

# Dorchester Collaborative Meeting: Health Status of Dorchester Residents

Presented by John Auerbach, Boston  
Public Health Commission

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

# Boston Neighborhoods



\*Dorchester communities included in the January 18, 2004 presentation have been geographically redefined to avoid overlapping boundaries and to contain all of the Dorchester population.

MAP PREPARATION: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

## **Dorchester Communities**

The following six areas contain all Dorchester census tracts (previously defined as North and South Dorchester). Each area is distinct (census tracts appear in only one area). The boundary definitions start on the west side of the area and proceed north, east and south, and then return to the starting street.

The six communities described below by census tracts and street boundaries are defined for statistical purposes only and should not be confused with neighborhood boundaries defined by the Boston Public Health Commission, the City of Boston, or by neighborhoods themselves.

### **Codman Square/Southern Franklin Field Area**

Census Tracts: 919, 923, 1001-1005

Boundaries: Blue Hill Avenue, Talbot Street, RR, Geneva Avenue, Bowdoin Street, Washington Street, Centre Street, Dorchester Avenue, Gallivan Blvd, Morton Street, Blue Hill Avenue

Although Grove Hall extends into Roxbury, the Roxbury section has not been included in the geographical definition used in this presentation.

### **Dorchester Grove Hall Area**

Census Tracts: 901-906, 924

Boundaries: Blue Hill Avenue, West Cottage Street, Dudley Street, Magnolia Street, Robin Hood Street, Hartford Street, Wayland Street, Magnolia Street, Quincy Street, Columbia Road, Railroad Tracts, Talbot Avenue, Blue Hill Avenue, Harvard Street, Austin Street, American Legion Hwy, Blue Hill Avenue

### **Fields Corner**

Census Tracts: 916-918, 920-922

Boundaries: Columbia Road, Quincy Street, Bowdoin Street, Church Street, Freeport Avenue, Morrissey Blvd, Ocean, Victory Road, Morrissey Blvd, Neponset Avenue, King Street, Dorchester Avenue, Centre Street, Washington Street, Westville Street, Bowdoin, Geneva Street, Columbia Road

### **Uphams Corner Area**

Census Tracts: 907-908, 912-915

Boundaries: Hartford Street, Robin Hood Street, Magnolia Street, Dudley Street, E. Cottage Street, RR, Norfolk Avenue, E. Cottage Street, Pleasant Street, High Street, Church Street, Quincy Street, Magnolia Street, Wayland Street, Hartford Street

### **Savin Hill/Harbor Point**

Census Tracts: 909-911

Boundaries: Pleasant Street, E. Cottage Street, Crescent Avenue, around Columbia Point, city boundary to harbor, Morrissey Blvd, Freeport Street, High Street, Pleasant Street

### **Lower Mills/Neponset**

Census Tracts: 1006-1009

Boundaries: Dorchester Avenue, King Street, Neponset Avenue, Pope's Hill, Freeport Street, City Boundary, River Street, Standard Street, Manchester Street, Maryknoll Street, Morton Street, Gallivan Blvd, Dorchester Avenue

Who Lives in Dorchester?

## Population by Race/Ethnicity Dorchester, 1990 and 2000

Race/Ethnicity	Census 1990	Census 2000
<b>Total Population</b>	121,011	128,503
<b>White, non-Latino</b>	38%	24%
<b>Black, non-Latino</b>	46%	45%
<b>Latino</b>	12%	14%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander (1990)</b>	3%	N/A
<b>Asian (2000)</b>	N/A	8%
<b>Other Race*</b>	<1%	4%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	N/A	5%

\*"Other race" includes Native Americans (1990), and Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Native/American Indians, and Other Races (2000).

DATA SOURCE: Modified Age-Race-Sex file for Boston census tracts, 1990 US Census; US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Fact Finder, Census 2000.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

## Population by Race/Ethnicity Dorchester Communities, 2000

Race/Ethnicity	Boston	Codman Square/ Franklin Field	Fields Corner	Grove Hall*	Lower Mills/ Neponset	Savin Hill/ Harbor Point	Uphams Corner
<b>Total Population</b>	589,141	30,301	26,219	21,562	21,753	11,048	17,620
<b>White, Non-Latino</b>	50%	7%	19%	2%	60%	49%	26%
<b>Black, Non-Latino</b>	24%	72%	41%	65%	23%	15%	30%
<b>Latino</b>	14%	13%	14%	23%	4%	10%	18%
<b>Asian</b>	8%	3%	13%	0.4%	8%	22%	7%
<b>Other Race**</b>	2%	2%	7%	5%	1%	2%	11%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	3%	4%	6%	5%	3%	3%	8%

\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

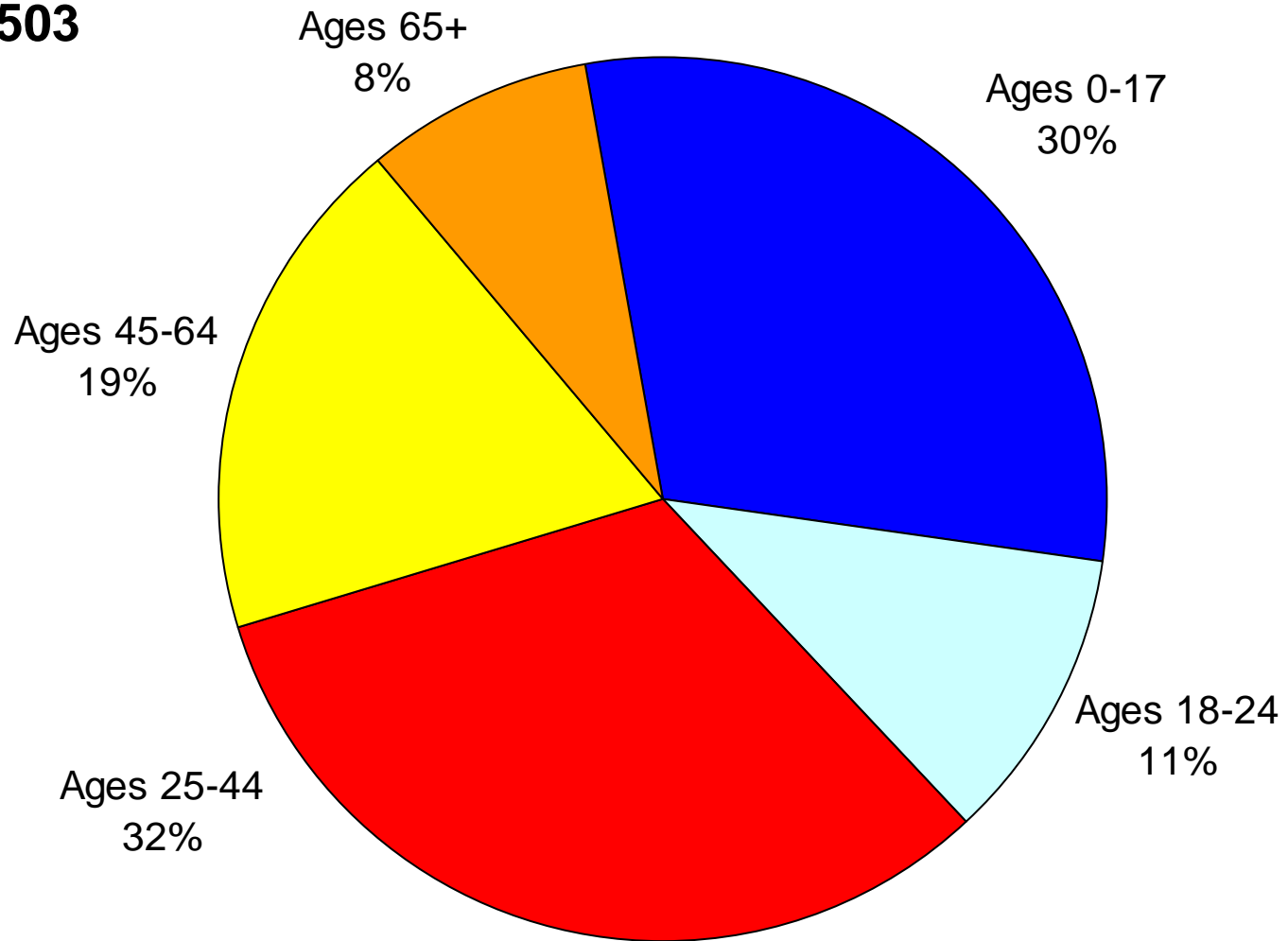
\*\*"Other race" includes Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Native/American Indians, and Other Races.

DATA SOURCE: Census 2000, US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Population by Age Dorchester, 2000

**N=128,503**



DATA SOURCE: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Fact Finder, Census 2000  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office



## Population by Age Dorchester Communities, 2000

	Boston	Codman Square/ Franklin Field	Fields Corner	Grove Hall*	Lower Mills/ Neponset	Savin Hill/ Harbor Point	Uphams Corner
<b>Total Population</b>	589,141	30,301	26,219	21,562	21,753	11,048	17,620
<b>Ages 0-17</b>	20%	33%	31%	37%	22%	23%	29%
<b>Ages 18-24</b>	16%	10%	11%	10%	9%	15%	11%
<b>Ages 25-44</b>	36%	31%	32%	30%	35%	37%	33%
<b>Ages 45-64</b>	18%	20%	19%	16%	20%	17%	18%
<b>Ages 65+</b>	10%	7%	7%	7%	14%	9%	9%

\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

DATA SOURCE: Census 2000, US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

## Selected Socioeconomic Indicators Boston Overall, North Dorchester, and South Dorchester, 2000

Indicator	Boston	N. Dorchester	S. Dorchester
% of Population with Less than High School Diploma or GED (Adults Ages 25 and Over)	21%	31%	23%
% of Population Below Poverty Level*	20%	23%	18%
% of Children (Under 18) Below Poverty Level*	26%	31%	24%
% of Adults 65 and Older Below Poverty Level*	18%	20%	15%
Median Household Income**	\$39,629	\$34,132	\$38,987

\*Based on income in 1999

\*\*Estimated median household income in 1999

DATA SOURCE: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder, Census 2000, Summary File Sample Data

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Births

## Births by Race/Ethnicity by Maternal Ancestry Dorchester, 2002

ASIAN	N=232	10.5%
Vietnamese		82.3%
Chinese		10.4%
Other*		7.4%

\* Cambodian, Asian Indian, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, European, and Other

BLACK	N=1024	46.4%
African-American		56.5%
Haitian		13.4%
"American"		8.2%
Other West Indian/Carribbean		7.1%
Jamaican		6.4%
Other African		3.8%
Cape Verdean		2.4%
Barbadian		1.2%
Other**		1.1%

\*\* Middle Eastern, Portuguese, Native American, European, and Other

LATINO	N=383	17.4%
Puerto Rican		43.6%
Dominican		36.8%
Other Central American		7.3%
Other Latino/Latina		6.3%
Other South American		2.9%
Colombian		1.6%
Salvadoran		1.6%

