



Race and the Elimination of Health Disparities in the City of Boston

Promoting the health of the underserved

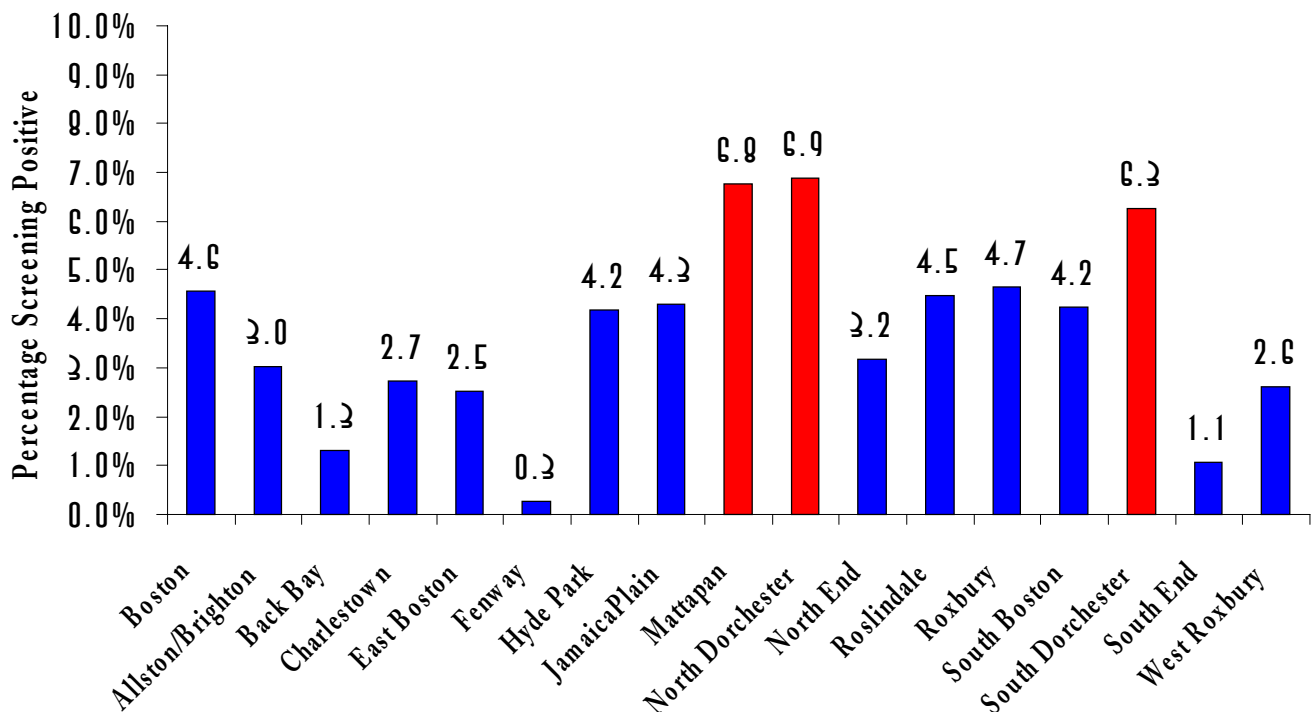
John F. Kennedy Library
Friday, June 28, 2002

Boston Public Health Commission
Thomas M. Menino, Mayor

Blood Lead Levels

The Boston neighborhoods with the largest Black populations also have the highest percentages of children with elevated blood lead levels.

Elevated Blood Lead Levels by Neighborhood, Boston, 2001



*Blood lead level of 10ug/dl or higher

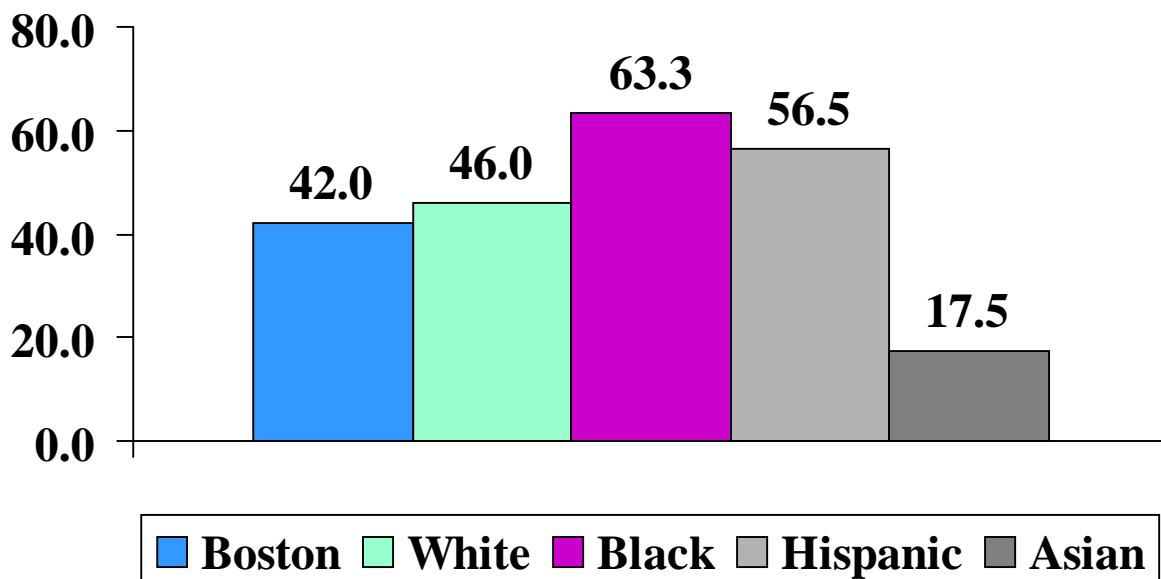
SOURCE: Lead Screening Data, Boston Public Health Commission Office of Environmental Health

