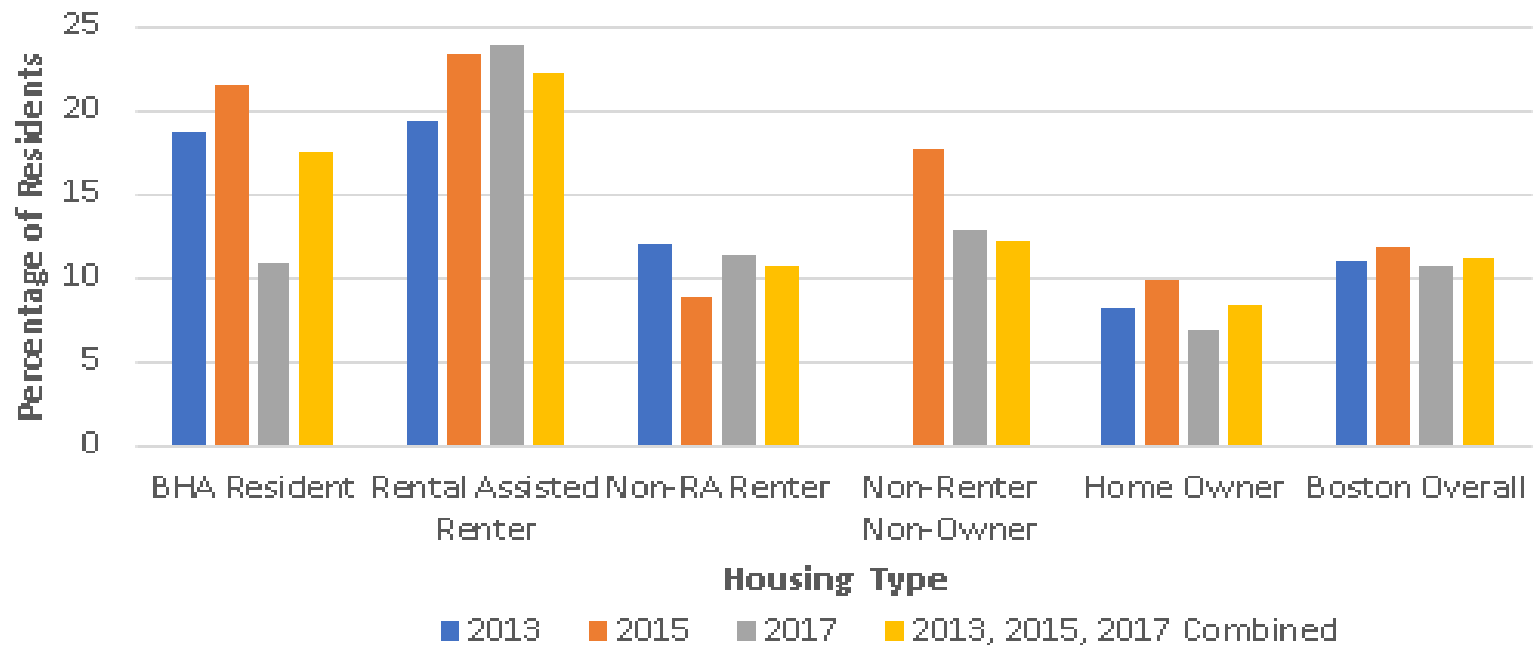
Health Outcomes



- **Overall asthma & smoking & rates have decreased**
 - Over 4 percent decline since 2011
 - Asthma rate in Boston Housing Authority has decrease by 7 percent since 2013-2017
 - Resident smoking rate at BHA decreased by 5 percent from 2013-2017
 - Diabetes rate decreased slightly

