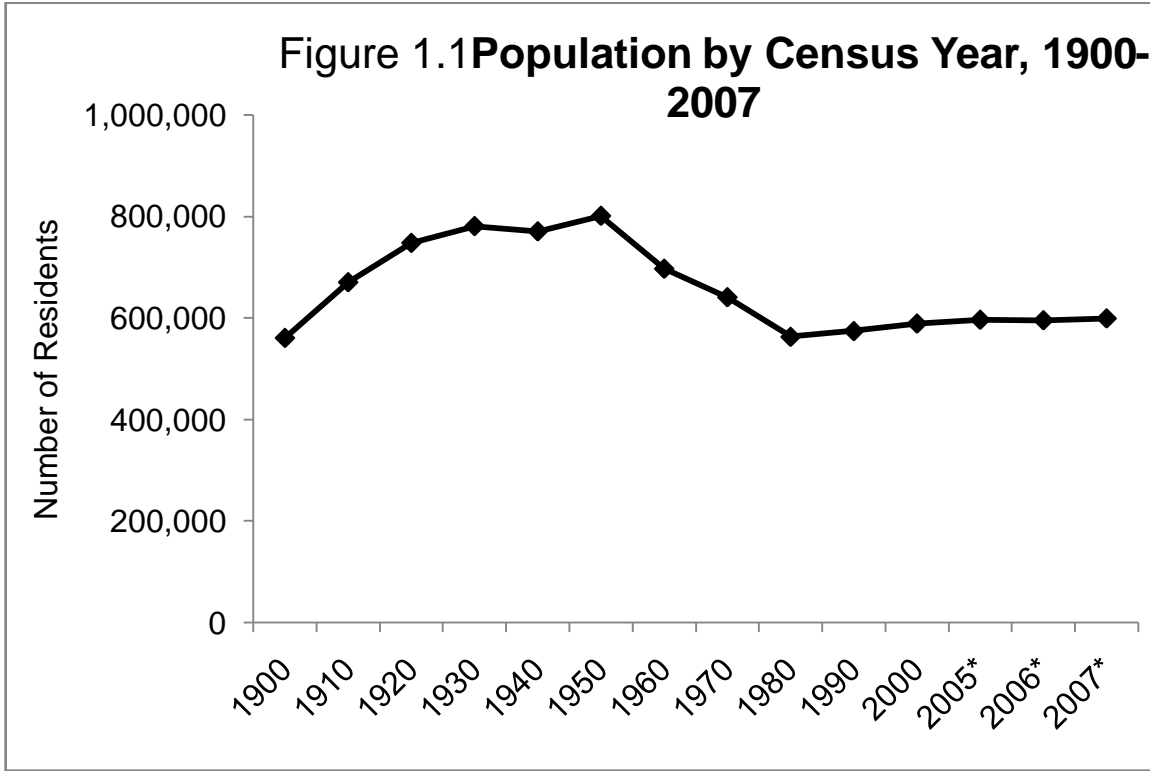


Introduction; Demographics

In order to understand the health needs of our city, we must first answer a fundamental question: “Who are the residents of Boston?” Although a population can be described in many different ways, the purpose of this question is to appreciate the basics such as “How many people live in Boston?”, “How old are they?” and “How many men and women live here?” By asking these questions, we seek to describe some baseline demographic factors that may impact health such as gender, age and race/ethnicity. These characteristics are often risk factors for disease or are associated with a poorer health outcome. For instance, there is an increased risk for coronary artery disease as an individual gets older. Also, mortality rates for breast cancer are higher among Black women although incidence rates are higher among White women. The foundation for understanding the health of Boston is built on this description of its residents.