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Office of Environmental Health

Body Weight

Close to two-thirds of Black adults in Boston are overweight or very overweight.

Percentage of Boston Adults Who Are Overweight or Very Overweight by Healthy People 2010 Standards

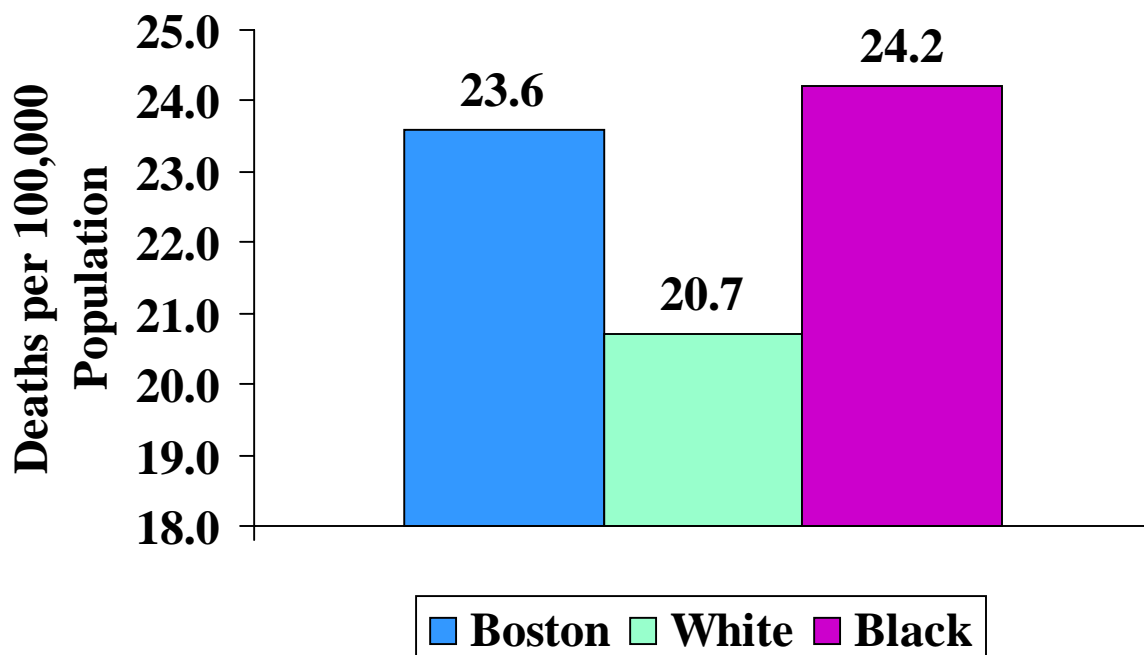


SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997 and 1999, Boston Public Health Commission and Massachusetts Department of Public Health
ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health Health Survey Program

Breast Cancer

In Boston, the rate of death from breast cancer is higher for Black women than for White women.

