



2022

FISCAL YEAR | **ANNUAL REPORT**

Boston Public Health Commission

July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022



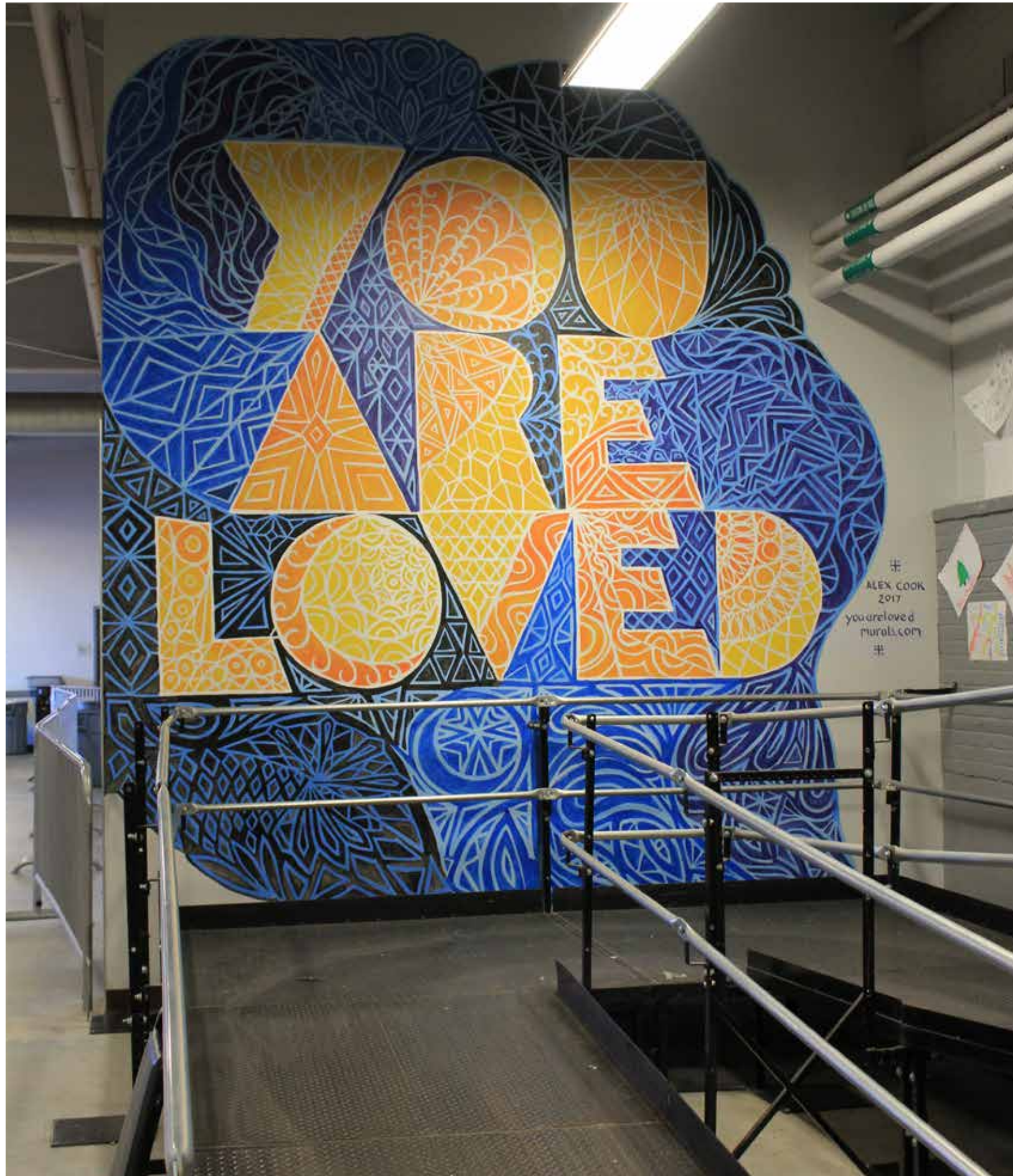


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LETTER FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health, the City of Boston

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the FY 2022 Annual Report of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), reflecting our collective efforts to promote the health and well-being of the residents of our remarkable city. As we reflect on the year's challenges and triumphs, we are grateful for the support of our stakeholders and the dedication of our team.

At the heart of our mission is an unwavering commitment to equity, ensuring that all individuals have equal access to opportunities for health and well-being. Looking forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to address the gaps and barriers that have been exposed and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the guidance of a new team and administration, we are embarking on a journey to elevate the importance of public health in the city of Boston. Recognizing that public health is at the forefront of shaping the well-being of our communities, we are working to enhance the visibility and impact of the BPHC. Through collaborative partnerships and strategic initiatives, we aim to be a leading voice in health policy, advocacy, and implementation.

Strategic planning is fundamental to our success. It allows us to set clear priorities, establish measurable goals, and track our progress towards achieving our mission. By leveraging data and engaging our stakeholders, we are developing comprehensive strategies that align with the evolving health needs of the population we serve. Recognizing the urgent need for greater behavioral and mental health support, we are proud to announce the launch of new initiatives in these areas, including the creation of a new office focused on these issues within BPHC. And in our pursuit of workplace excellence, we have launched a Workplace Improvement Initiative (WIIN), placing the well-being and professional growth of our dedicated staff at the forefront. By fostering an environment of support and empowerment, we believe that our team will be better equipped to serve the diverse needs of our community.

Finally, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to anti-racism. We acknowledge the historical and ongoing disparities in health outcomes and are dedicated to dismantling the institutional and systemic barriers that perpetuate these injustices. Our commission-wide focus on anti-racism ensures that our initiatives and programs are designed to create a more just and inclusive Boston for all.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, and dedicated team members who have contributed to our successes. The annual report is a testament to the collaborative spirit that drives us forward. As we continue our journey, we invite you to join us in creating a healthier and more equitable future for the residents of Boston.