	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2006	2007
Count	560,892	670,585	748,060	781,188	770,816	801,444	697,197	641,071	562,994	574,283	589,141	596,638	595,698	599,351

*Estimated

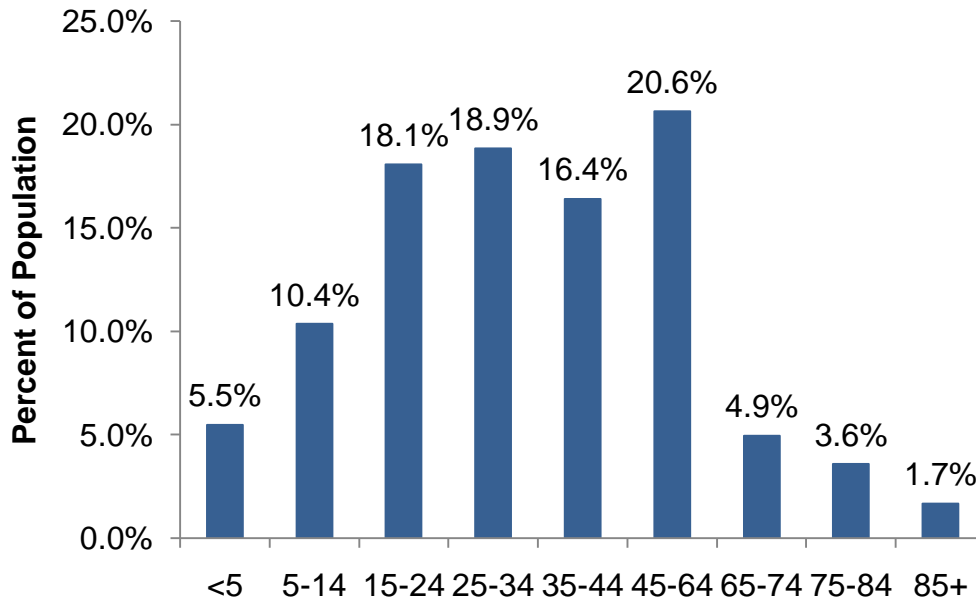
DATA SOURCES: Decennial Censuses, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Annual Population Estimates Program, Population Division, US Bureau of the Census 2005, 2006 and 2007 estimates, American FactFinder.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Key Points Figure 1.1

- According to the most recent US Census, Boston’s population in 2000 was 589,141 residents, representing a ten year increase of 2.6% from 1990
- The 2007 estimate of 608,352 residents represents an increase of 3.3% from the 2000 official census count and a 2.1% increase from the 2006 estimate.
- Over the past century, Boston’s population changed dramatically in size, growing by 42.9% during the first fifty years, shrinking 29.8% over the next thirty years, and then slowly regaining ground with a 4.6% increase in population over the next twenty years.

Figure 1.2 Estimated Population By Age Distribution: 2007



	<5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Count	33,661	63,484	110,811	115,604	100,619	126,476	30,334	21,920	10,208

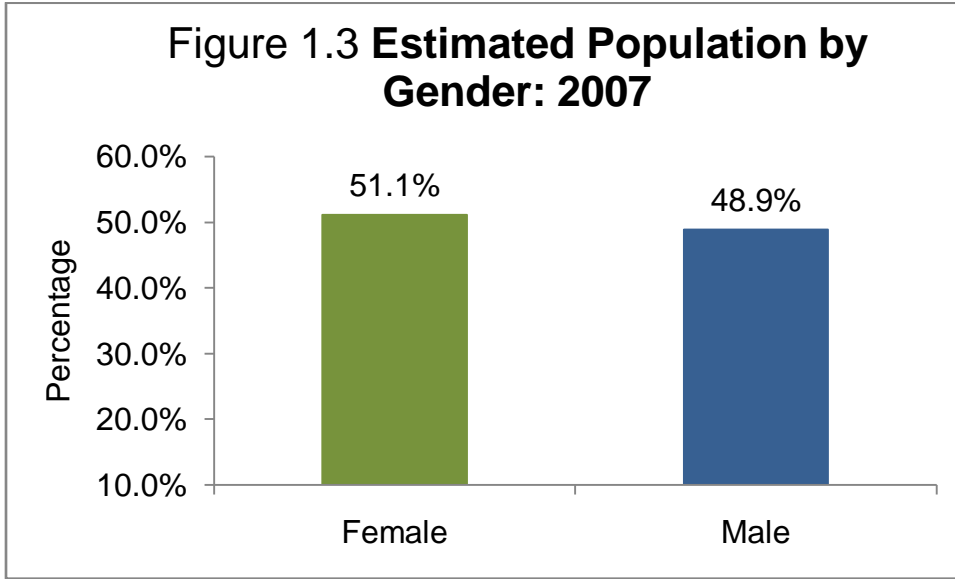
NOTES: Between official censal years, the American Community Survey provides selected demographic data. A population distribution by age is provided for 2007 based on an estimate of 613,117 Boston residents. However, this estimate should not be confused with the Census Bureau’s official intercensal 2007 population estimate for Boston of 599,351 residents. Although provided every year between official censal years, the official intercensal population estimate does not provide age distribution or other demographic stratification at the city level.