Breast Cancer Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Boston, 1999



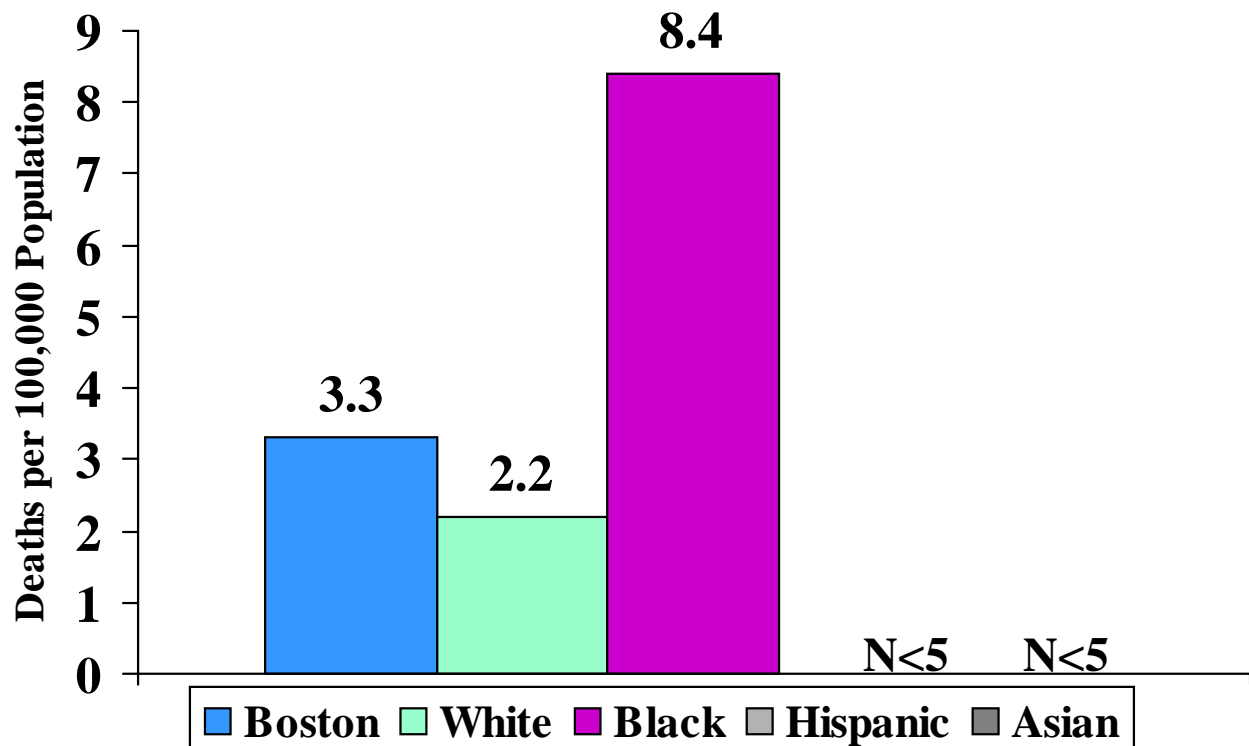
SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using MDPH 1999 preliminary population estimates for resident population
ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Cervical Cancer

Nineteen Boston women died of cervical cancer in 1999 and 2000. Eleven of them were Black.

Nearly all cervical cancer deaths can be prevented through early detection and treatment.

Cervical Cancer Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Boston, 1999-2000



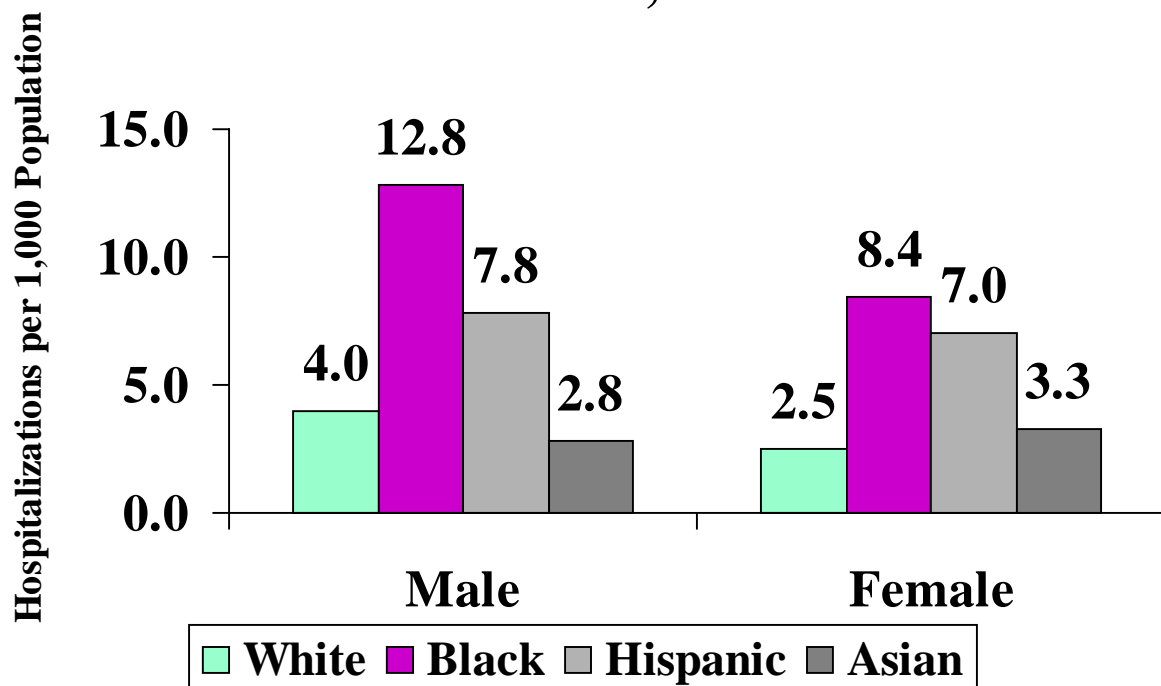
SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using MDPH 1999 preliminary population estimates and US Census 2000 for resident population.

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Childhood Asthma

Black children in Boston are hospitalized for asthma at three times the rate of White children. Hispanic children are hospitalized for asthma at twice the White rate.