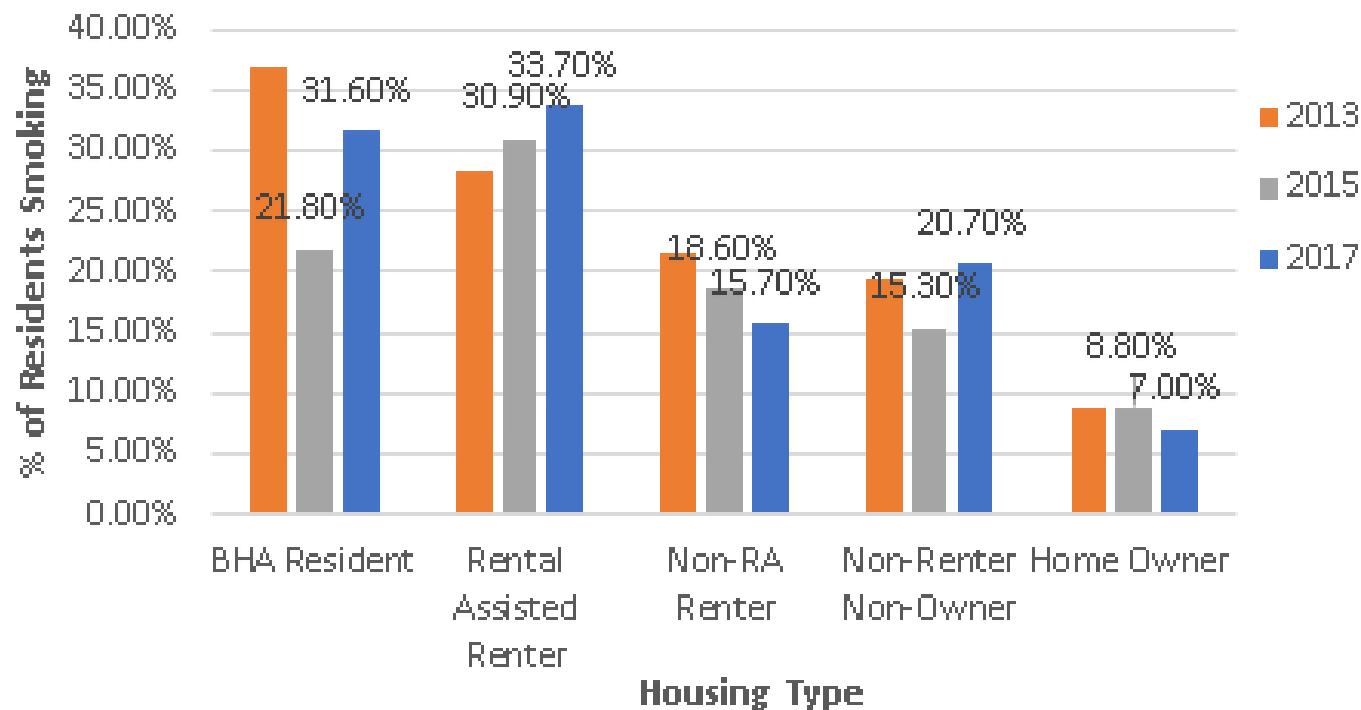
Asthma by Housing Status

Asthma Rates According To Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Surveys (2013,2015,2017)