DATA SOURCE: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder, 2007 American Community Survey

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Key Points Figure 1.2

- Boston residents ages 25-64 accounted for about 55.9% of the population in 2007.
- Children under age 5 were 5.5% of the population, and adults ages 65 and over for 10.2%.



	Female	Male
Count	313,512	299,605

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder, 2007 American Community Survey

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Key Points Figure 1.3

- There were slightly more females than males in 2007.

Figure 1.4 Population by Race/Ethnicity and Year: Counts and Percentage Distributions, Boston, 2007

	American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	Asian and Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic Origin (of any Race)	Other Race	Two or More Races	White
Percents							
1950	0.0%	0.3%	5.0%	--	0.0%	--	94.7%
1960	0.1%	0.6%	9.1%	--	0.1%	--	90.2%
1970	0.2%	1.3%	16.3%	--	0.4%	--	81.8%
1980	0.2%	2.7%	21.7%	6.4%	1.1%	--	67.9%
1990	0.3%	5.3%	23.8%	10.8%	1.0%	--	59.0%
2000	0.3%	7.5%	23.8%	14.4%	1.4%	3.1%	49.5%
2004*	0.1%	8.9%	26.4%	14.3%	1.7%	1.3%	47.3%
2005*	0.3%	8.7%	23.5%	14.7%	3.0%	1.2%	48.6%
2006*	0.3%	8.0%	23.4%	14.9%	1.8%	1.4%	50.2%
2007*	0.2%	8.6%	21.2%	16.9%	1.8%	1.5%	49.8%
Counts							
1950	208	2,202	40,057	--	277	--	758,700
1960	549	4,210	63,165	--	569	--	628,704
1970	1,047	8,218	104,707	--	2,390	--	509,768
1980	1,302	14,910	122,203	36,068	6,473	--	382,123
1990	1,531	29,640	136,887	61,955	5,536	--	338,734
2000	1,517	44,280	140,305	85,089	8,215	18,174	291,561
2004*	711	46,395	138,439	74,627	8,986	6,741	247,784
2005*	1,373	45,359	122,256	76,494	15,606	6,377	253,237
2006*	1,654	45,998	134,397	85,685	10,452	8,337	288,684
2007*	1,513	52,619	129,827	103,752	10,943	8,982	305,481

--Data not collected in this census

*Estimate

NOTES: The race categories shown for 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 do not include Latinos. Latinos are counted only in the category "Hispanic Origin (of any Race)". In 2000, an additional 18,174 Boston residents reported belonging to two or more race groups. Population figures for 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 are estimates. In 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 an additional 6,741, 6,337, 8,337 and 8,982 Boston residents were estimated to belong to two or more race groups, respectively.

DATA SOURCE: Population Division, Working Paper No 76, US Census Bureau; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 1990 and 2000; American FactFinder, American Community Surveys, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Key Points Figures 1.4

- The population of Boston has become increasingly diverse. In 1950, 94.7% of Boston's 801,444 residents reported that they were White, 5.0% said they were Black, and 0.3% reported being Asian or Pacific Islander. Hispanic or Latino ethnicity was not recorded separately by the US Census Bureau.
- Fifty years later, in 2000, just under half of the population (49.5%) was non-Latino White, one in four (23.8%) were non-Latino Black, 14.4% were Latino, and 7.5% were Asian or Pacific

Islander. Beginning with 2000, the US Census began reporting the number and percentage of the population who identified as belonging to two or more races.