Asthma Hospitalization Rates, Boston Children Under 5, 1997-2000



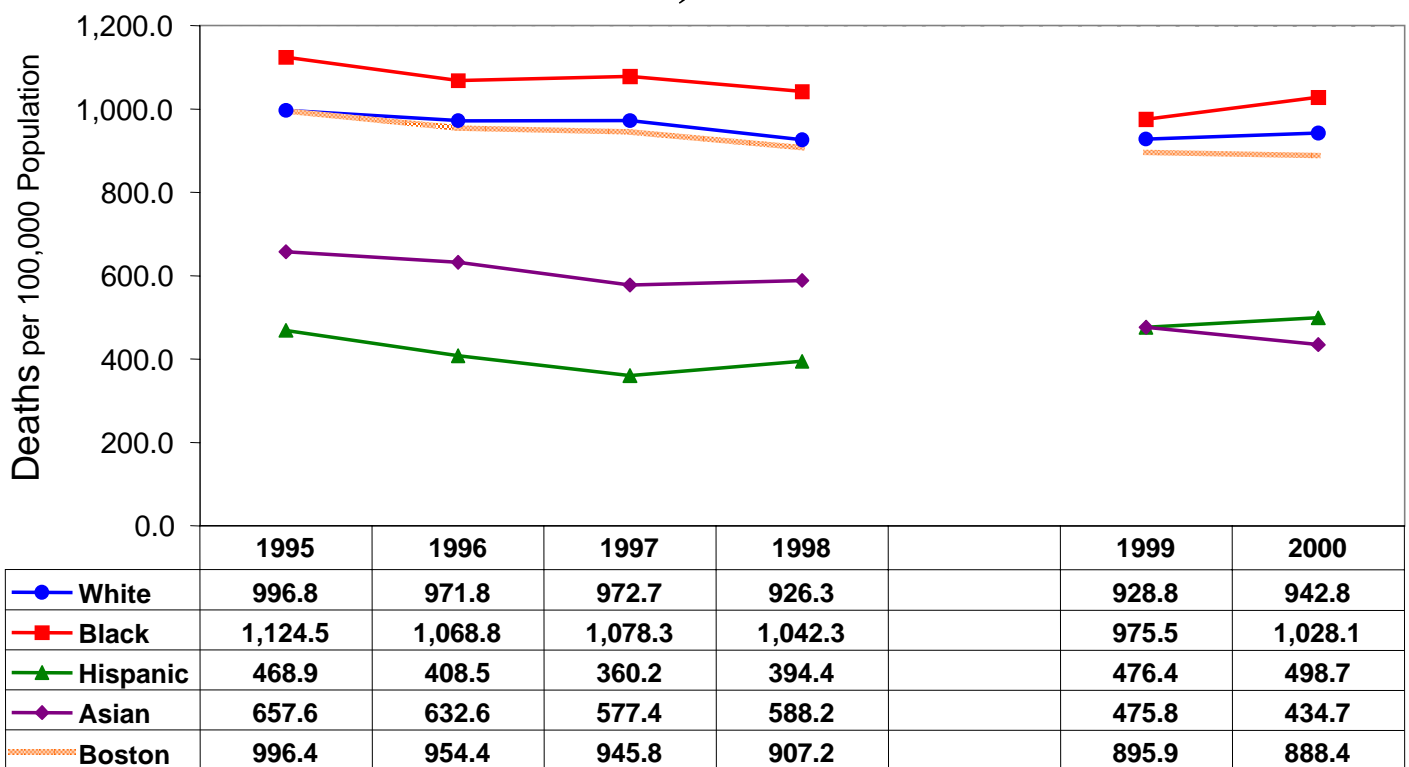
SOURCE: 1997-2000 Acute Case Mix, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Death Rates

Boston's Black community faces higher overall death rates than any of the city's other race groups.

Overall Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates Boston, 1995-2000



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

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

Diabetes

More of Boston's Black residents have diabetes, and death rates from diabetes are higher for Blacks and Hispanics than for Whites.

Percentage of Adults with Diabetes, and Diabetes Deaths per 100,000 Population, Boston

	Have Diabetes	Death Rate
Boston	3.7%	19.8
White	3.3%	15.2
Black	7.2%	33.0
Hispanic	2.3%	52.2
Asian	0.0%	n<5