WHITE	N=380	17.2%
"American"		55.4%
European		33.1%
Other***		11.6%

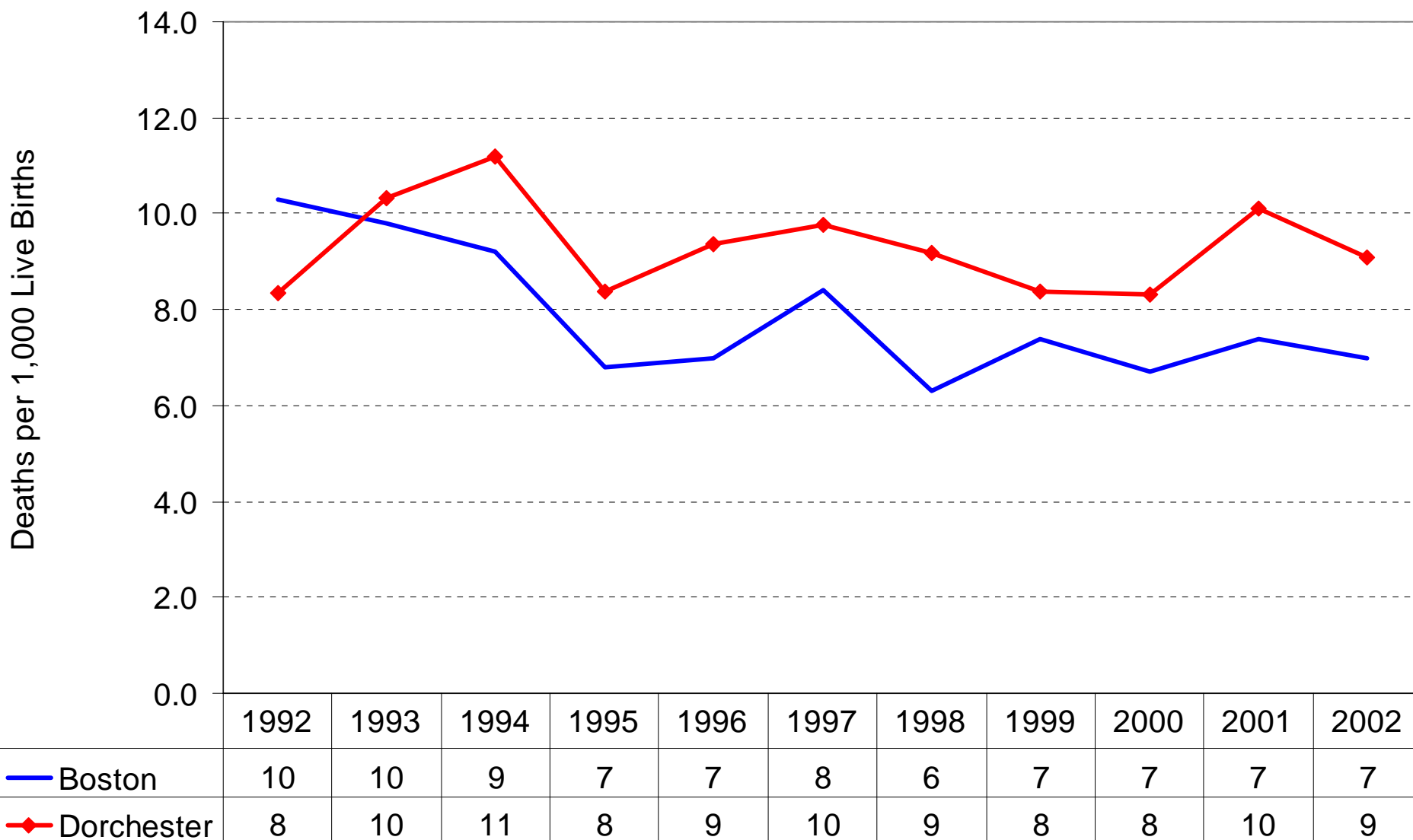
\*\*\* Cape Verdean, Brazilian, Other Portuguese, Barbadian, African-American, Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Middle Eastern, Native American, Other African

NOTE: Race/ethnicity and maternal ancestry are self-reported.

DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

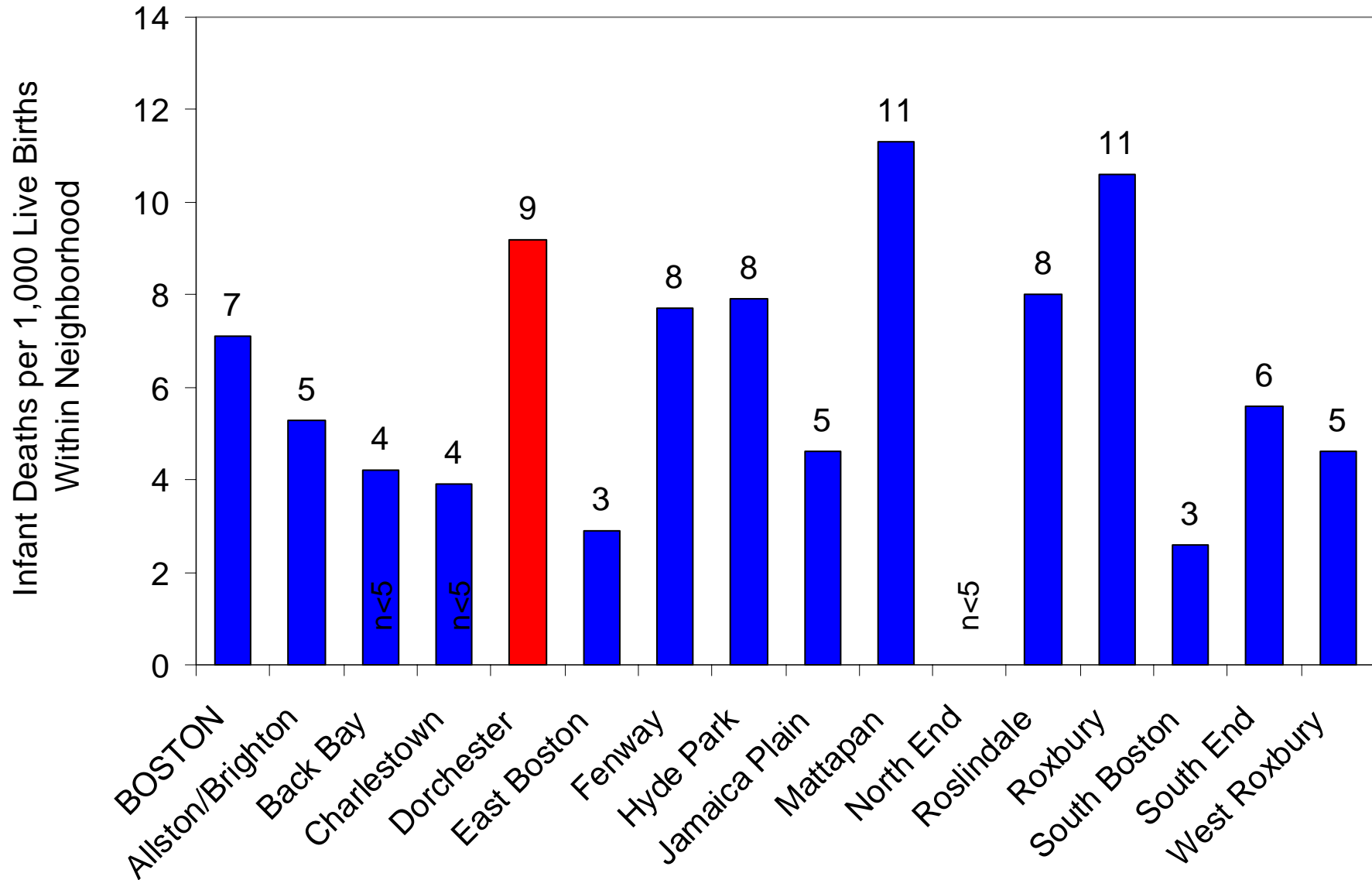
## Infant Mortality Rate Boston and Dorchester, 1992-2002



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths and live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

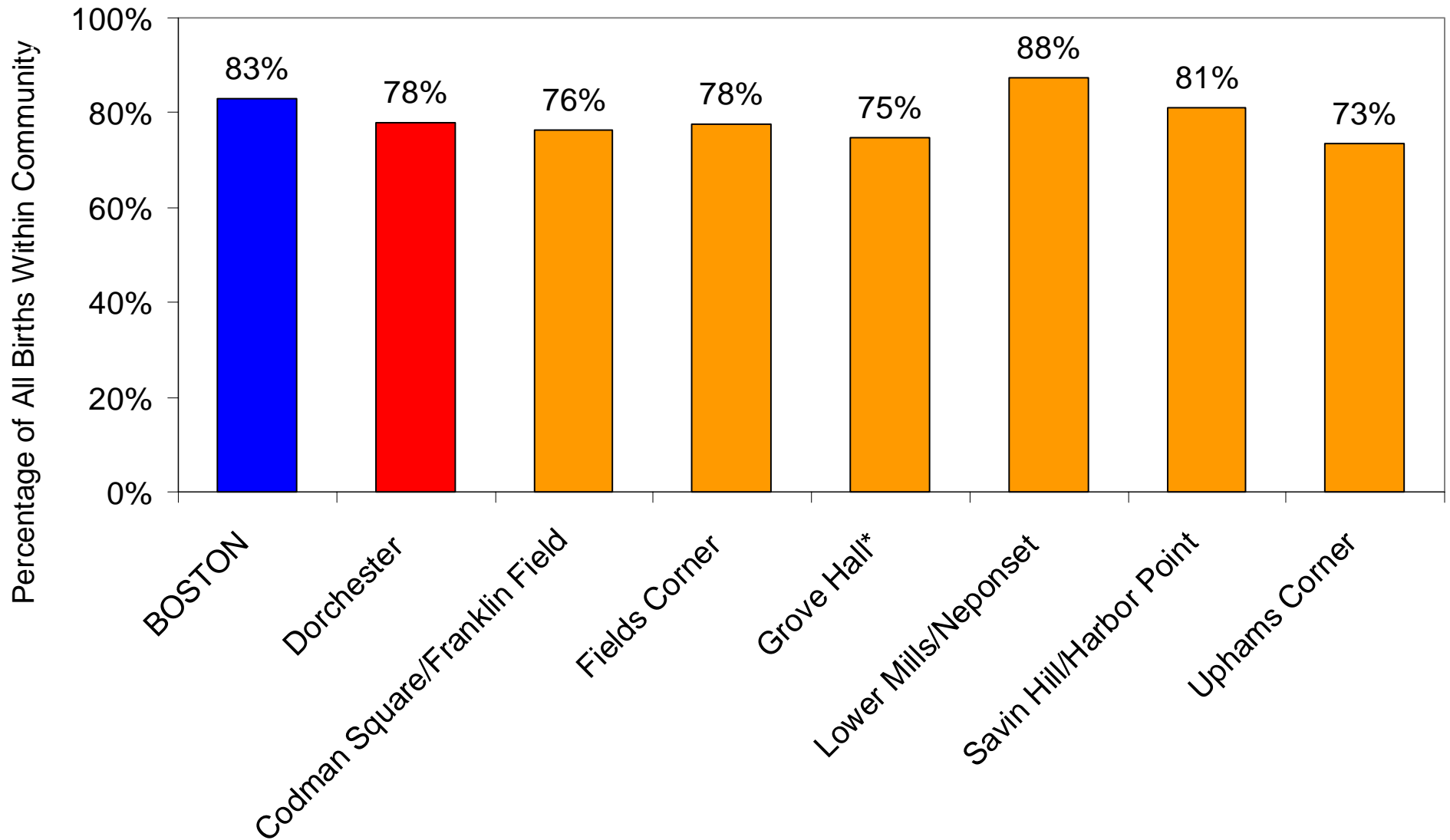
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Infant Mortality Rate by Neighborhood Boston, 1997-2002