- Since the last official census in 2000, estimates for non-Latino Black, non-Latino White, Latino, and Asian populations have shown slight fluctuations.

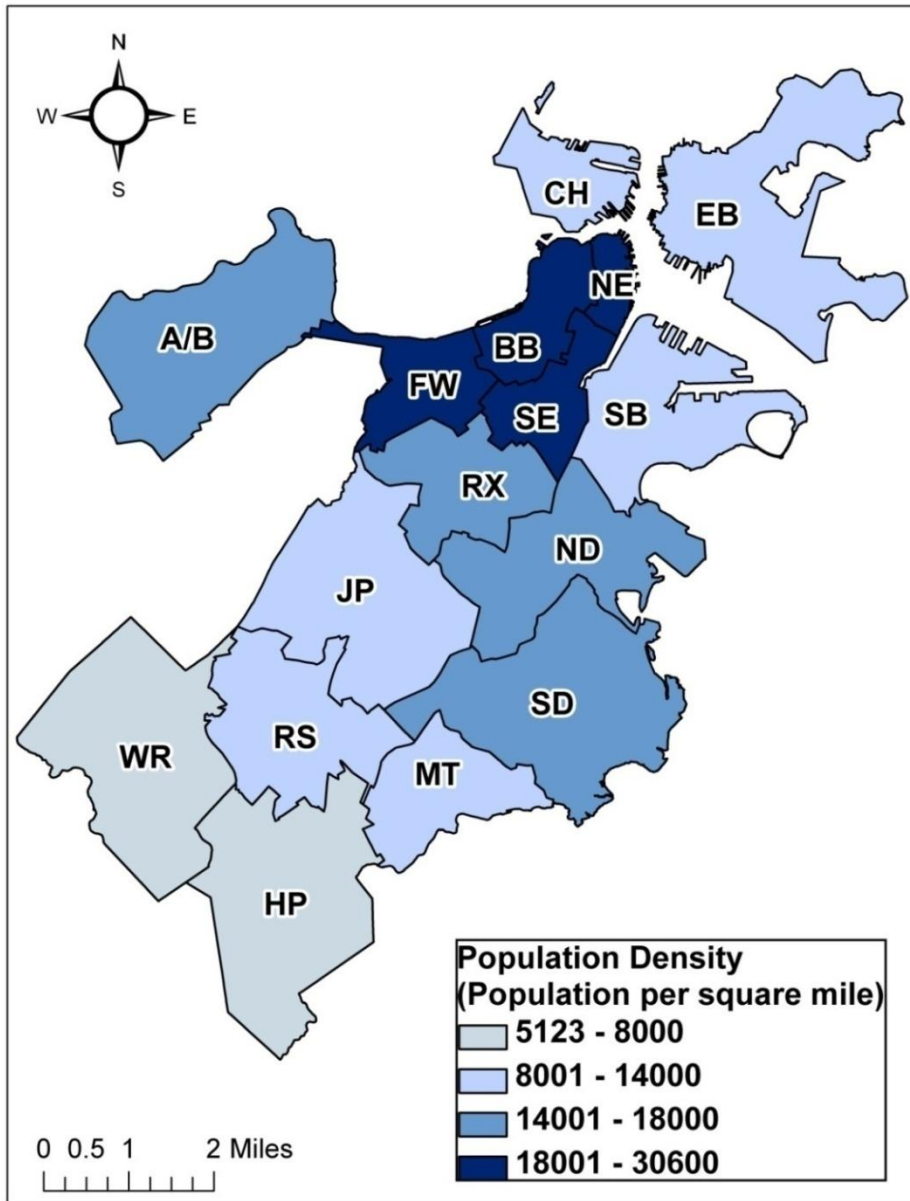
Figure 1.5 Population By Neighborhood, Boston 1990 and 2000			
Neighborhood	Total Population 1990	Total Population 2000	Percentage Change 1990-2000
Allston/Brighton	70,284	69,648	-0.9%
Back Bay/Beacon Hill/West End	35,690	36,235	1.5%
Charlestown	14,718	15,195	3.2%
East Boston	32,941	38,413	16.6%
Fenway	27,333	29,823	9.1%
Hyde Park	32,644	34,420	5.4%
Jamaica Plain	32,032	29,482	-8.0%
Mattapan	19,585	19,724	0.7%
North Dorchester	77,348	83,212	7.6%
North End	12,152	12,114	-0.3%
Roslindale	33,185	35,047	5.6%
Roxbury	53,828	50,349	-6.5%
South Boston	29,433	29,938	1.7%
South End	30,926	33,502	8.3%
South Dorchester	43,663	45,291	3.7%
West Roxbury	27,239	26,108	-4.2%
TOTAL	574,283	589,141	2.6%
DATA SOURCE: Census 2000, US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder			
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office			