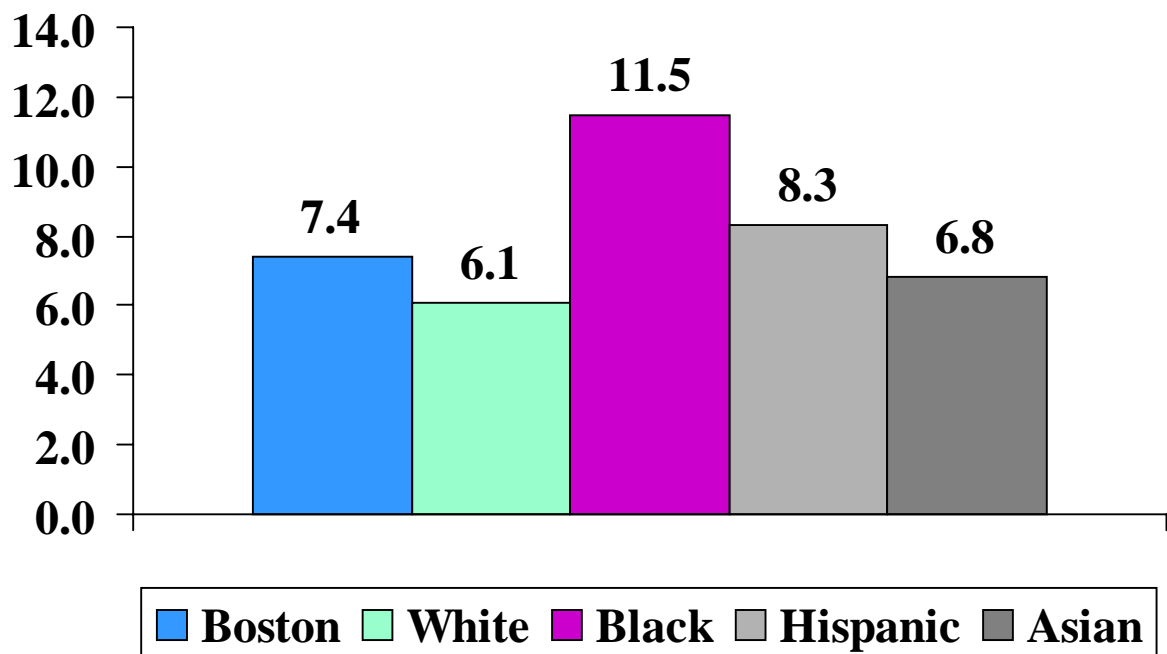
SOURCES: Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997 and 1999, Boston Public Health Commission and Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Boston resident deaths in 2000, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health Health Survey Program

Health Insurance

Higher percentages of people of color in Boston lack health insurance, compared with White residents.

Percentage of Boston Adults Without Health Insurance

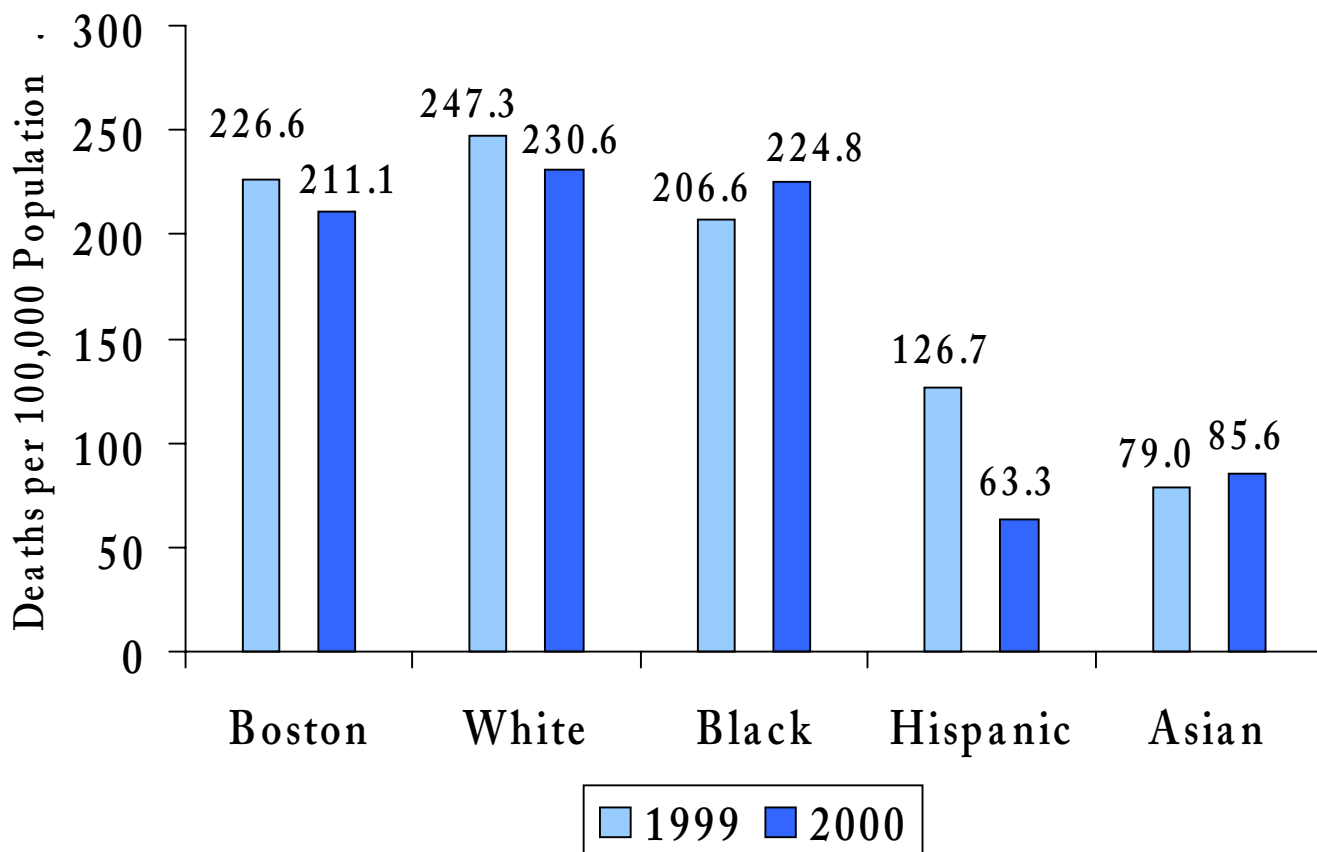


SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997 and 1999, Boston Public Health Commission and Massachusetts Department of Public Health
ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health Health Survey Program

Heart Disease

Heart disease is the second-leading cause of death for Black residents of Boston, as it is for Boston's other race groups.