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths and live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Adequate Prenatal Care By Dorchester Community, 2001-2002



\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

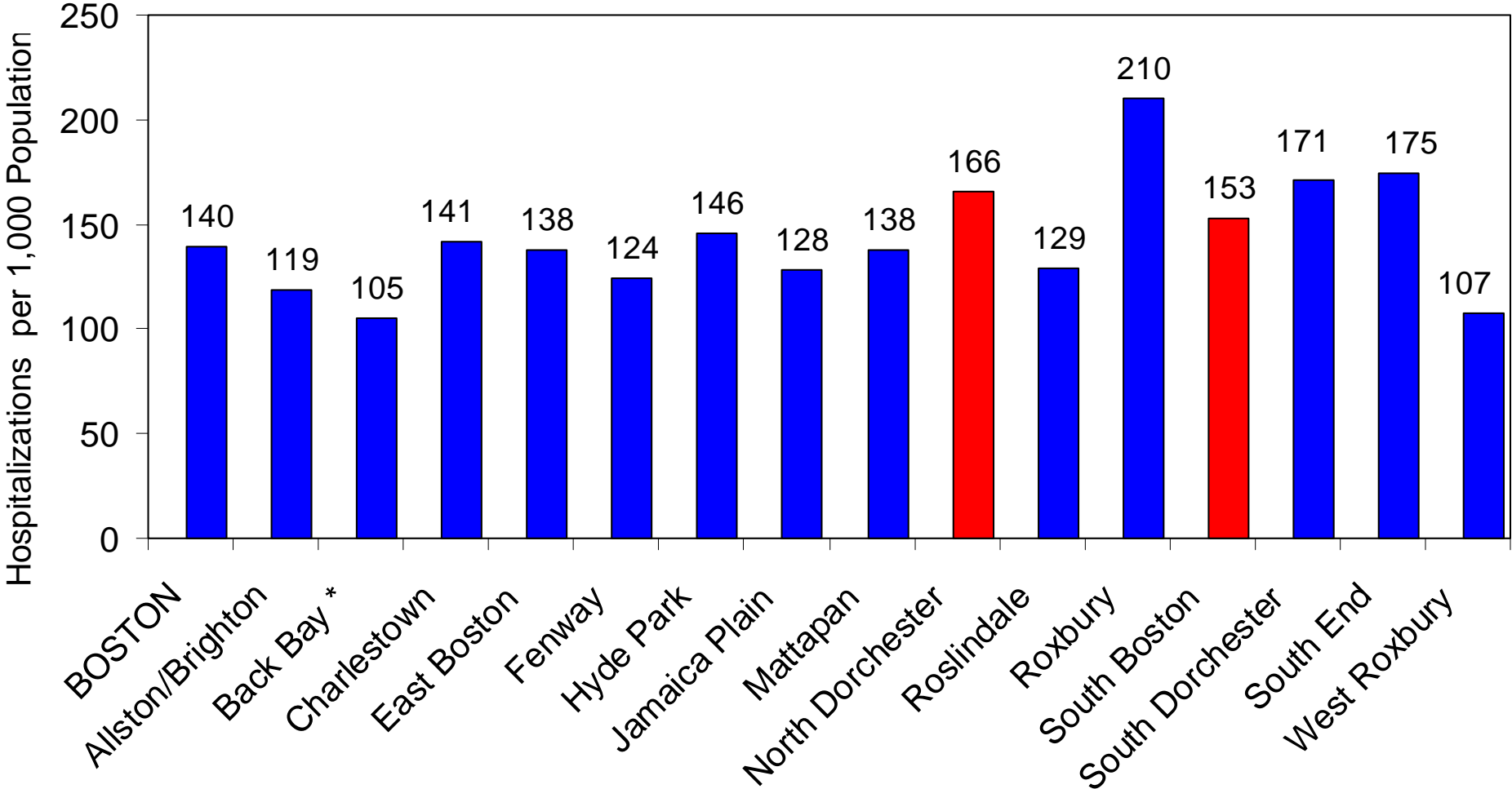
DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Hospitalization



# Hospitalization by Neighborhood, Age-Adjusted Rates, Boston, 2002

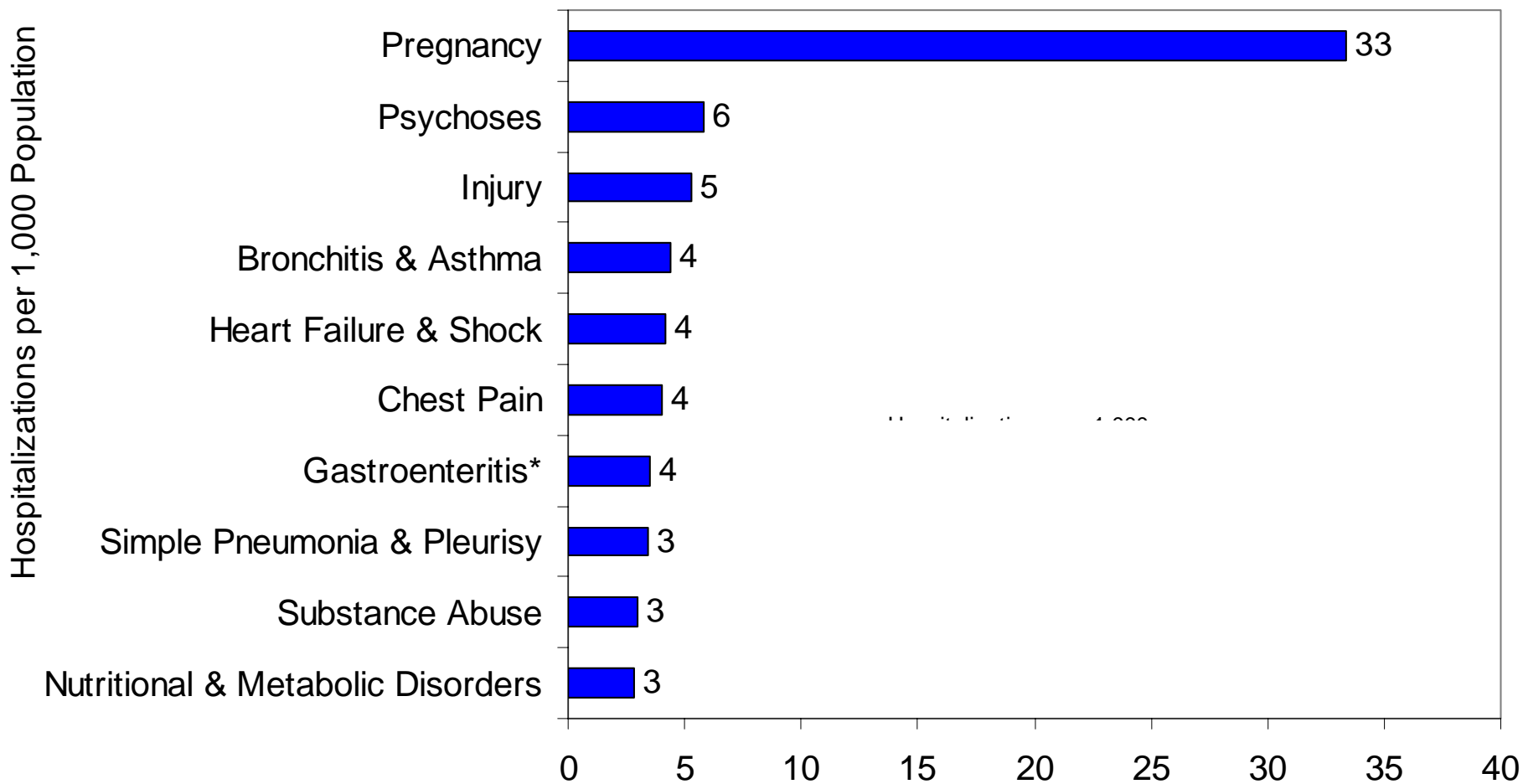


\* Includes the North End

DATA SOURCE: Acute Hospital Case Mix files, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

## Leading Causes of Hospitalization, Age-Adjusted Rates, Dorchester, 2002

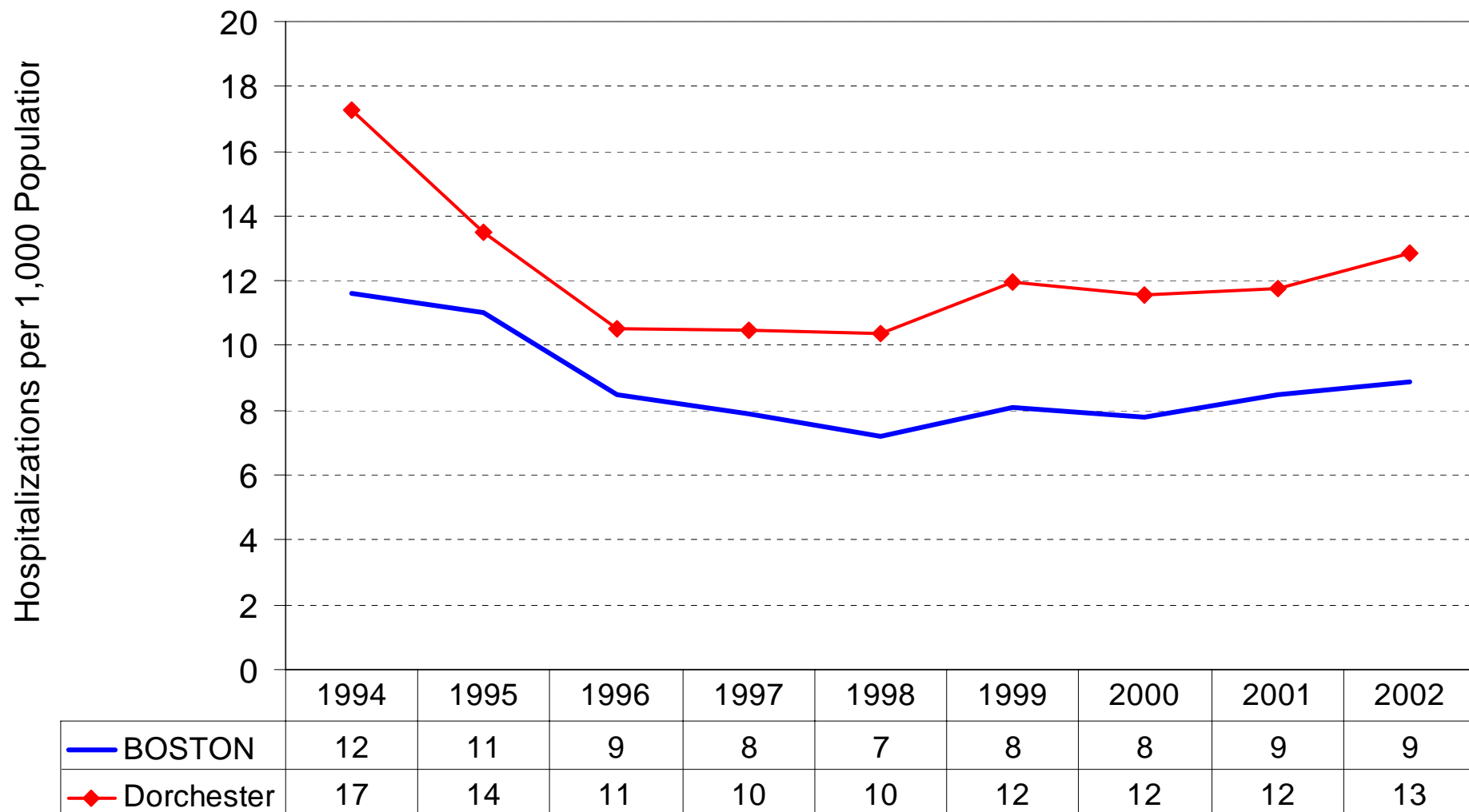


\*Also includes esophagitis and miscellaneous digestive disorders

DATA SOURCE: Acute Care Hospital Case Mix Files, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