Key Points Figure 1.5

- Between 1990 and 2000, Boston’s overall population increased 2.6%. However, across Boston neighborhoods, population changes between 1990 and 2000 ranged from a 16.6% increase in East Boston to an 8.0% decrease in Jamaica Plain.
- Eleven of Boston’s 16 neighborhoods experienced an increase in population between 1990 and 2000.
- Population figures beyond the year 2000 are not presented because the U.S. Census does not make population estimates available at the neighborhood level.

The following population density map provides an overview of the distribution of residents of Boston across the various neighborhoods. The population density is calculated by dividing the neighborhood population by the neighborhood area (in square miles). Using this calculation, Fenway and Back Bay are the most densely populated neighborhoods in Boston with a population density of 30,580 and 24,970 people per square mile, respectively.

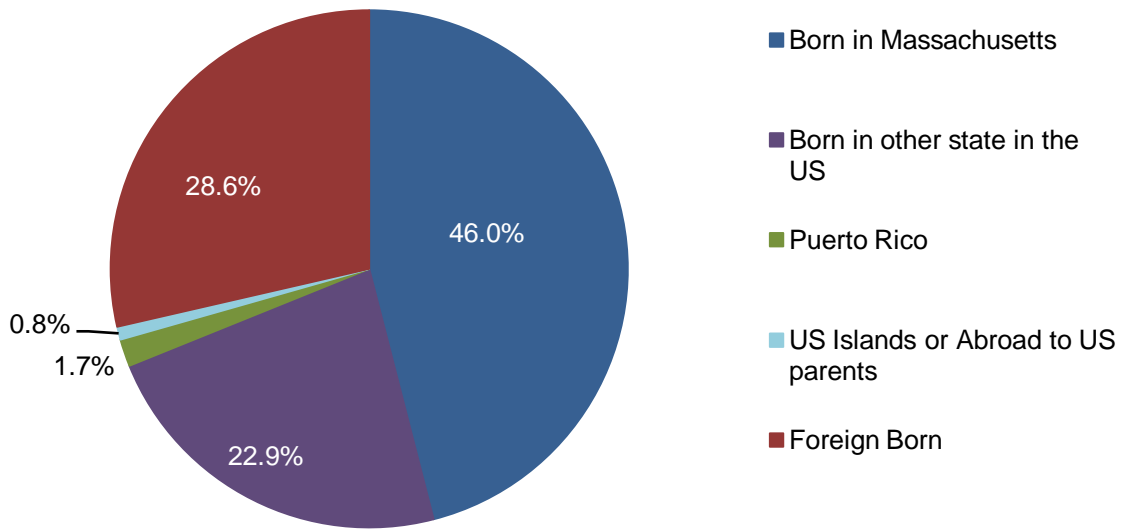
Figure 1.6 Population Density among Boston Neighborhoods, 2000



ABBREVIATIONS KEY: BOS=Boston, A/B=Allston/Brighton, BB=Back Bay, CH=Charlestown, EB=East Boston, FW=Fenway, HP=Hyde Park, JP=Jamaica Plain, MT=Mattapan, ND=North Dorchester, NE= North End, RS=Roslindale, RX=Roxbury, SB=South Boston, SD=South Dorchester, SE=South End, and WR=West Roxbury
 DATA SOURCE: US Bureau of the Census 2000
 DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

MAP CREATED BY: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Figure 1.7 Place of Birth for Boston Residents, 2007



	Native Born	Foreign Born
Count	437,790	175,327

NOTE: Native born includes individuals born in Massachusetts, other states in the US, Puerto Rico, US Islands or abroad to US parents.