Heart Disease Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Boston 1999-2000



NOTE: Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

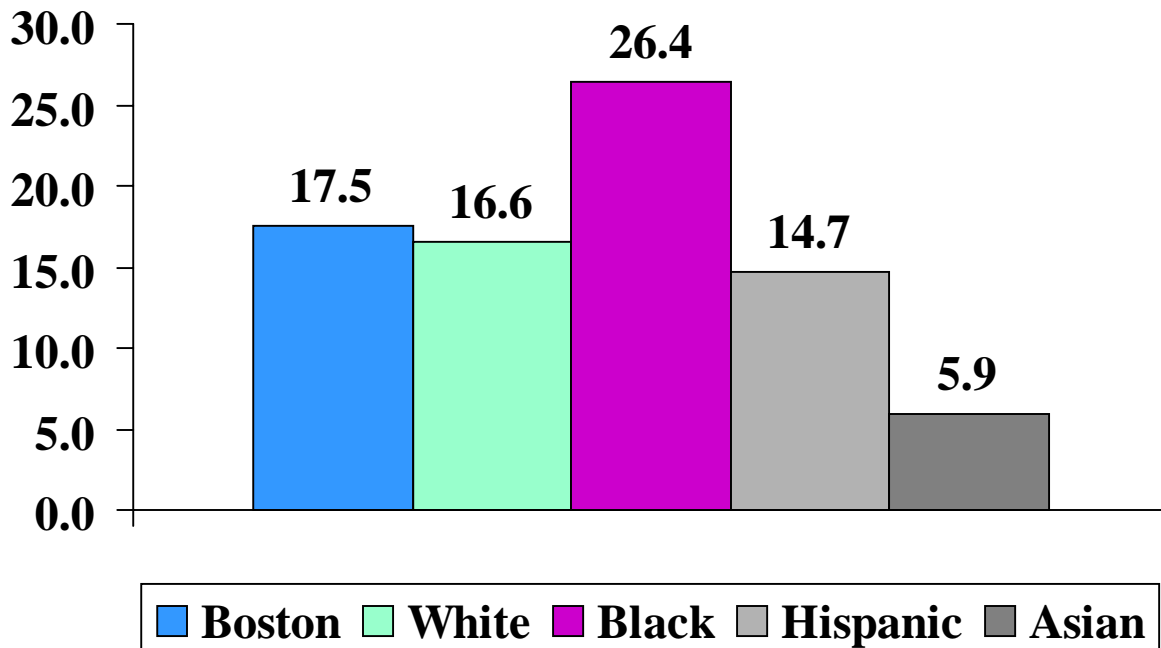
DATA SOURCES: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

High Blood Pressure

More than one in every four Black adults in Boston has hypertension (high blood pressure).