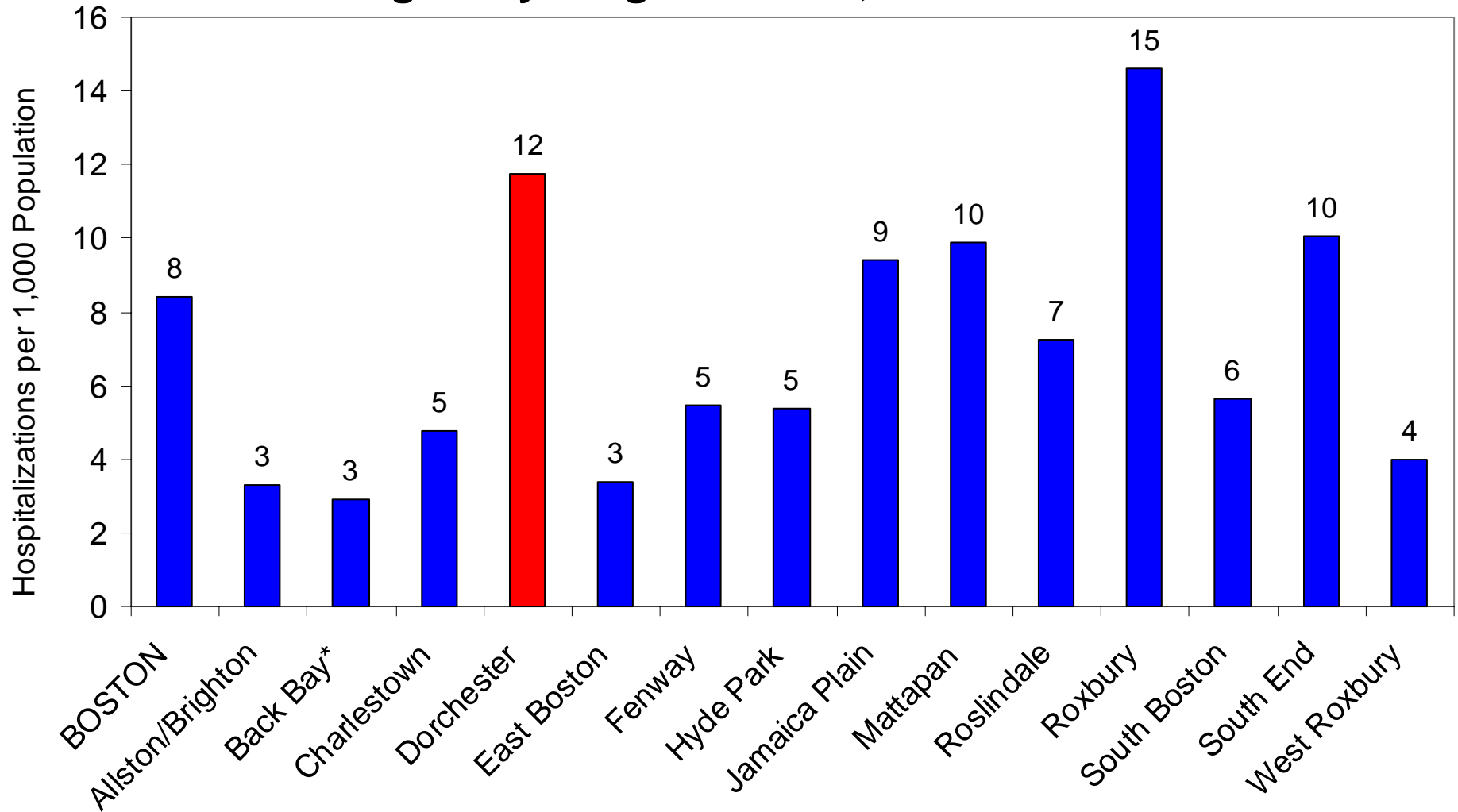
## Asthma Hospitalization Rates Among Children Under Age 5 By Year, Boston, 1994-2002



DATA SOURCE: 1997-2000 Acute Case Mix, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy; 1994-1996 discharge data, Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, Inc. Rates are calculated using resident population estimates from MISER for 1991-1998, Massachusetts Department of Public Health 1999 Preliminary Population Estimates, and the US Census 2000 for resident population by zip code.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office.

## Asthma Hospitalizations Among Children Under Age 5 by Neighborhood, Boston 1998-2002



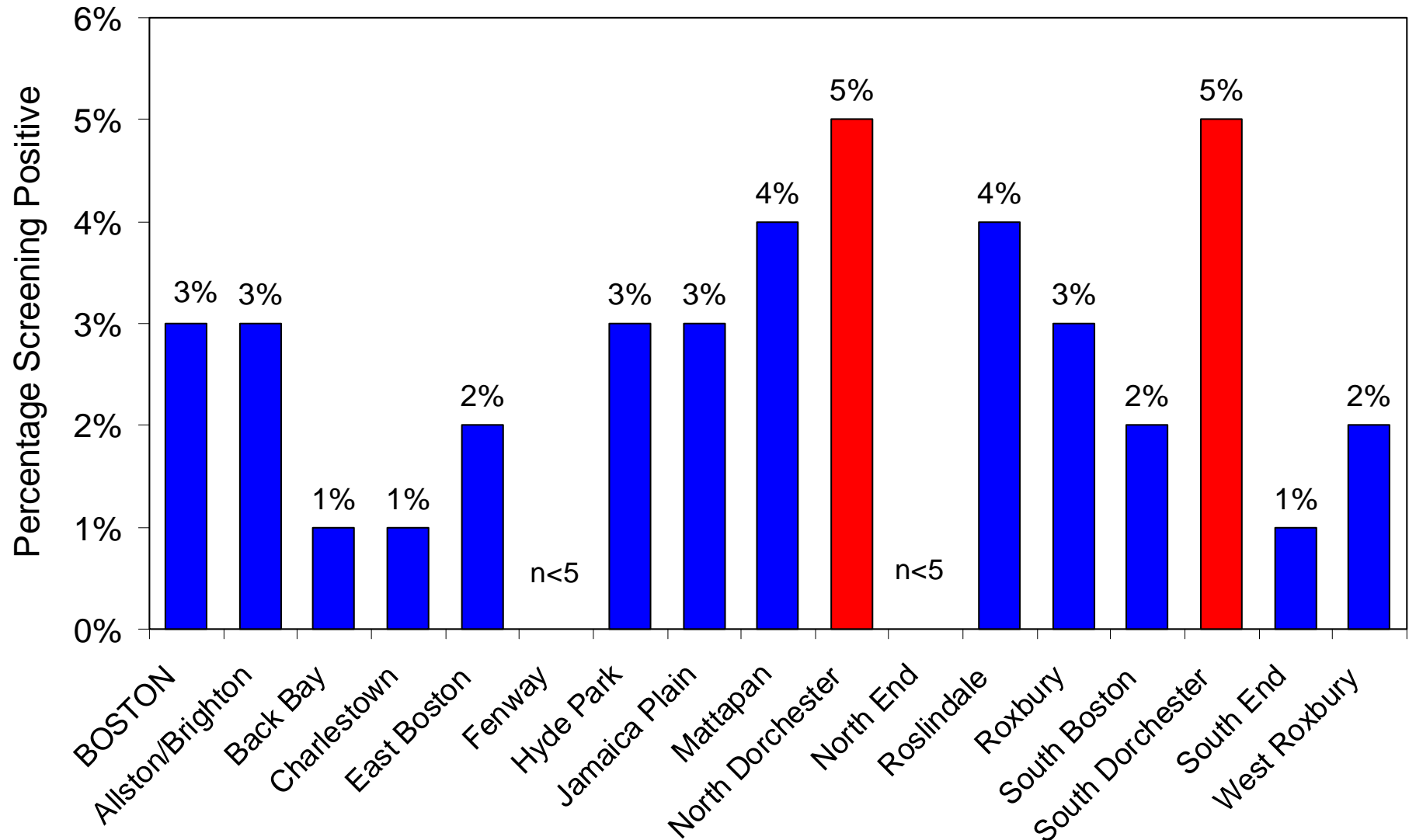
\*Includes the North End

DATA SOURCE: Acute Care Hospital Case Mix Files, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Lead Screening