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu



MISSION STATEMENT

To protect, preserve and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

CORE VALUES

Note: New values were established at the end of FY22 will be reflected in the FY23 report.

Equity: We invest in our communities and equitably distribute resources. We examine historical and present-day systems and challenge multiple forms of oppression.

Collaboration: We practice collaboration by building and maintaining authentic and inclusive partnerships. We engage multiple stakeholders, practice teamwork, and value everyone to accomplish shared goals.

Anti-Racism: We fight against internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic racism and commit to anti-racism as an action. We develop policies and implement strategies that value and support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

People-centered: We invest in our employees and provide resources for them to thrive. We uphold policies with compassion and respect every person's dignity to build a culture of belonging.

COVID-19 Response

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) worked in collaboration with various city departments to plan and execute key response and recovery activities to combat COVID-19 and move towards recovery. COVID-19 presented new challenges and uncertainties, requiring BPHC staff to collaborate across public health service centers and bureaus to lead Boston's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Activities. The staff of BPHC rose to meet these challenges and uncertainties, supporting the health and well-being of Bostonians while addressing health inequities.

To ensure information and resources reached all residents, BPHC programs organized **Public Awareness Campaigns and Events** through multilingual campaigns, community and clinical partnerships, and direct outreach efforts. These events included testing and vaccine clinics held throughout the city.

The **Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP)**, in collaboration with **Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**, the **Infectious Disease Bureau (IDB)** and external partners, supported approximately 70 vaccination clinics in FY22, administering approximately 4,000 vaccinations with health consultation provided in six languages. Boston EMS also coordinated over 40 mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the pandemic. These clinics, held in partnership with organizations such as the Boston Housing Association, Immigrant Family Services Institute, Boston Public Schools, and the Red Cross Food Bank, resulted in the administration of 1,840 vaccinations by Boston EMS EMTs and Paramedics.



The **Back to School Vaccination Initiative** involved coordination with 13 partners to host family vaccination clinics across the City of Boston. These clinics aimed to encourage pediatric and family vaccinations and create a family-friendly environment by providing additional services such as gift cards, raffle prizes, and food.

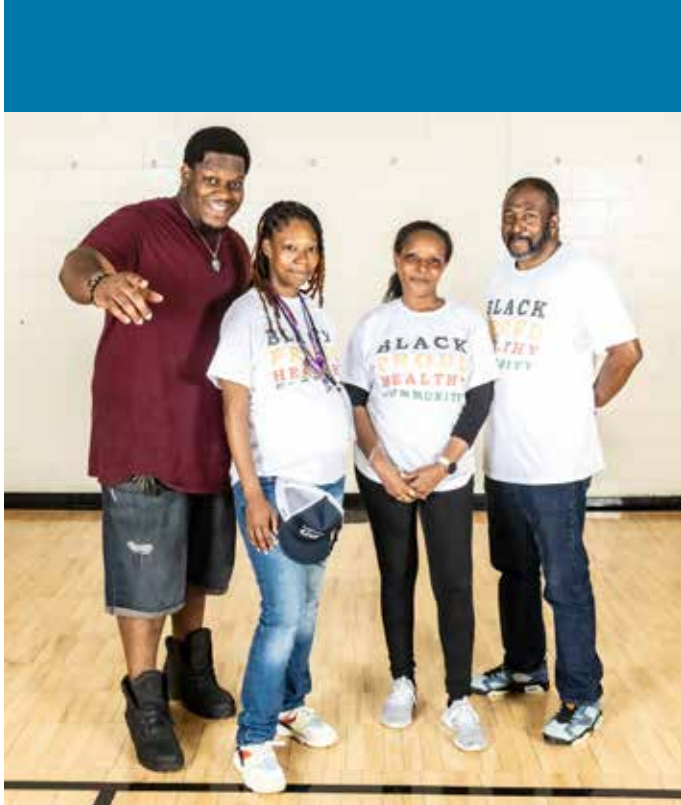
Vaccine clinics specifically for the Boston Fire Department were launched by the Office of Public Health Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, and the Infectious Disease Bureau. The clinics, conducted between December 2021 and February 2022, vaccinated Boston Fire Department personnel. The **Day of HOPE** events provided city-wide opportunities to mourn those lost to COVID-19 and celebrate the renewed ability to be together as a community. These events featured mobile vaccination and testing, incentives for vaccination, food trucks, and diverse cultural performances.

OPHP collaborated with public health and healthcare partners through the **Boston Healthcare Preparedness Coalition** to provide feedback on the system-level COVID response to the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management Listening Session for Statewide Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions. OPHP also held convenings with partners to discuss unmet resident needs expected in the aftermath of the pandemic. **The Community Resilience Network**, comprising community, faith-based, and social service organizations serving Boston communities, is envisioned as a long-term partner in planning and implementing COVID-19 recovery strategies.



In addition to these initiatives, various BPHC bureaus, service centers and programs carried out other COVID-related activities:

- The Community Initiatives Bureau continued its work in chronic disease prevention and management, access to healthcare, and the enforcement of health regulations.
- The Mayor's Health Line responded to over 10,000 calls regarding COVID-19 and health insurance, while also assisting individuals with SNAP benefit applications.
- The Men's Health Initiative provided personal protective equipment (PPE) and at-home COVID test kits to MHI clients in the community.
- The Health Resource Center (HRC) received funding to hire youth COVID Vaccine Ambassadors that empowered 18 young people to educate their peers and communities about how to prevent infection by the COVID-19 virus.



Reducing Health Inequities

Boston's residents are majority people of color, and Boston continues to be identified as one of the nation's most racially segregated cities. There are persistent inequalities in health outcomes for Black and Latinx Bostonians compared to white Bostonians—and large difference in health outcomes by zip code. This is true for many health indicators, including: birth outcomes, asthma, diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic conditions.