Boston Smoking Rates by Housing Status

Boston Smoking Rates By Housing Type in 2013, 2015, 2017



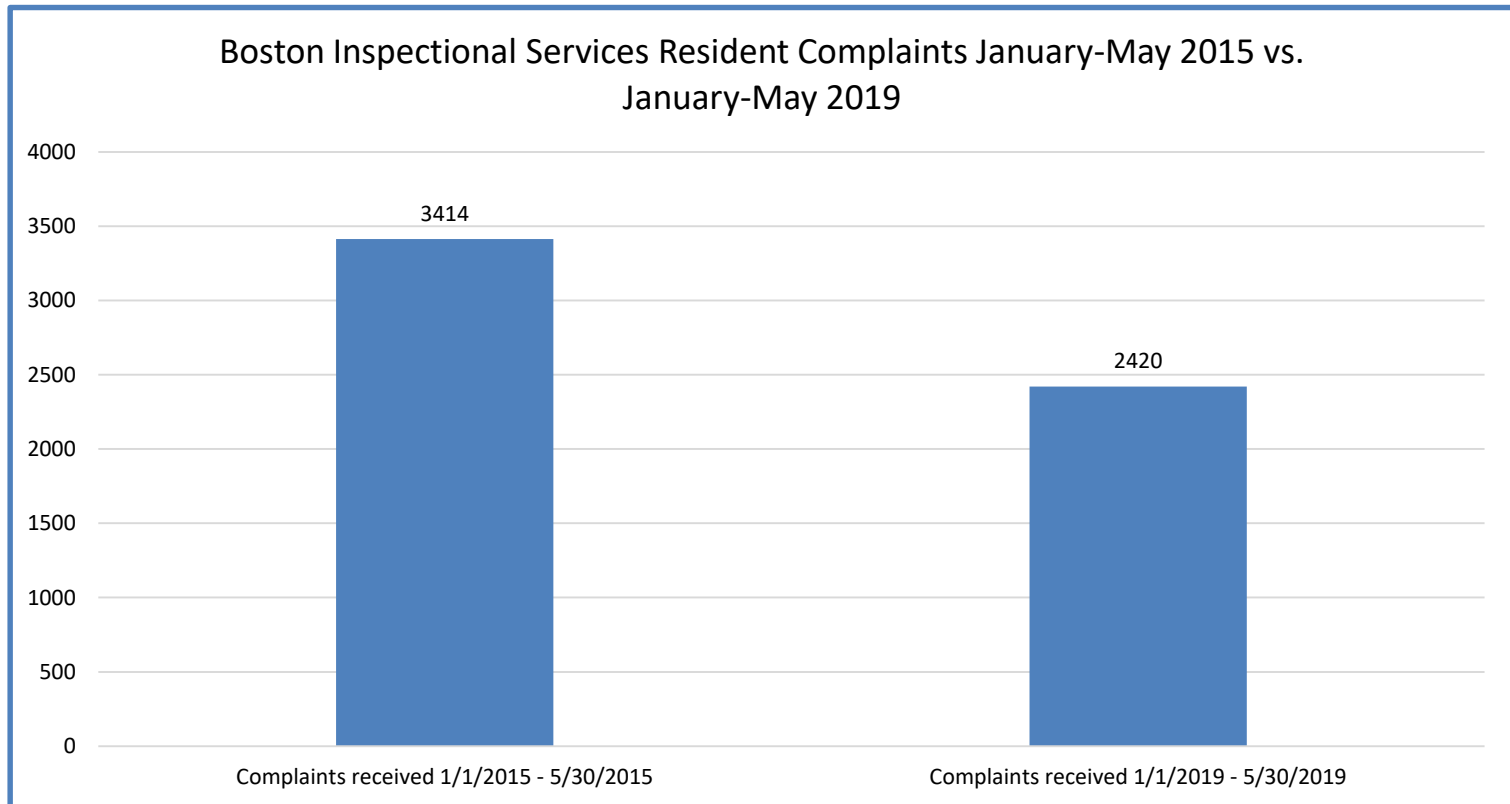
Source: Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (2013, 2015, 2017), Boston Public Health Data analysis: Research and Evaluation Office, Boston Public Health Commission.

Other Success

- Boston ISD complaints against BHA have declined more than 70 percent
- Post the pro-active “Rental Registration and Inspection Ordinance” resident inspection complaints decreased by 17 percent
- Overall court prosecution against landlords are down by 30%
- 126,000 units registered and over 33,000 pro-active inspections. Proactive inspections are up by 60 %
- In 2017 <0.1% of children with lead Levels of 25 µg/dL.
- 2018 Venous Blood Levels ≥ 10 µg/dL (**reduced from 25 µg/dL**)