# Prevalence of Elevated Blood Lead Levels\* by Neighborhood Boston, 2003



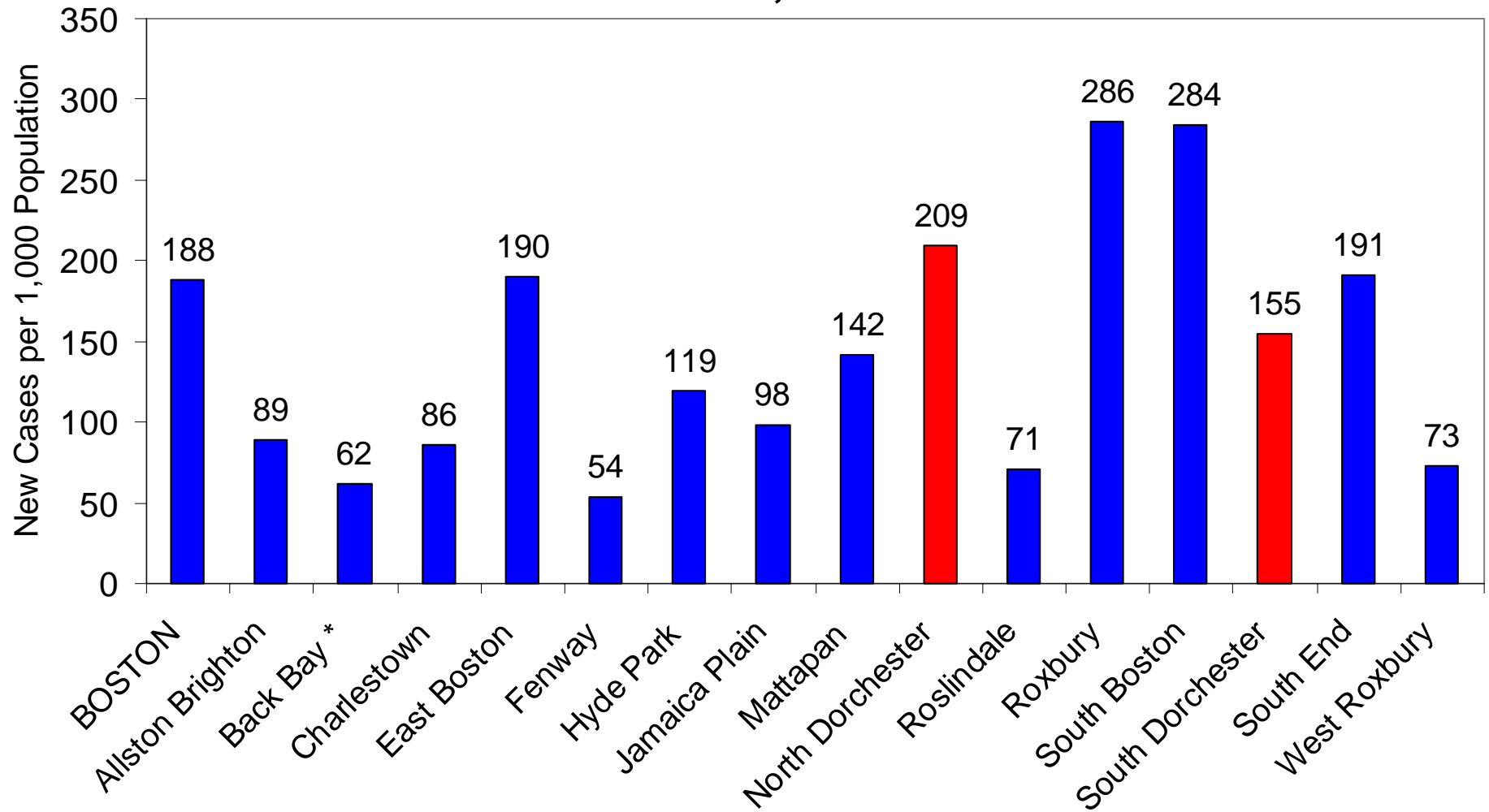
\*Blood levels of 10 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dL) or higher

DATA SOURCE: Lead Screening Data: Boston Public Health Commission Office of Environmental Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Communicable Diseases

# Hepatitis C Incidence Rates by Neighborhood Boston, 2002



Includes the North End

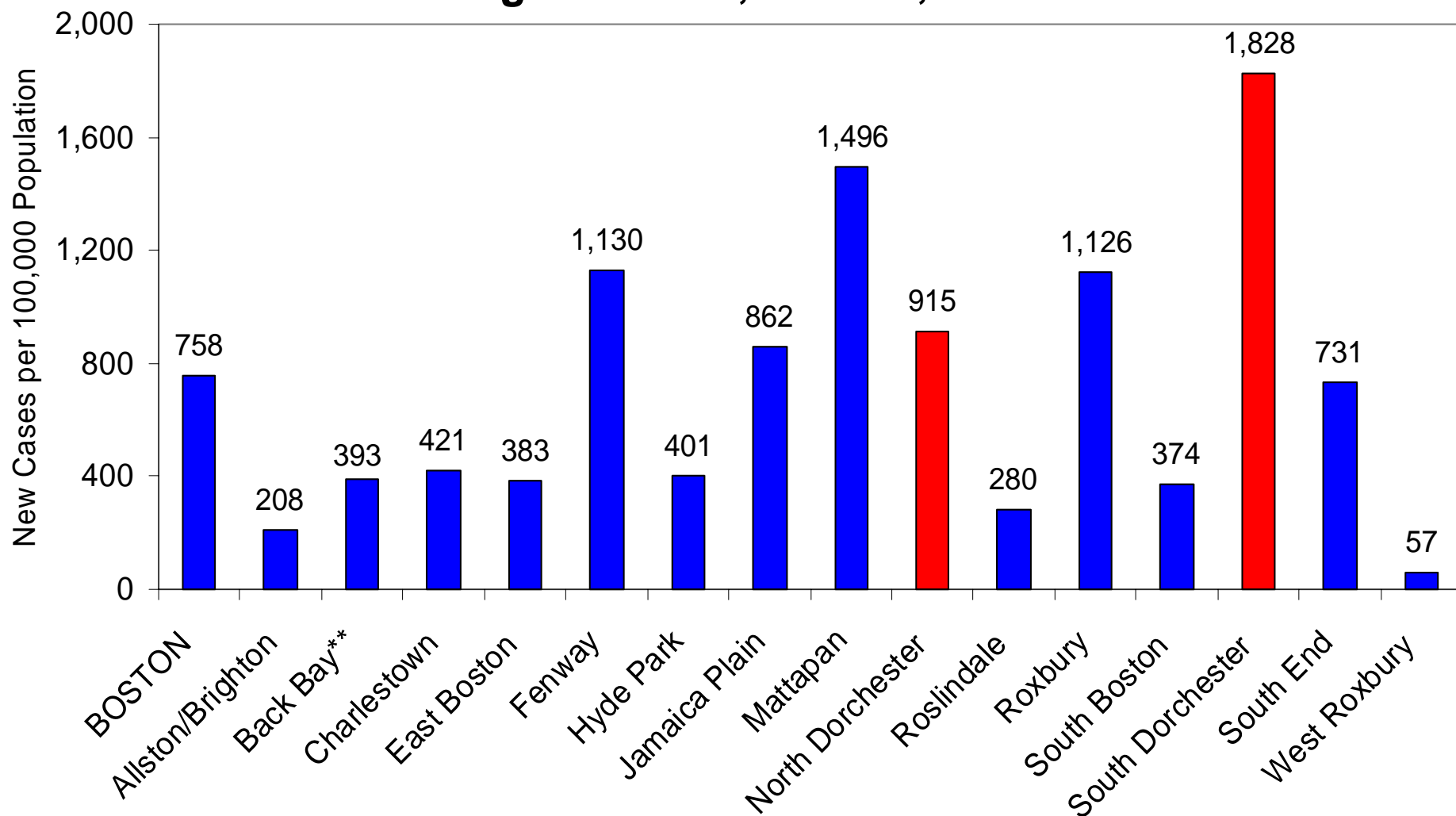
DATA SOURCE: Communicable Disease Database, Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office



## Sexually Transmitted Disease\* Incidence Rates by Neighborhood, Boston, 2002



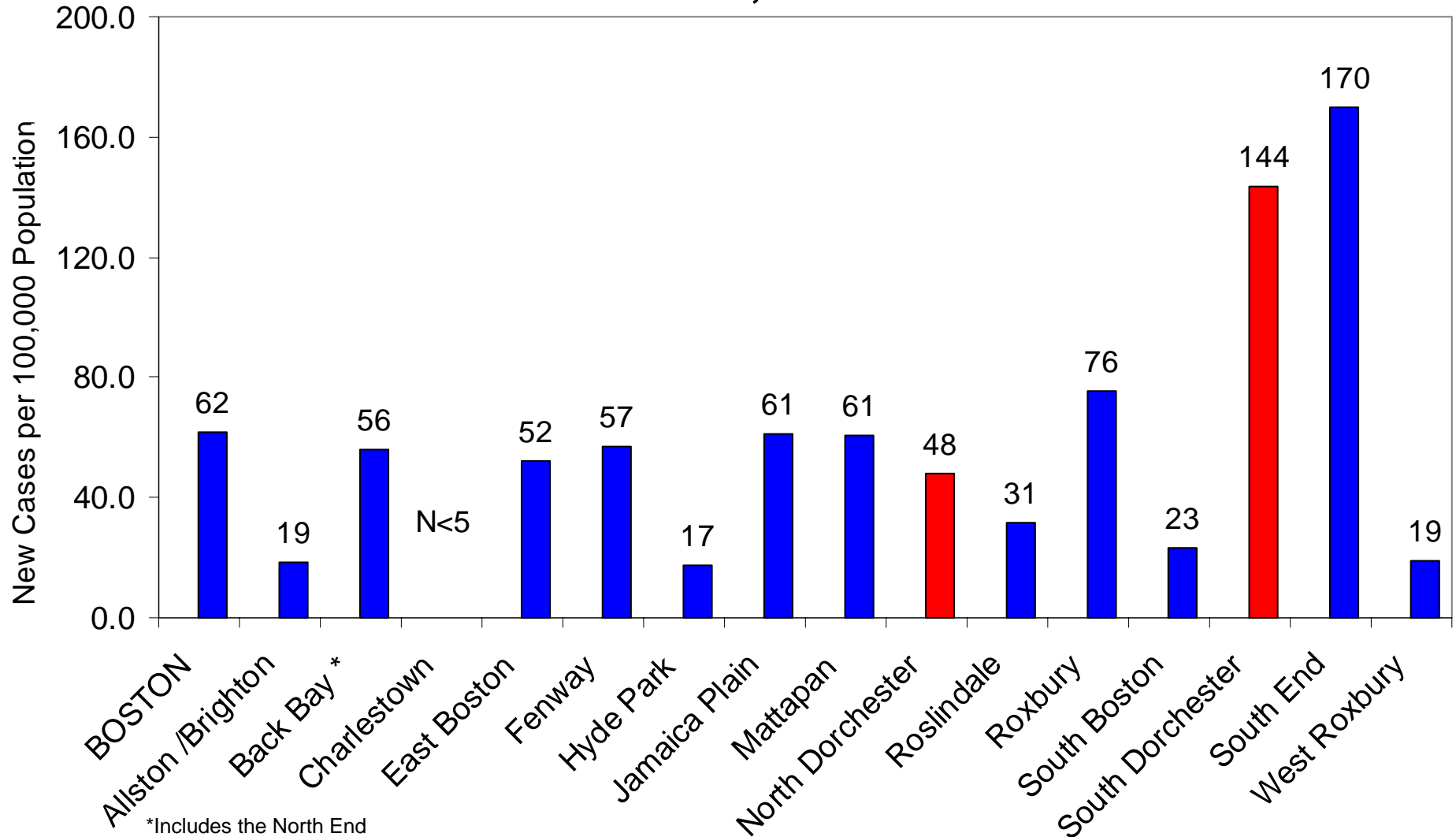
\*Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis combined \*\* Includes the North End

DATA SOURCE: Communicable Disease Database, Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# HIV/AIDS Incidence Rates by Neighborhood Boston, 2002