In June 2020, the City of Boston declared racism a public health crisis. BPHC's current strategic plan identifies racial justice and health equity as one of our top priorities. Among the most significant actions that BPHC has taken to address and reduce health inequities in the previous year are:

Working with city and community partners to carry out Boston's Health Equity Now Plan:

Released in July of 2021 and developed by a broad-based community task-force, the Health Equity Now Plan seeks to integrate city planning and issues of health by examining the impact of social determinants of health on health, wellness, and economic equity. The plan outlines a path forward for the City of Boston to foster wellness, equity, and inclusion—setting goals and strategies in such areas as increasing awareness of racism and inequity, providing meaningful employment and a living wage for all, eliminating food insecurity, and promoting active living.

Using data to better understand the impact of racism and health inequities and craft solutions:

Our research and evaluation office (SciTech) analyzed results from the 2021 Boston Behavioral

Risk Factor Surveillance System, a survey of approximately 3,000 adult Boston residents, to learn more about residents' experiences in conjunction with social determinants of health and experiences of racism. This analysis included racism's impact on mental and physical health, racial differences among residents providing unpaid caregiving to family or friends, and racial differences in homelessness. For example, looking at census tracts, there was a 23-year difference in life expectancy between a census tract in Roxbury (68.8 years) and one in the Back Bay (91.6 years). In 2021, heart disease mortality was 37% higher for Black residents (158.5) compared to White residents (115.6).

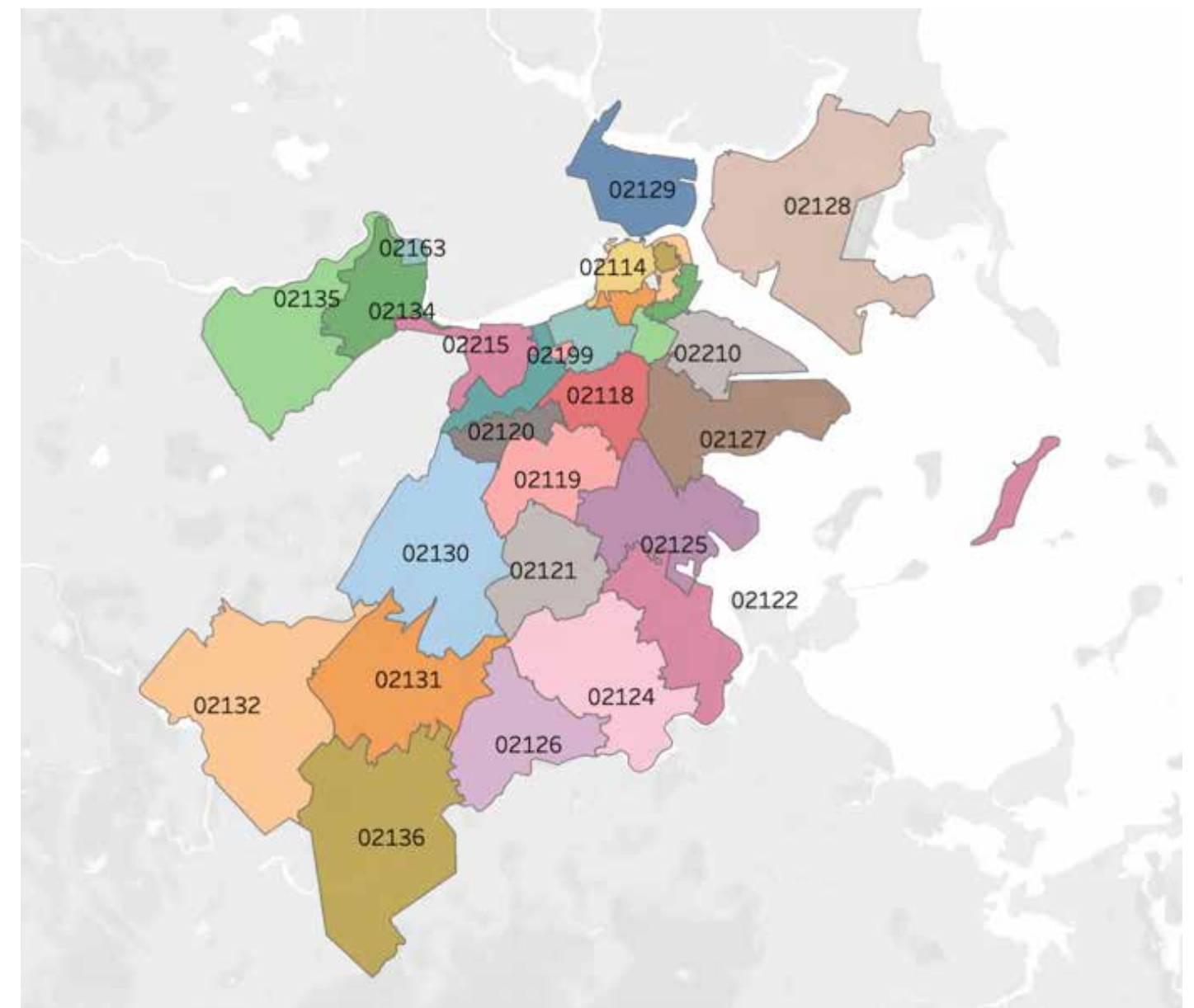
Incorporating racial equity into health improvement programs:

Across a wide range of community health programs, BPHC is working to address racial inequities in health outcomes. For example, BPHC is one of 10 organizations across the country awarded federal funding to address policies that may either create or perpetuate health disparities and contribute to structural racism.

Understanding that structural racism is a root cause of homelessness, BPHC will use the funding to address the policies and practices that are contributing to inequity in housing status.