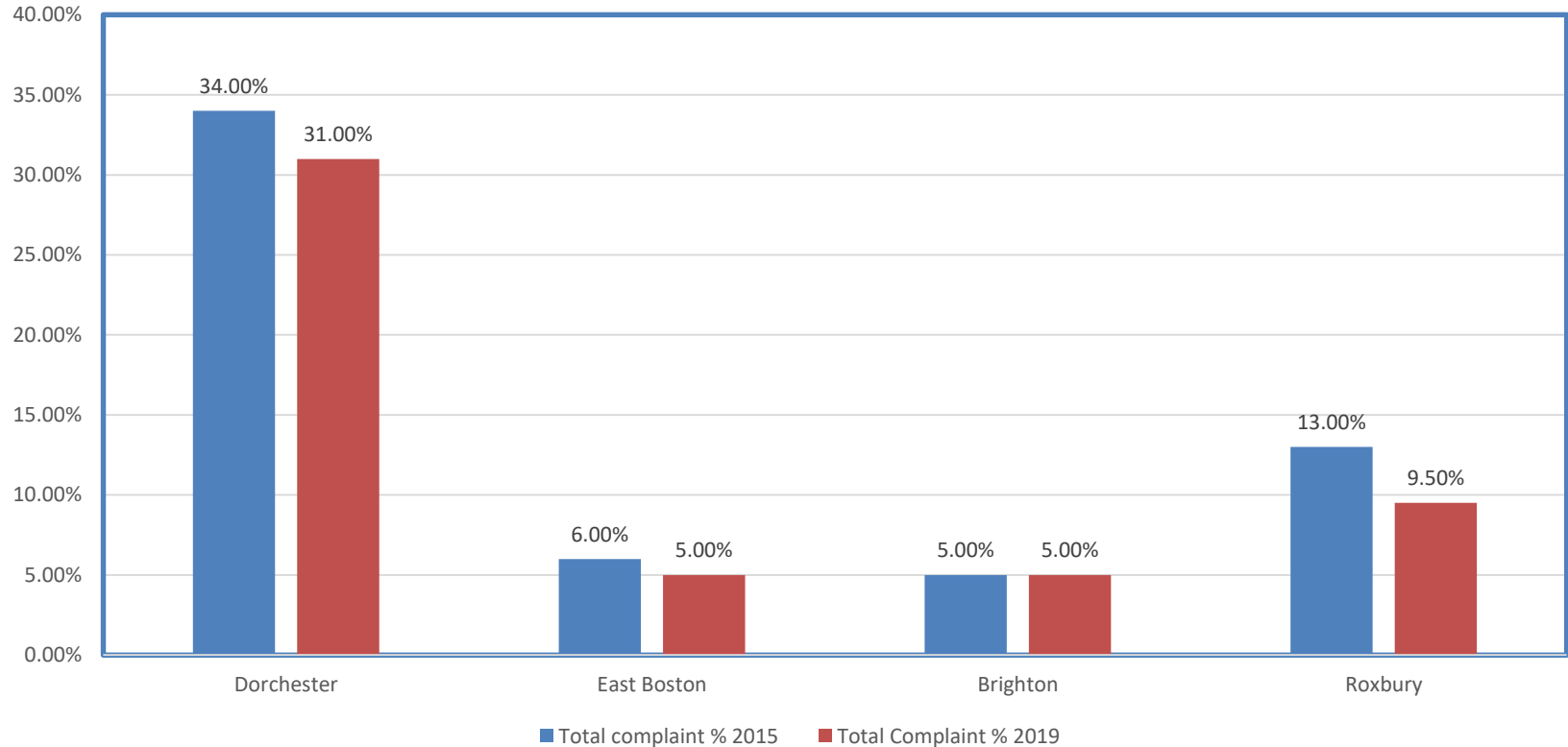


ISD Complaints Post-Ordinance



ISD Complaints by Neighborhood Post-Ordinance

**Boston Inspectional Services Resident Complaints January-May
2015 vs January-May 2019 By Neighborhood (%)**



Facilitating Factors for Replication



- Leadership from the top
- Missions aligned
- Leverage of each other resources & systems
- Frequent communications including meeting regularly
- Data collection and monitoring
- Memorandums of understanding
- Annual meetings of agencies
- Boston has a public hospital to serve the underserved

- **Inspections (20,000 yearly)**
- **Rental Registration & inspection Ordinance**
- **BEAH inspections**

Inspectional Services

Boston Public Health Commission

- **Health data**
- **Public awareness and information**
- **Asthma Home Visits**
- **Research and evaluation**
- **Grant writing**
- **BEAH management**

Boston Office of Fair Housing and Equity

- **Data monitoring/collection**
- **Investigation**
- **Enforcement**
- **Education and outreach**
- **Mediate second hand smoking complaints**

- **Community Residents**
- **Clients**
- **Patients**
- **Advocacy groups**
- **Tenants groups**
- **Public Officials**

Boston Medical Center

- **BEAH referrals**
- **Assessing patient for environmental health**
- **Research**
- **Medical legal partnership support**
- **Policy advocacy**
- **Grant writing**

Boston Housing Authority

- **Home to 25,000 residents**
- **Section 8 administrator**
- **IPM policy**
- **Smoke free housing**
- **Healthy design and construction**
- **Resident education**

Thank You!

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