\*Includes the North End

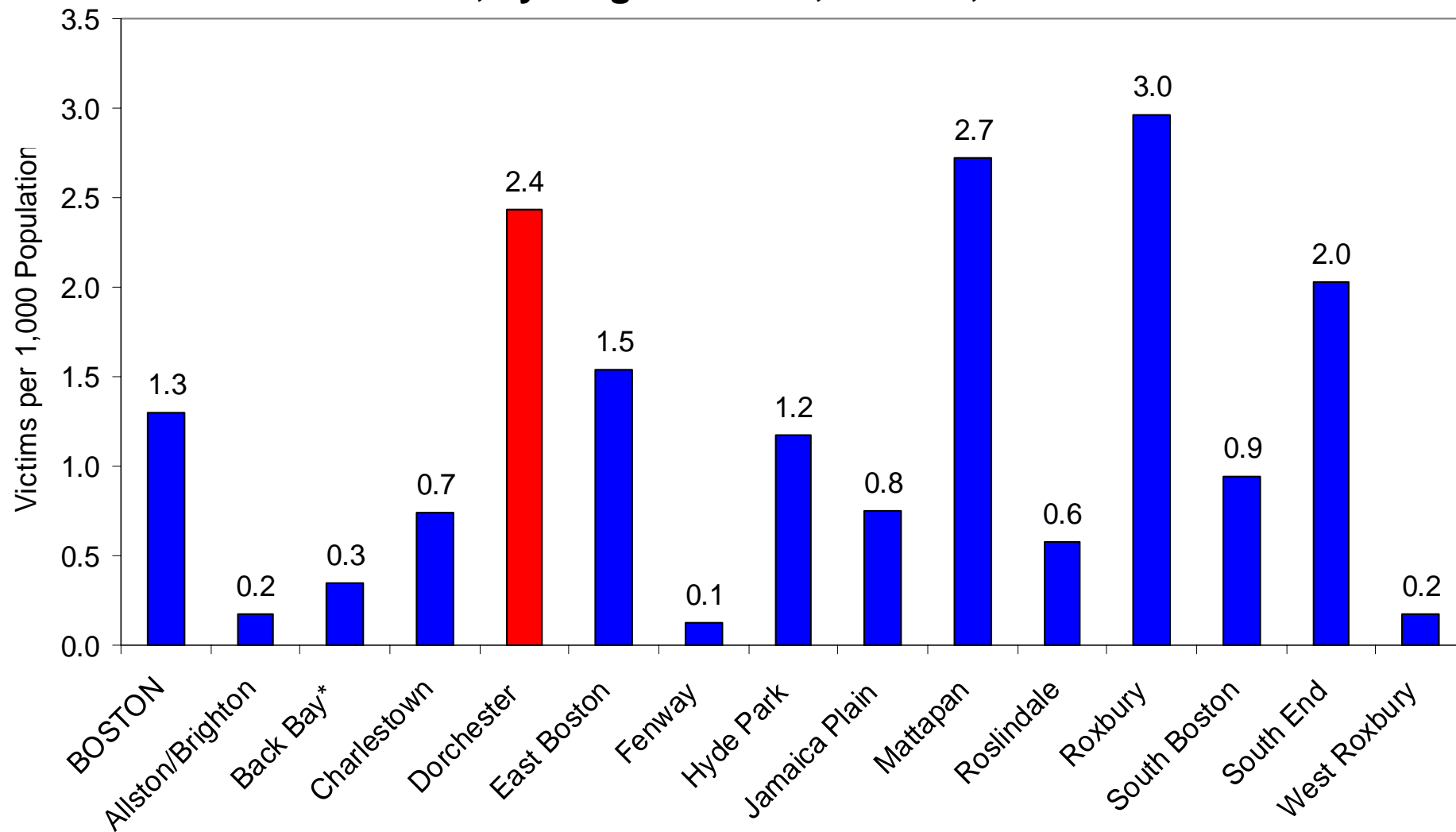
DATA SOURCE: Communicable Disease Database, Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Violent Injury

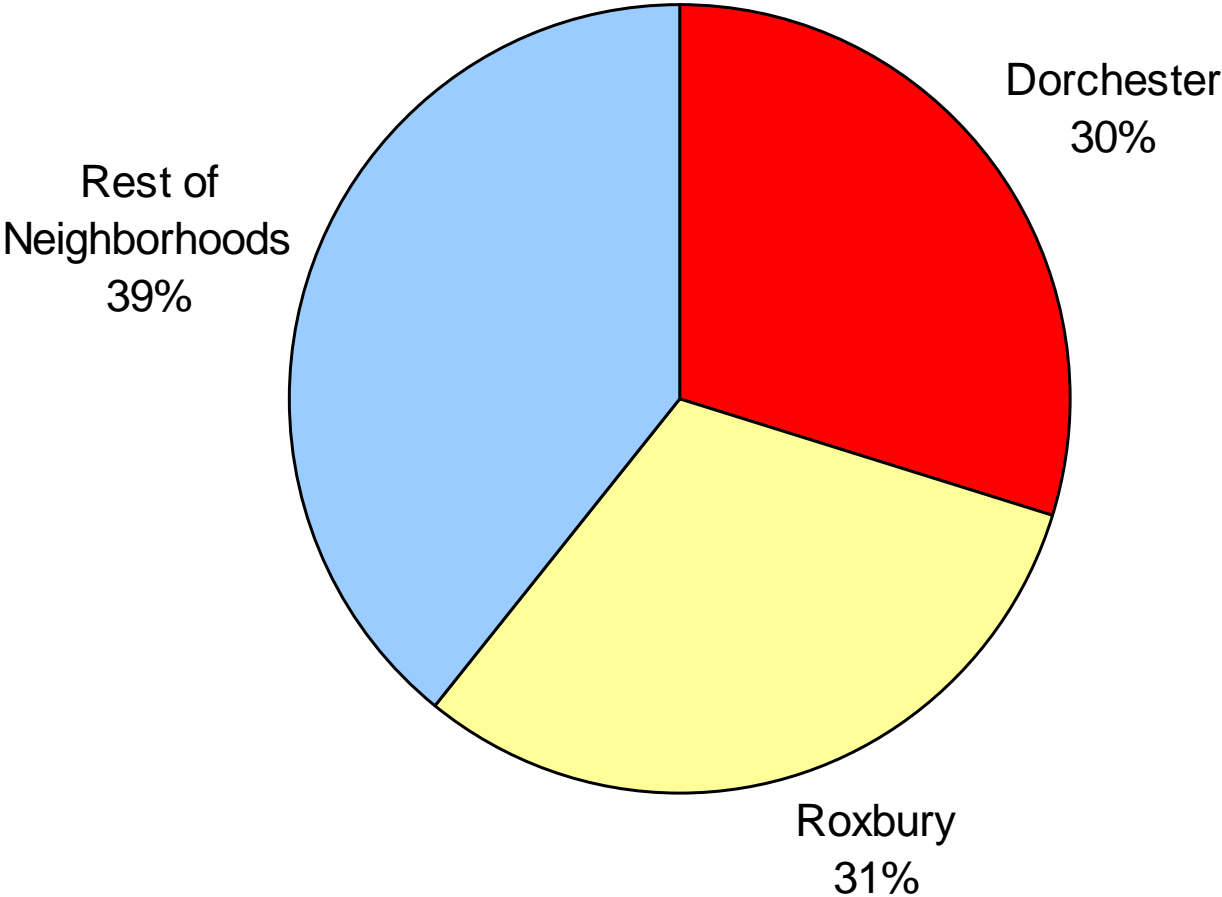
## Victims of Non-Fatal Assault-Related Gunshot and Stabbings, Ages 15-44, by Neighborhood, Boston, 2000-2003



DATA SOURCE: Weapon-related injuries. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Weapon-Related Surveillance System  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission

# Homicides Boston, 2004

N= 64 Homicides

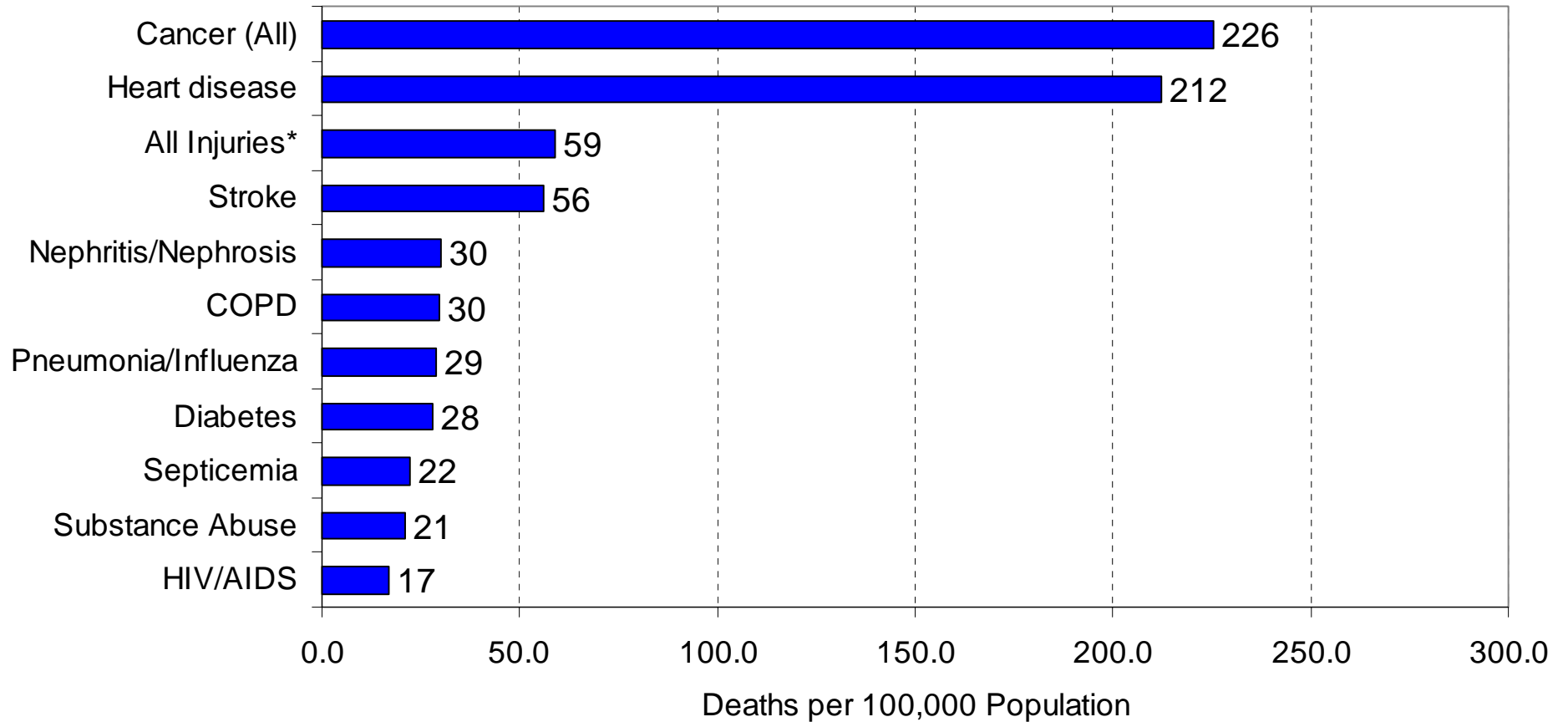


DATA SOURCE: Boston Police Department  
GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Deaths