Strengthening BPHC's internal capacity to address racism and health inequities: Led by BPHC's Office of Racial Equity and Community Engagement, we have undertaken several activities to strengthen BPHC's internal capacity to do this work effectively. These include: improving the quality of our educational materials offered in multiple languages, working with the BPHC's Racial Health Equity Advisory Committee to develop core values (like transparency and collaboration) to guide BPHC's decision-making and actions, helping our programs gather data to better understand the needs of Boston residents using our services and ensure equity in the provision of services, ensuring that all BPHC staff receive high-quality training around racism and public health, and supporting BPHC leadership so that our workforce reflects the extraordinary diversity and talent of Boston residents.

Boston has powerful strengths and assets to draw on in tackling these inequities. In the spirit of partnership and problem-solving, we are pursuing collaborative initiatives to address racial inequities in health and the social determinants of health. Some of this work is unique, innovative, and visionary—such as our work on unsheltered homelessness, which the US Interagency Council on Homelessness has singled out as a model from which other cities can learn.





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Workplace Improvement Initiative (WIIN) and Workforce Development

In the fall of 2021, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) administration prioritized workplace wellness improvements to address the challenges faced by the Public Health workforce due to the COVID-19 pandemic, starting the Workplace Improvement Initiative (WIIN). Strengthening the workforce and building the public health infrastructure for the City of Boston were the key objectives, with a focus on efforts to improve compensation and benefits, wellness, staff engagement and appreciation, professional development, and safety, as well as addressing diversity, equity and inclusion across these areas. Initiatives were implemented to support staff, increase retention, improve morale, and expand recruitment across all programs. The following key projects were undertaken to achieve these goals:

1. Consortium for Professional Development: The consortium expanded and focused on providing professional development opportunities to staff, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their roles.
2. Emerging Leaders Program: Under the Consortium, this program identified and nurtured emerging leaders within the BPHC workforce, providing them with mentorship and training to prepare them for future leadership roles.
3. Staff Appreciation Events: Regular staff appreciation events were organized to recognize the hard work and dedication of BPHC employees, fostering a positive work culture.
4. Workplace Wellness Activities: BPHC implemented various wellness activities aimed at promoting the physical and mental well-being of the workforce. These activities aimed to reduce stress, improve work-life balance, and create a supportive environment.

The goals of these WIIN efforts are a strengthened work environment, motivated staff, and increased job satisfaction, ultimately improving the overall workplace at BPHC.



Addressing Homelessness and Unsheltered Status Throughout Boston

BPHC’s initiatives to address homelessness and unsheltered status throughout the city are led by our Homeless Services Bureau in partnership with our Recovery Services Bureau and a range of other city and private organizations. BPHC provides emergency shelter, housing, workforce development, and behavioral health services to those experiencing a crisis of homelessness. Our goal is to make homelessness in Boston rare, brief, and one-time.

Meeting the Needs of Individuals Living in Encampments

In recent years, the opioid epidemic, the housing crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to **an increase in those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the (in the Newmarket Square area) known as Mass and Cass.** To address these intersecting crises, in January 2022, the city carried out a public health-led emergency response to the encampments in the area. In collaboration with state and local partners the city opened six low threshold spaces throughout the city. These spaces included low threshold beds at 112 Southamptton Street Shelter for 25 previously unsheltered males who use drugs and 24 beds within the BPHC’s Woods Mullins Shelter operated by St. Francis House for women experiencing substance use disorder.

Emergency Shelter

The Homeless Services Bureau runs two emergency shelters, which operate 24 hours a day 365 days a year and provide guests with a bed, linens, showers, and three meals a day. These services are heavily used, reflecting the continued burden of homelessness on people in the Boston area and beyond.

Requirements for entry is limited or minimal, we do not require sobriety, compliance with treatment plan or protocol, identification or proof of citizenship, or background or criminal checks. In the calendar year 2022, the Woods Mullen shelter for women had 995 individual guests, a 28 percent increase from the previous year. The Southampton Street shelter for men had 2,785 individual guests that year, up seven percent from the previous year. Approximately 40 percent of guests in the shelters reported a last permanent address outside Boston, indicating the critical role that BPHC’s services play in addressing the statewide homelessness crisis.