Percentage of Boston Adults Who Have High Blood Pressure

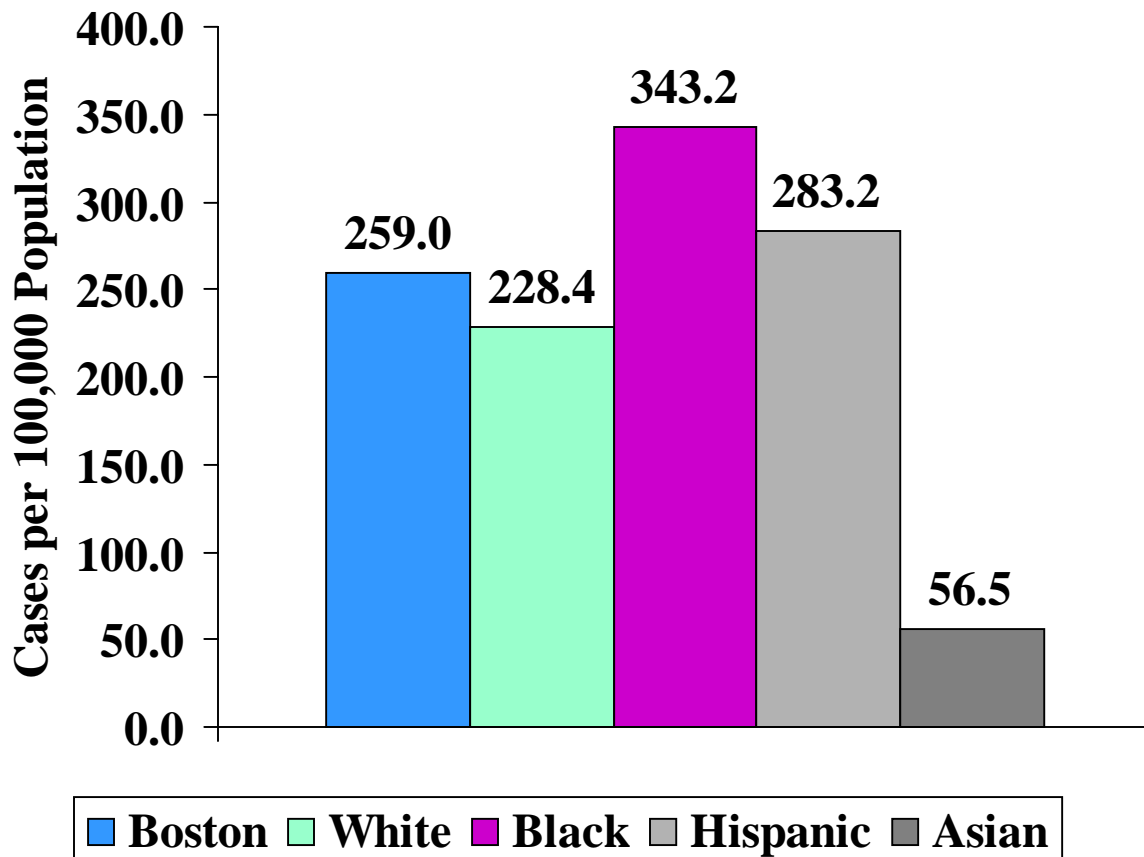


SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997 and 1999, Boston Public Health Commission and Massachusetts Department of Public Health
ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health Health Survey Program

HIV Cases

The highest number of cases of HIV per 100,000 population is in Boston's Black community.

Cumulative HIV Incidence Rate as of January 2002, Boston



NOTE: This rate counts people who are living with HIV infection.

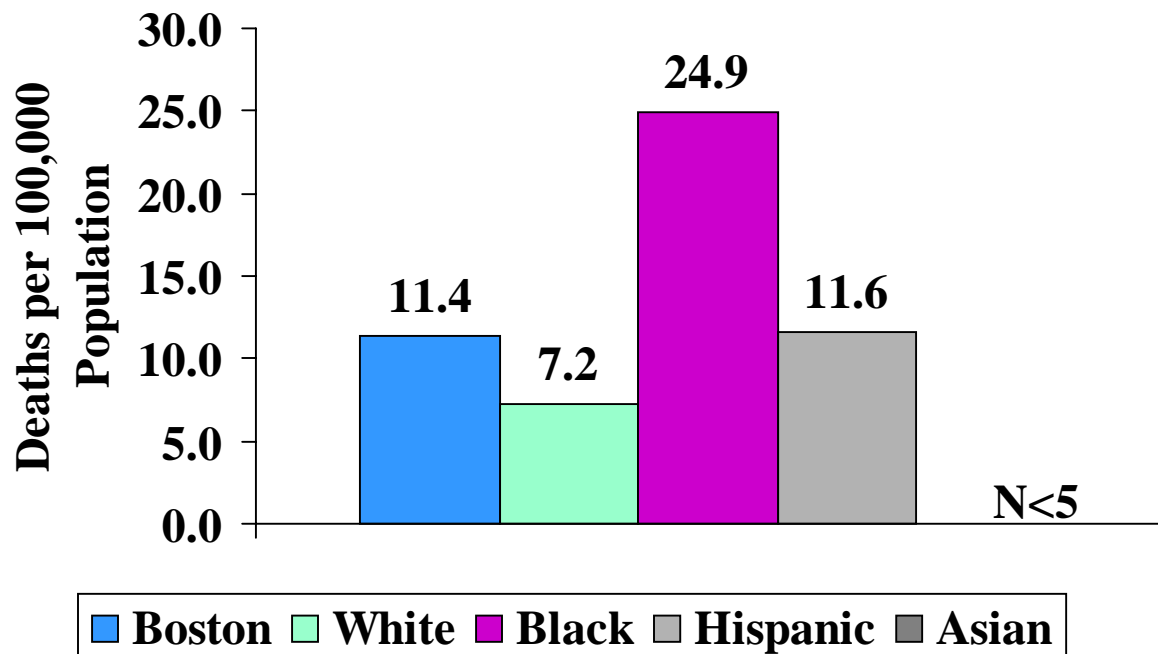
SOURCES: AIDS Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, AIDS Surveillance Program. Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office and Communicable Disease Control Division

HIV/AIDS Deaths

Black residents have the highest HIV/AIDS death rate in Boston.

HIV/AIDS Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Boston, 2000



SOURCES: AIDS Reporting System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, AIDS Surveillance Program. Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office and Communicable Disease Control Division

Hospitalizations

Most of Boston's highest hospitalization rates are in the Black community.