# Leading Causes of Death, Dorchester, 2000-2002

## Age-Adjusted Average Annual Rates



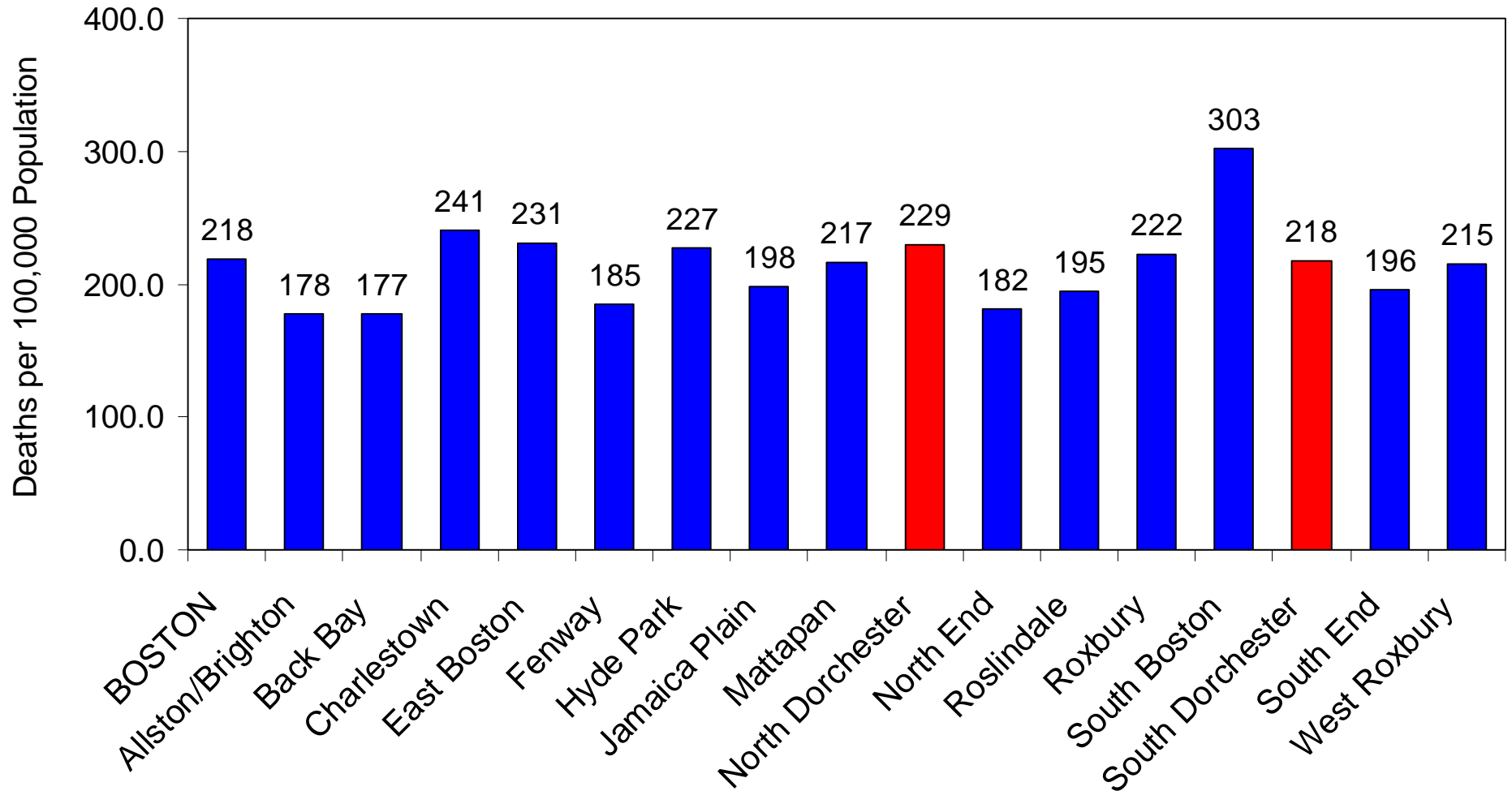
\*Deaths due to all injuries combined include unintentional deaths (accidents, motor vehicle related), intentional deaths (homicide and suicide), and injuries with intent unknown at the time when the death certificate was issued.

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

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Cancer Mortality by Neighborhood, Boston, 2000-2002