Housing: Making Homelessness Rare, Brief and One-Time

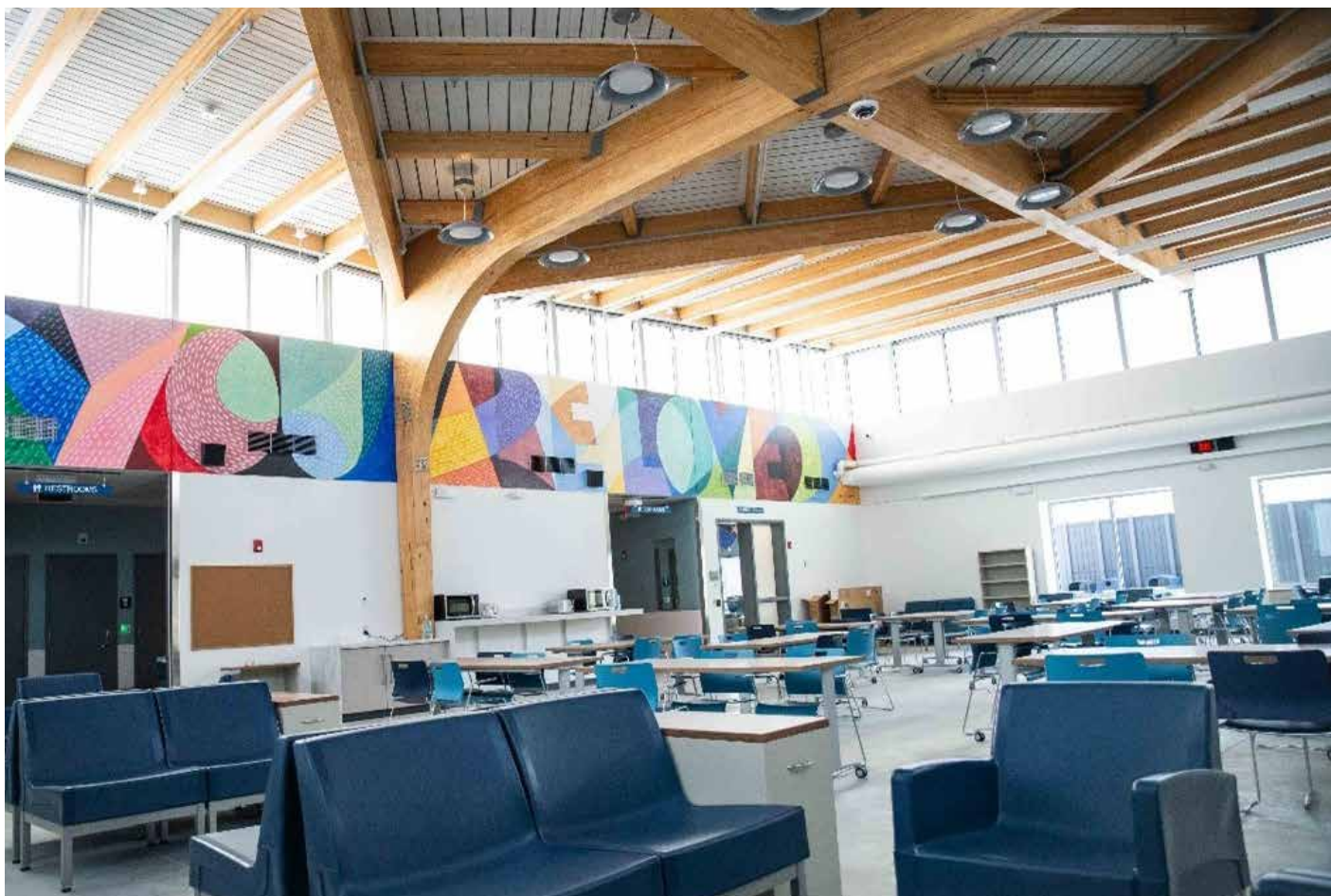
The BPHC CARES Housing Program started through a federal COVID relief grant. Unlike many housing programs, with lengthy eligibility criteria and waiting lists, CARES was designed based on a rapid re-housing, Housing First model which aims to immediately place individuals in housing and provide support services to help participants build successful tenancies, increase their income, and where needed, transition to permanent housing subsidies. Our Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs provide more robust rental subsidies and rental assistance.

Combined we provide some form of stabilization and rental assistance to 350 individuals. Friends of Boston Homeless has enabled program success by facilitating the provision of upfront housing costs, such as first, last, and security deposit, which are a significant barrier for homeless individuals looking to access housing.

Additionally, Friends administers monthly housing assistance for those needing ongoing housing assistance and supports transition into housing by assisting with furniture and essential household goods.

In FY22 we have successfully placed 332 people into housing, approximately 90% of whom remain in housing today.





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Addressing Substance Use Disorder

The Office of Recovery Services and the Recovery Services Bureau work together with Homeless Services Bureau, the state, city, and numerous community partners to address substance use disorder in Boston.

The Engagement Center

In December 2021, the new Engagement Center building opened in the Newmarket Square neighborhood. The new building improves upon the previous tent structure to provide a more welcoming daytime space for individuals navigating homelessness and substance use to access resources; engage in recovery, behavioral health, and homeless services; and receive nursing care and medical support.

The Engagement Center provides basic amenities like food, showers, and phone charging stations. Services include referrals to social services and an on-site clinic. The on-site clinic is supported by medical staff from Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program. This past year, services were added to assist clients with obtaining IDs, legal support, housing referrals and drop-in hours with the Department of Mental Health.

Nubian Engagement Team

In FY22 BPHC piloted a community engagement team based in the Nubian Square area of Roxbury, a direct response to the community expressing need for the program. The team provides recovery and service referrals to people on the street, and acts as a liaison between businesses, residents, and the city. An advisory group guides the team, consisting of faith-based leaders and representatives from businesses, nonprofits, and police.

During FY22, the team had 12,831 interactions with individuals and 1462 with businesses. Community engagement workers conducted 77 hours of recovery coaching and motivational interviewing. They made 475 referrals, of which 232 were for SUD services and 106 were housing-related. Qualitative data illustrates how the team builds relationships in the community, provides emotional support, and de-escalated tense situations.

Harm Reduction Work, Narcan Distribution

In 2021 there were 8.8% more fatal opioid overdoses in Massachusetts compared to 2020. Recovery Services provides overdose prevention trainings to groups and individuals. In FY22 we trained 959 individuals online and conducted 170 in-person trainings serving 3,584 individuals.

Post Overdose Response Team (PORT)

A partnership between BPHC, BFD, and EMS. A team that consists of drug user health experts and firefighters visit the homes of individuals that were affected by narcotic-related incidents. We completed 296 home visits in FY22. These visits resulted in distribution of Naloxone, connections to resources, and access to treatment.

Mental Health as a Public Health Crisis

Recognizing the importance of mental, emotional, and behavioral health at every stage of life, the BPHC worked collaboratively with various stakeholders to promote and improve mental health and wellness for the residents of Boston. Key highlights in this area include:

COVID-19 Health Equity Survey: The survey revealed disparities in behavioral and mental health outcomes among people of color. These findings served as a basis for developing a comprehensive citywide approach to address behavioral health and behavioral health equity.



Hiring city's first Chief Behavioral Health Officer:

BPHC hired the City's first Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Dr. Kevin M. Simon. This was an important step in the ongoing work to meet Bostonians' health needs, address longstanding gaps in access, and elevate mental and behavioral health as a Citywide priority. This is even more critical as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated mental health needs of Boston residents related to social isolation, psychological impact of quarantine, grief, and financial loss and insecurity.