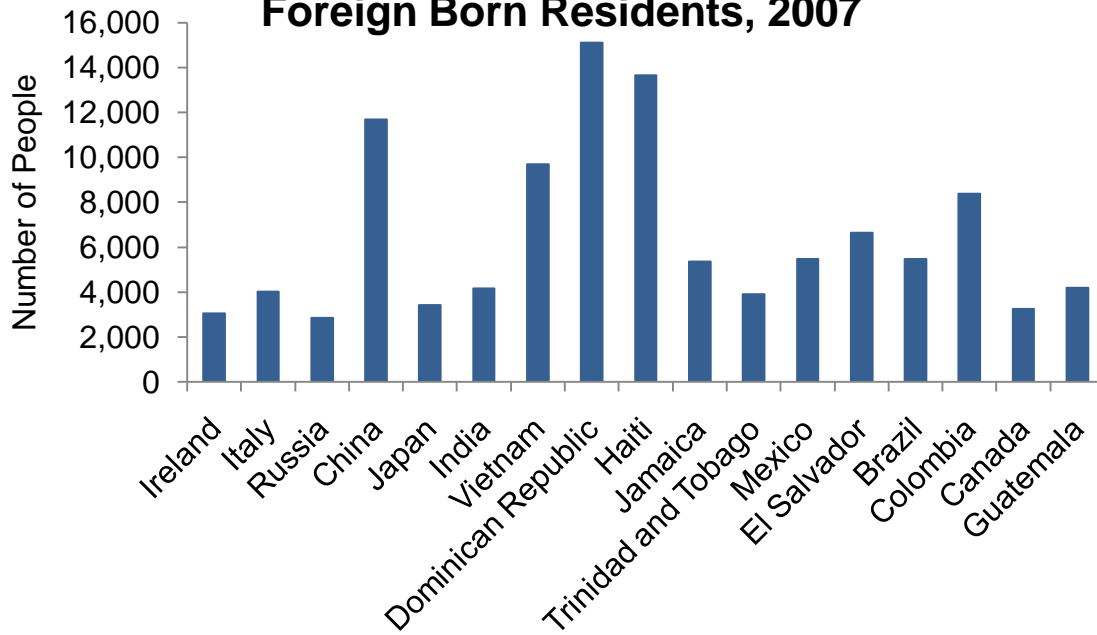
DATA SOURCE: U.S Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Key Points: Figure 1.7

- Foreign born residents make up 28.6% of the total population in Boston

Figure 1.8 Select Countries of Origin for Foreign Born Residents, 2007



	IR	IT	RU	CH	JP	ID	VT	DR	HA	JA	TT	MX	EL	BR	CO	CA	GT
COUNT	3,062	4,021	2850	11695	3418	4178	9689	15108	13667	5352	3921	5465	6648	5479	8383	3258	4193
%	2%	2%	2%	7%	2%	2%	6%	9%	8%	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	5%	2%	2%