## Age-Adjusted Average Annual Rates

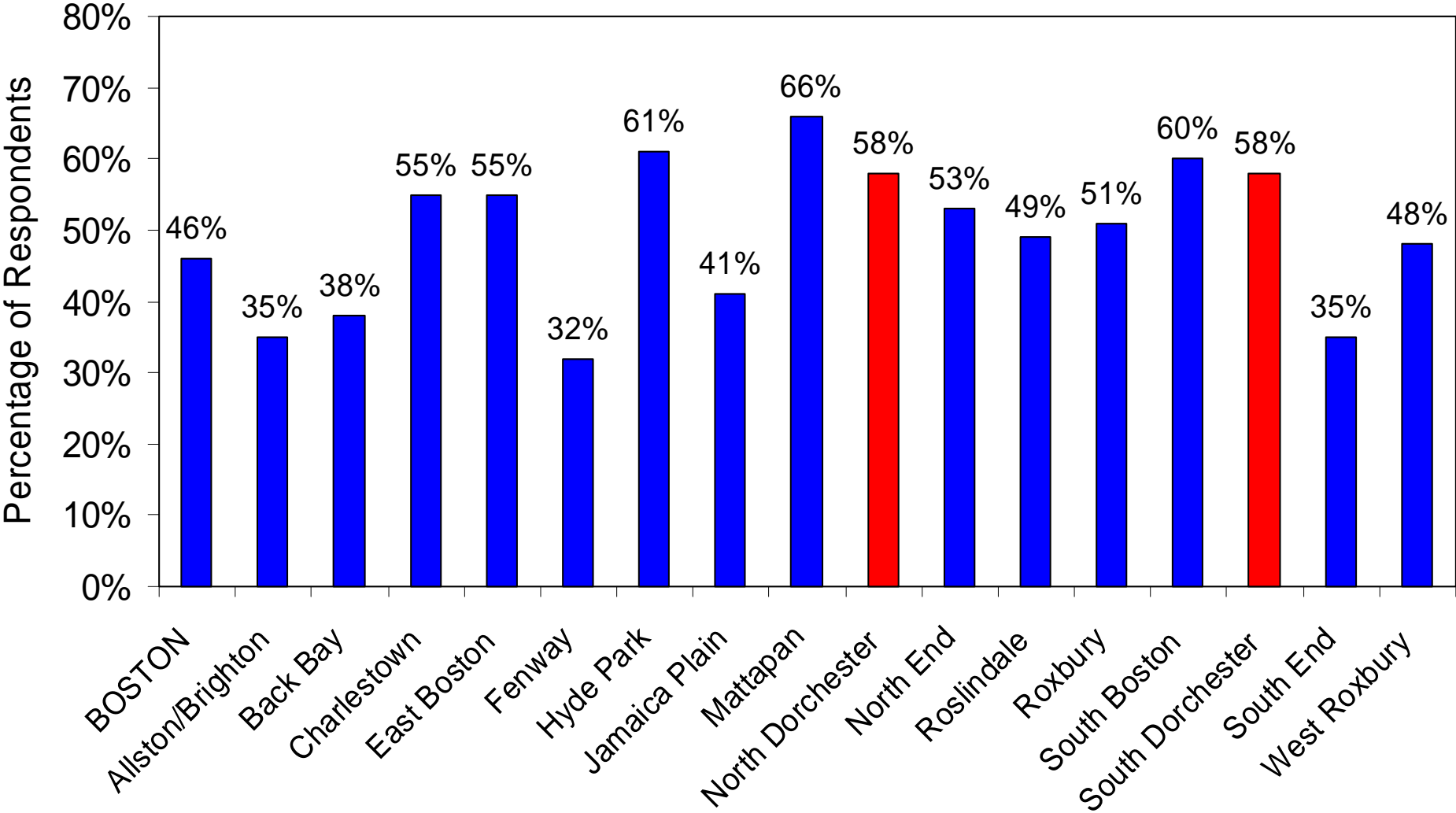


DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office



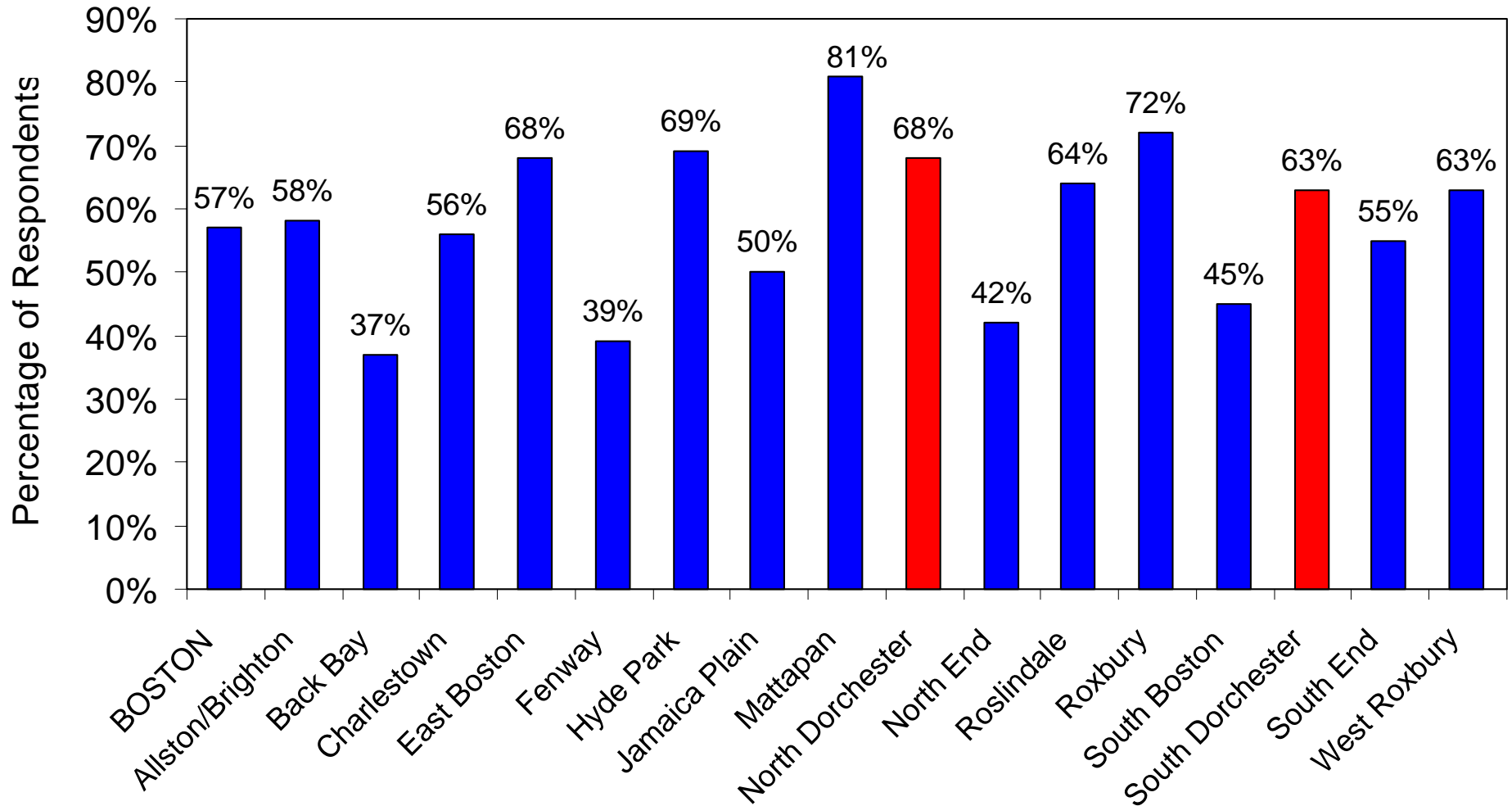
# Selected BFRSS Results

# Overweight/Obese Adults by Neighborhood Boston, 1999 and 2001



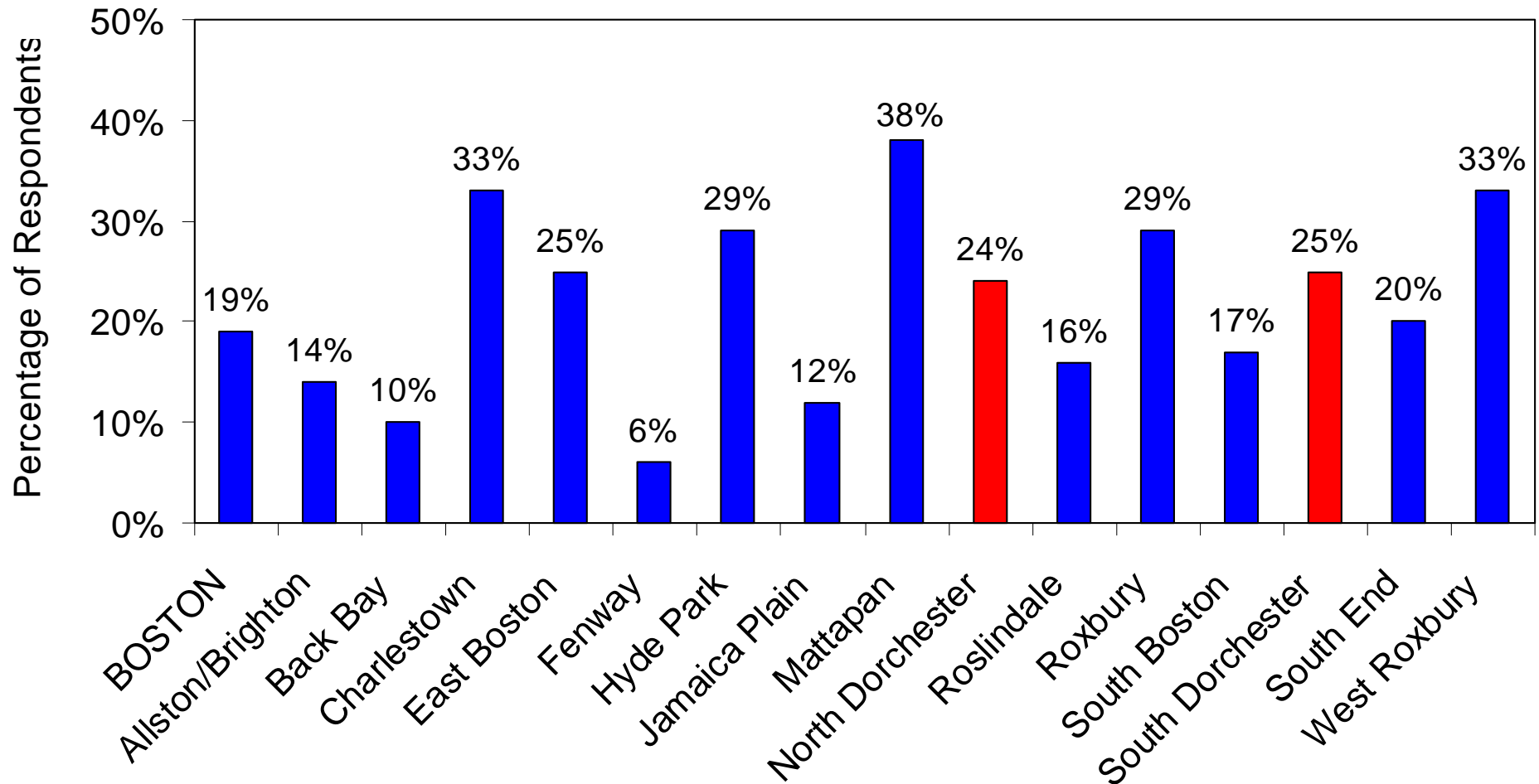
DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
 DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Inadequate Physical Activity by Neighborhood, Boston, 2001



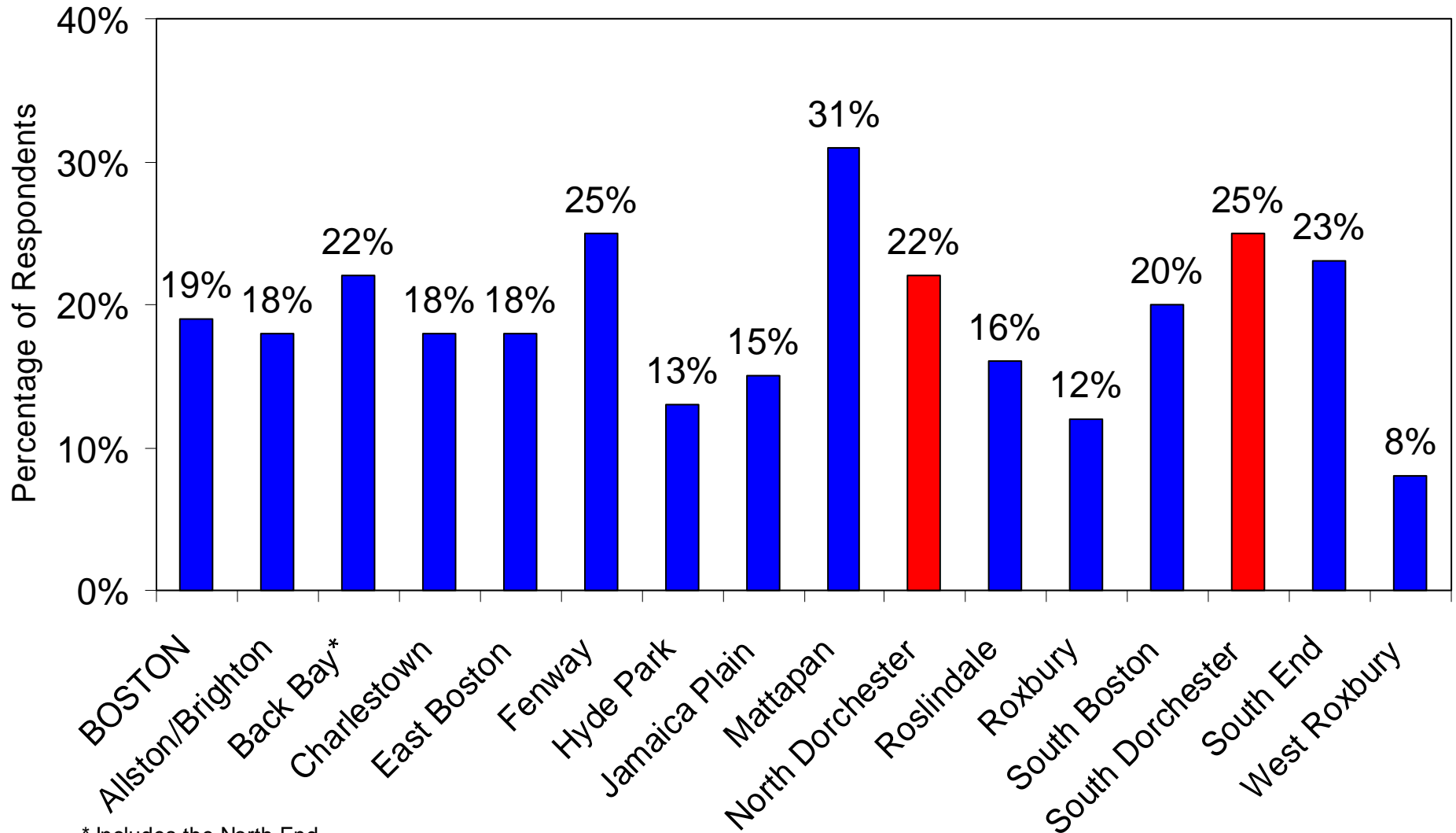
DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# High Blood Pressure Among Adults by Neighborhood, Boston, 1999 and 2001



DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Adults Who Are Current Smokers by Neighborhood, Boston, 1999-2001



\* Includes the North End

DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Surveillance Survey, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Boston Public Health Commission

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

# Summary

## **DORCHESTER: SUMMARY of MAJOR FINDINGS**

Dorchester is a racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood where 22% of Boston residents live.

**Mortality:** Between 1991 and 2000, mortality rates among Dorchester residents declined from 1,054 deaths per 100,000 population to 927 deaths per 100,000, a decrease of 12%. The mortality rate for Dorchester residents in 2000 was the third lowest during the 10-year period.

**Heart Disease Mortality, Dorchester Communities:** In 2000, the heart disease age-adjusted mortality rate for Codman Square/Franklin Field (175 deaths per 100,000 population) was 20% lower than the rate for Boston overall (219 deaths per 100,000).

**Asthma Hospitalization Rates for Children Under Age 5:** Between 1994 and 2000, the asthma hospitalization rate for Dorchester children under age 5 declined 29%, from 17 hospitalizations per 1,000 population to 12 hospitalizations per 1,000.

**Infant Mortality Rates:** Between 1991 and 1999, the infant mortality rate for Dorchester declined 11%, from 9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to 8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

## **Challenges**

**Cancer Mortality:** For 2000, the cancer mortality age-adjusted rate for Dorchester residents (236 deaths per 100,000 population) was 7% higher than the Boston rate (221 deaths per 100,000).

**Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** During 1996-2000, the Dorchester IMR (9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) was 27% higher than the Boston IMR (7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births).

**Incidence Rate of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD):** In 2000, the STD incidence rate for Dorchester (1,282 new cases per 100,000 population) was 78% higher than the Boston rate (721 new case per 100,000).

**Violence-Related Injuries:** Twenty-two percent of Boston's population lives in Dorchester, but 41% of Boston victims of violence-related gunshot and sharp instrument injuries during 1998-2001 were Dorchester residents.

**Asthma Hospitalization Rates for Children Under Age 5:** During 1999-2000, the asthma hospitalization for children under age 5 in Dorchester (12 hospitalizations per 1,000 population) was 50% higher than the Boston rate (8 hospitalizations per 1,000).