Establishing the Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness:

Established in 2022, the center serves as a centralized office within BPHC to provide resources, services, and relief to all Bostonians in need. It works in coordination with other BPHC programs and City of Boston departments to ensure accessibility and effectiveness of behavioral health programs.

For more information about the Center:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/mental-and-emotional-health>



The Center focuses on three initial priorities:

- a. Workforce Strategies: Recruitment, expansion, and training of a diverse, culturally competent, and trauma-informed behavioral health workforce that reflects the diversity of Boston communities.
- b. Communication: Public communications campaigns addressing stigma, offering skills to address behavioral health issues, and acknowledging historic and ongoing barriers to care, with a specific focus on youth behavioral health.
- c. Capacity Building and Training: Collaborative programs with community partners to provide behavioral health training and capacity building across Boston.

These efforts aim to improve access to behavioral health services, reduce stigma, and ensure the availability of culturally sensitive care.

Engaging Youth

BPHC is committed to promoting the physical, social, and emotional health of young people in Boston to foster academic success, community leadership, and future health. BPHC implemented several programs to advance youth health in fiscal year 2022.

1) Reproductive and Sexual Health:

- a. School Based Health Centers provided reproductive health services to all Boston Public Schools (BPS) students through in-school and telehealth services, ensuring easy and equitable access to vital preventative care. Students had over 420 reproductive health visits.
- b. Start Strong's Real Love Real Talk Podcast reached over 320 listeners, providing valuable information on various topics relevant to youth, including sexual health and substance use.

2) Substance Use and Misuse Prevention:

- a. The Youth Prevention Program trained 83 providers and 125 youth educators on substance use prevention. It also established the Youth Prevention Advisory Board (YPAB) and Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to engage youth as advisors, ambassadors, and advocates for substance use prevention.
- b. CopeCode Club is a prevention campaign focused on improving positive coping skills. The campaign utilized social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok to engage youth, families, and organizations. It generated impressive reach, with 2,969,777 impressions, 36,579 clicks, and reaching 3,053 social media accounts.

3) Youth Mental Health:

- a. School Based Health Centers provided behavioral health services to all Boston Public Schools (BPS) students through in-school and telehealth services, ensuring easy access to vital healthcare resources. Students had over 2,336 visits with behavioral health professionals.
- b. Health Resources Centers provided the "Breaking Free From Depression" behavioral health curriculum to over 379 students in five schools.

These initiatives contributed to the overall well-being of Boston's youth and provided them with the necessary resources and support for a healthy and successful future.



Other Notable Initiatives:

Apart from the focus areas mentioned above, BPHC undertook several other notable initiatives to address the diverse needs of the Boston community. Some of these initiatives included:

1. Neighborhood Trauma Team Network: The program provided victim support to 97% (126 incidents) of gun/stabbing-related incidents city-wide. It offered safe housing assistance, temporary relocation, and housing for survivors who felt unsafe in their neighborhoods.
2. School Food Pantry: The Youth Development Network staff and youth at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School organized the first-ever in-school food pantry. Over 200 grocery bags were stocked, and YDN staff assisted in delivering groceries to school families who were not mobile.
3. Educational Program for Homeless Young Adults: The Homeless Services Bureau Young Adult coordinator collaborated with the Boston Day and Evening Academy to establish an educational program within BPS for young adult students experiencing homelessness. The program also partnered with PAATHS to assist clients in accessing substance abuse treatment.

Recognition Awards and Achievements



Nikysha Harding, Director of Tobacco Control, Community Initiatives Bureau:

- **Shattuck Award-**
As the Director of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program for the Boston Public Health Commission, Nikysha Harding was honored for her work to protect and educate people about the dangers of smoking and vaping.

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Public Health Commissioner:

- **Massachusetts Public Health Association -** Catalyst for Justice Award (co-awarded with Mayor Michelle Wu)
- **National Society of Black Engineers –** Trailblazer Award
- **Boston Magazine –** 100 Most Influential Bostonians
- **COLOR Magazine –** STEM Innovator



Grant Awards:

The Ryan White Services Division within the Infectious Disease Bureau was awarded \$15,500,000 per year for three years from Health Resources and Services Administration.

The Chronic Disease Division within the Community Initiatives Bureau received \$110,752 per year for four years from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the Motion Municipal Wellness & Leadership Initiative. Healthy Homes and Community Supports received \$700,000 core capacity funding from the CDC for the Building our Largest Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s ACT (BOLD) project to respond to the increase of Alzheimer’s and Dementia. The BOLD project will enable the Community Initiatives Bureau to produce a needs assessment and create a Citywide Strategic Plan, educate, and empower through communications, and compile, disseminate, and incorporate evidence and best practices into deliverables.

The Recovery Services Bureau received a four-year grant totaling \$637,500 from Massachusetts Department of Public Health for Responding to Adolescent and Young Adult Substance Use. The project incorporates a partnership with two community-based youth-serving agencies—one serving Boston’s Asian community, the other the city’s Allston-Brighton neighborhood—to develop and implement programming to address high-risk behaviors associated with substance use among youth and young adults.

The Homeless Services Bureau received \$753,884 from Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCH) for Rapid Rehousing programs.

The Child, Adolescent, and Family Health Bureau received critical funding for important community programs. Healthy Baby Healthy Child received \$86,020 from DPH to support their new Welcome Family program. The new program aligns with the goals of Healthy Start Systems and the overall BPHC mission by offering a one-time nurse visit that promotes maternal and infant physical and mental well-being and provide an entry point into the broader community system of

care for families with newborns. CAFH received \$252,795 from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for their School Based Health Centers. The Violence Prevention program received important funding for Opioid Affected Youth from the OJJDP for \$250,000 per year for three years.