Hospitalizations per Thousand Population Boston, 1997-2000

Top Reasons for Hospitalization	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Injury	2.8	6.1	3.2	1.2
Heart Failure and Shock	2.5	4.7	not in top ten	not in top ten
Gastroenteritis	2.7	4.6	4.2	1.6
Bronchitis and Asthma	not in top ten	4.5	3.9	not in top ten
Uterine Procedures	not in top ten	4.4	not in top ten	1.4
Chest Pain	2.2	3.4	4.4	not in top ten
Psychoses	4.2	not in top ten	1.4	1.4

NOTE: These rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

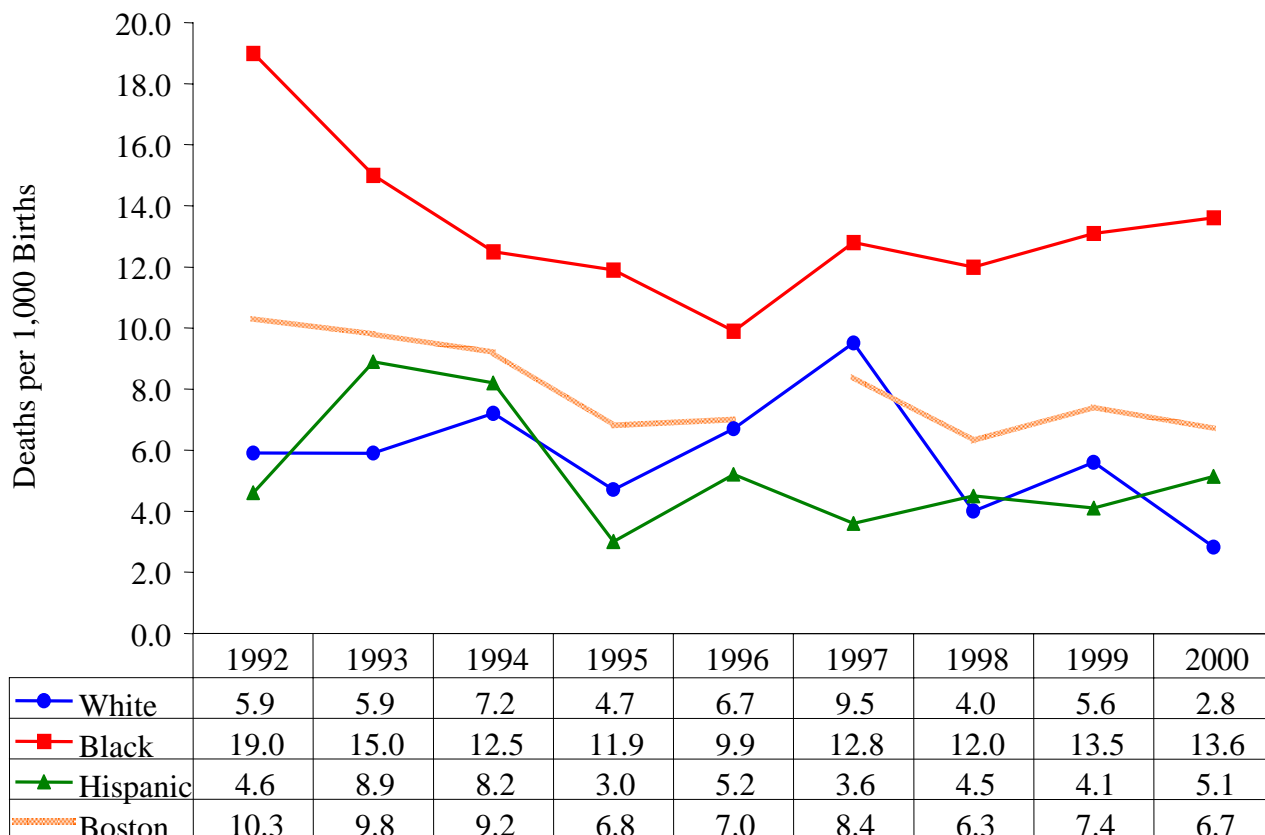
SOURCE: 1997-2000 Acute Case Mix, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Infant Mortality

In 2000, for every White infant who died during the first year of life, there were five Black infant deaths.

Boston Infant Mortality, 1992-2000



NOTE: The 1998 IMR for Black infants includes 4 deaths reported late.

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

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Prostate Cancer

In Boston, the prostate cancer death rate among Black men is two-and-a-half times that of White men.

Prostate Cancer Deaths per 100,000 Population Age-Adjusted Rates, Boston, 1999

	Rate
Boston	33.1
White	27.5
Black	71.4

NOTES: Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Too few prostate cancer deaths occurred among Hispanic and Asian men in 1999 to permit the calculation of rates.

SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission Research Office

Weight at Birth

The average healthy newborn weighs about 7.5 pounds.

Very small babies are at increased risk of illness and death.

Many more Black infants are born very small than infants of other race groups.

Boston Births by Birthweight, 1996-2000

	Less Than 1.1 lbs	Less Than 3.3 Lbs	Less Than 5.5 Lbs
White	0.1%	1.0%	6.4%
Black	0.4%	3.4%	12.7%
Hispanic	0.2%	1.5%	7.9%
Asian	0.1%	0.7%	6.7%
Other	0.2%	1.7%	8.0%

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