ABBREVIATIONS KEY

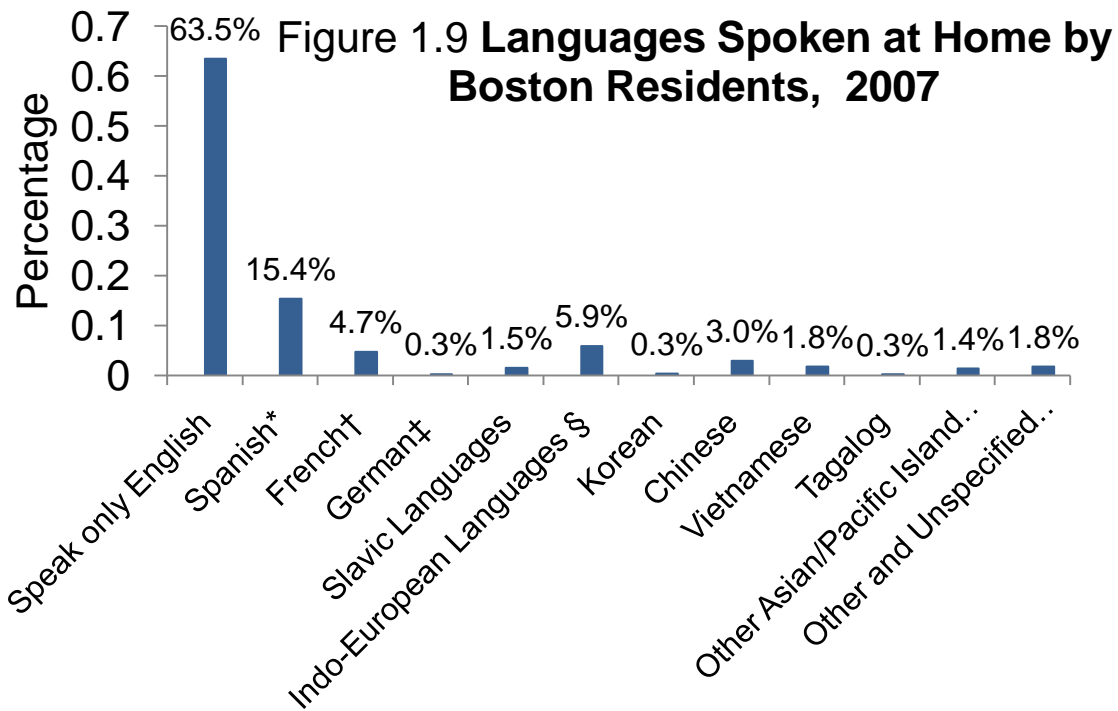
IR- Ireland, IT=Italy, RU=Russia, CH=China, JP=Japan, ID=India, VT= Vietnam, DR=Dominican Republic, HA=Haiti, TT=Trinidad and Tobago, MX=Mexico, EL=El Salvador, BR=Brazil, Co=Colombia, CA=Canada, GT=Guatemala

DATA SOURCE: U.S Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Key Points Figure 1.8

- Boston has residents from all around the world. Countries from which 2% or more of Boston's foreign born residents originated are represented here.
- The largest percentage of foreign born residents originated from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and China.



*Including Spanish Creole languages

† Including Patois, Creole and Cajun

‡ Including other West Germanic languages

§ Indo European Languages include those from some parts of Europe, South West Asia, Central Asian and South Asia (including Indian subcontinent)

DATA SOURCE: U.S Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research and Evaluation Office

Key Points Figure 1.10

- In 2007, English was the language most commonly spoken at home among Boston residents followed by Spanish and Indo-European languages.

Summary: Demographics

Boston is one of the oldest cities in the US and the largest in Massachusetts. According to the 2000 US Census, there were 589,141 people living in Boston (1) and the population was estimated to be 599,351 in 2007 (2). The city's population has fluctuated over time since 1900 with a steep increase between 1900 and 1950 followed by a sharp decline over the next thirty years. The population has then been steadily increasing since the 1980s.

The city has become more racially and ethnically diverse over the last several decades. Approximately 28% of Boston residents were foreign born in 2007, originating from a wide array of countries such as Haiti, China and Colombia. This diverse population brings with it fluency in a variety of languages including Spanish, French, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Understanding the diversity within our city is essential to combating racial/ethnic disparities that persist in medical care for a number of health conditions and services (4,5).

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3. **U.S. Bureau of the Census.** *2005 and 2006 Estimates: Annual Estimates of the Population for Incorporated Places over 100,000. 2005-2007 American Community Survey.* s.l. : U.S. Bureau of the Census.
4. **Institute of Medicine.** *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care.* 2002.
5. **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.** *National Health Disparities Report 2007.* s.l. : U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2008.