The Office of Public Health Preparedness received \$550,000 from the Barr Foundation for Climate Change work. OPHP was also awarded five-year funding (\$275,000 per year) from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to support the DelValle Institute’s Emergency Preparedness Education and Training Center.

Conclusion:

In FY22, the BPHC administration made significant strides in workplace wellness improvements, mental health, substance use disorder, and youth-focused initiatives. These efforts have positively impacted the work environment at BPHC, enhanced the provision of behavioral health services, and empowered the youth of Boston. The dedication and commitment of the BPHC workforce, coupled with strategic partnerships and community engagement, have enabled the Commission to fulfill its mission of promoting and protecting the health of Boston residents. Looking forward, BPHC remains committed to further advancing public health and well-being in the City of Boston.

FY22 By the Numbers

This document lists key metrics accomplished by the BPHC Bureaus, Offices and programs during Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

More information about the programs can be found at:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission>

Child, Adolescent & Family Health Bureau:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/childrens-and-newborn-health>

Healthy Baby, Healthy Child (HBHC):

- 828 children received home visiting services
- 385 pregnant women received home visiting services
- 522 post-partum women received home visiting <https://www.thehallsboston.com/services>
-

Boston Healthy Start Initiative (BHSI):

- 438 children received case management
- 313 pregnant women received case management
- 256 post-partum women received case management
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Welcome Family:

- 260 new mothers received a one-time supportive home visit

Healthy Baby, Healthy Child Food Pantry (Shirley's Pantry):

- 4,991 families received food boxes

Peer Leadership Institute (PLI):

- 55 peer leaders trained to provide education
- 65 community members reached with sexual health information
- 20 8th and 9th graders trained through Winter Training Institute
- 1st annual Youth Health Summit held focused on uplifting youth voices around health topics

Boston Area Health Education Center (BAHEC):

- 116 students exposed to careers in healthcare and public health

Health Resource Center (HRC):

- 574 students received in-class health education
- 1,970 students reached via outreach events
- 432 students received in-office visits
- 45 STI tests performed
- 138 condom packs distributed

- **Start Strong:** <https://www.thehallsboston.com>
- 11 peer leaders trained to provide education
- 310 youth or providers received training on preventing teen dating violence and promoting healthy relationships
- 6 Start Strong alumni supported trainings
- Alumnus hired as Program Manager
- 13,519 viewers reached through new social media campaign

Dee Kennedy Family Justice Center (FJC):

- 7,603 individuals offered services (not unduplicated counts)
- 11% of individuals served under the age of 18

Neighborhood Trauma Team Network (NTTN):

- 88% (170 incidents) of gun or stabbing related incidents city-wide provided support
- 683 residents impacted by trauma received stabilization, short-term, or long-term support services

Violence Intervention Program (VIP):

- 185 community events held, involving 10,000 residents
- 290 community meetings held, engaging 3,500 residents and other community members

VIP Youth Organizing Institute (YOI):

- 40 youth involved in academic/summer Youth Organizing Institute
- 15 youth from YOI and 4 other youth programs planning 3rd Annual Youth RISE Rally for Gun Violence Prevention

Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI):

- 131 young adults (ages 17-24) enrolled in case management
- 81 received employment services
- 56 engaged in education services
- 69 engaged in behavioral health services

Men's Health Initiative:

- 59 clients (ages 24+) provided case management, including COVID-19 education, PPE supplies & test kits, information related to testing and vaccination, connection to testing & vaccination appointments, and dispelling popular myths and rumors related to COVID-19

Capacity Building and Training Initiative (CBTI)

- 743 constituents engaged in trauma-informed training and workshops
- 628 adults trained
- 115 youth trained

Community Health Initiatives Bureau:

Healthy Homes Division:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/healthy-homes-and-environment>

Oral Health:

- 13,500 dental supply items distributed to community organizations, a 1.3% increase from FY21
- 4,900 oral health materials and resources distributed to over 1,200 Boston residents and community partners

Tobacco Prevention & Control Program:

- 1,150 merchant inspections conducted, a 25% decrease from FY21
- 747 tobacco product sale permits permitted, a 7% increase from FY21
- 230 Youth Access violations issued, a 667% increase from FY21
- Two Smoke-free Housing trainings for affordable housing conducted with over 1,000 residents
- 200 materials distributed to Boston residents and housing managers, a decrease of 242% from FY21
- 8 secondhand smoke complaints from residents in multi-unit housing addressed, a 228% decrease from FY21

Asthma Prevention and Control Program:

- 169 Community Health Workers and supervisors trained in Asthma Home Visiting Topics
- Over 500 asthma home visits conducted in-person and virtually
- 32 residents and providers reached through community presentations and workshops
- 550 asthma educational resources distributed
- Pilot program completed with Boston Public Schools and Boston Children's Hospital to coordinate care for high-risk students with asthma
- Strategic planning process launched for the Asthma program
- Five professional asthma home visit training videos developed

Breathe Easy at Home:

- 142 referrals from clinical sites received, a 29% increase from FY21
- 350 Boston residents and providers reached through community outreach and presentations
- Referral pilot program expanded with Boston Public Schools and Boston Children's Hospital
- Partnered with the COB Energy Department on the "Heat Relief Initiative"

Injury Prevention Program:

- 500 window guards distributed to low-income families and small landlords, a 46% increase from FY21
- 1,080 bicycle helmets distributed through four community partners, a 9% increase from FY21

Environmental and Occupational Health Division:**Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:**

- 41 children newly identified with blood lead level of 10ug/dl and above
- 68 home inspections conducted of children exposed to lead
- 178 educational/case management home visits conducted to families of children poisoned by lead
- 60 cease work orders issued for lead-safe work practice violations
- 12 community outreach/education events attended to educate the public about lead

Environmental Hazards Program:

- 759 complaints investigated of potential environmental public health hazards
- 138 active enforcement cases addressed
- 145 COVID-19-related complaints addressed

Outreach & Education Program:

- 1,071 outreach/technical assistance visits to nail salons conducted

Permitting Program:

- 1,809 permit/license applications for 9 regulated industries processed
- 292 inspections of regulated businesses conducted
- Active regulated businesses in Boston including: 18 body art establishments, 209 nail salons, 16 tanning salons, 5 medical marijuana dispensaries, 3 ice rinks, 34 funeral directors, and 8 private wells

Burial Permits Office:

- 9,213 permits issued for burial/cremation/exhumation/re-interment/transport of remains

Biosafety Program:

- 54 biosafety lab permits issued: 1 BSL4, 7 BSL3, and 46 BSL2
- Two inspections of the BSL4 lab conducted
- 5 inspections of BSL3 labs conducted
- 18 inspections of new BSL2 labs conducted
- Three drills/exercises support at the BSL4 lab
- Four meetings of the Biosafety Working Group facilitated
- Two meetings of the Boston Biosafety Committee held to review protocols, revisions, policies, and incidents for the BSL-4 lab at the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories
- Updated online permit system for biosafety permits built and implemented
- New coordinated inspection process established with the Boston Fire Department

Health Access & Wellness Services:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/about-health-commission/mayors-health-line>

- 907 individuals assisted with health insurance applications and enrollment
- Over 10,000 incoming calls addressed regarding COVID-19 and health insurance
- 60 outreach events occurred, including tabling, resources, enrollment, and facilitating health literacy workshops
- Services to assist residents with SNAP benefit applications expanded

Chronic Disease Prevention and Control:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/physical-health-and-wellness>

- 4,674 people attended summer, fall, and winter Fitness Series classes
- 27 family and center-based childcare program collaborations to improve policies and practices on physical activity, healthy eating, reducing screentime, and supporting breastfeeding
- 100 wellness events hosted for BPHC employees through Wellness at Work
- 34 community-based organizations in Boston neighborhoods awarded 1.5 million in ARPA funds to address social determinants of health
- Partnered with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health on the Childhood Obesity Intervention Cost-Effectiveness Studies (CHOICES) projects, modeling two intervention strategies to reduce childhood obesity in Boston, with four interventions modeled for future planning

Consortium for Professional Development:

- 32 interns placed
- 26 of the interns were paid internships, from 20 schools

Emergency Medical Services:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/emergency-medical-services>

- 126,790 clinical incidents answered, resulting in 160,577 ambulance responses and 79,210 patient transports
- 2,598 confirmed COVID-19 positive residents received care and 1,840 vaccinations administered at over 40 department-organized mobile clinics
- 97% satisfaction rating received from patients, who primarily ranked the care and professionalism provided by personnel as 'excellent'
- 346 families reached at regularly scheduled car seat checks in Mattapan
- 58 individuals completed the department EMT course, and 26 EMTs hired and completed the EMT-Recruit Academy

Homeless Services:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/homeless-services>

- 2,297 calls handled through the triage line, including 1,311 provider calls and 986 guest calls
- 189 calls diverted to safer and more appropriate locations
- 520 clients received real-time information and guidance at weekly housing clinics hosted at shelters
- 12,163 client contacts made
- 333 clients permanently housed
- 81% housing retention rate for individuals placed from shelter into housing
- Over 400 men and women sheltered nightly, with a total of 146,000 shelter nights provided and over 3,500 unique individuals served
- Over 1,100 unduplicated individuals triaged/assessed
- Over 700 clinical referrals made for shelter guests
- 417,346 meals provided
- 85 clients provided employment opportunities through Serving Ourselves

Infectious Disease:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/infectious-diseases>

- 37 COVID-19 community presentations hosted
- 3,750 vaccines administered between October 2021 and March 2022

Office of Public Health Preparedness:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/office-public-health-preparedness>

- Approximately 400,000 COVID-19 at-home test kits distributed to community organizations, City of Boston employees, and residents
- Approximately 70 vaccination clinics supported, with ~4,000 vaccinations administered
- Two Day of Hope events hosted
- Over 1,108,431 resource items distributed, including COVID-19 prevention personal protection equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, and cleaning/disinfecting supplies, to organizations, City employees, and residents

Office of Racial Equity and Community Engagement:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/racial-justice-and-health-equity/bphc-community-engagement>

- Various events and observances held, including AAPI Heritage Month Soul Food Event, BPHC PRIDE Event, and Juneteenth event
- Six newsletters published, 5 of which included employee spotlights
- 129 Core Values survey participants and 68 participants in three Core Values feedback sessions, including the resident advisory Racial Health Equity Advisory Committee

Recovery Services:

<https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/recovery-services>

- 451 referrals from Engagement Center to substance use disorder services and 1,744 referrals to housing services, serving an average of 2,216 unique clients per month
- 959 individuals trained online, and 170 in-person trainings conducted on overdose education, reaching 3,584 individuals, and 14,803 doses of naloxone distributed across trainings and harm reduction programs
- 296 home visits completed through the Post Overdose Response Team (PORT), resulting in naloxone distribution, connections to resources, and access to treatment
- 83 providers and 125 youth provided substance use prevention and education training
- Youth, families, and organizations engaged through the CopeCode Club prevention campaign, generating significant impressions and engagement on social media platforms: <https://copecodeclub.com/>
- The Nubian Engagement Team interacted with individuals and businesses, providing recovery coaching, referrals, emotional support, and community engagement
- 2,364 substance use disorder placements made

Syringe Services:

- 2,036,246 syringes collected across AHOPE fixed site, Mobile Sharps team, Kiosks, and Community Syringe Redemption Program
- 1,075,723 syringes distributed
- Ratio: Collected 89% more syringes collected than distributed.



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