



The State of Black Males in Boston

*The Office of Black Male Advancement
in partnership with the BPDA Research Division*

September 2022



City of Boston
Black Male
Advancement



bpda

01

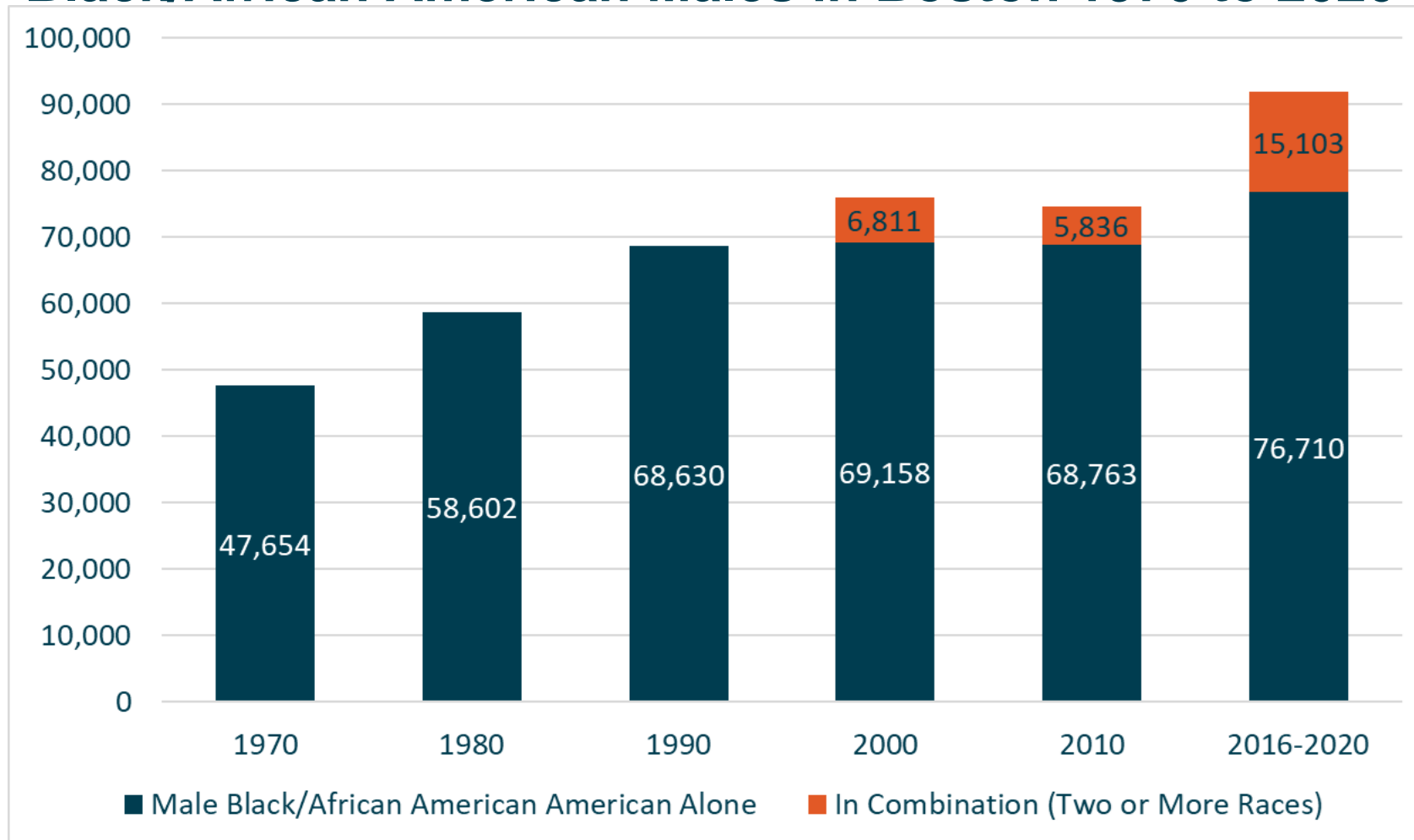
Demographic Characteristics



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In 2020, Boston had approximately 90,000 Black/African American male residents, including those who identified as Afro-Latino or multiracial.

Black/African American Males in Boston 1970 to 2020

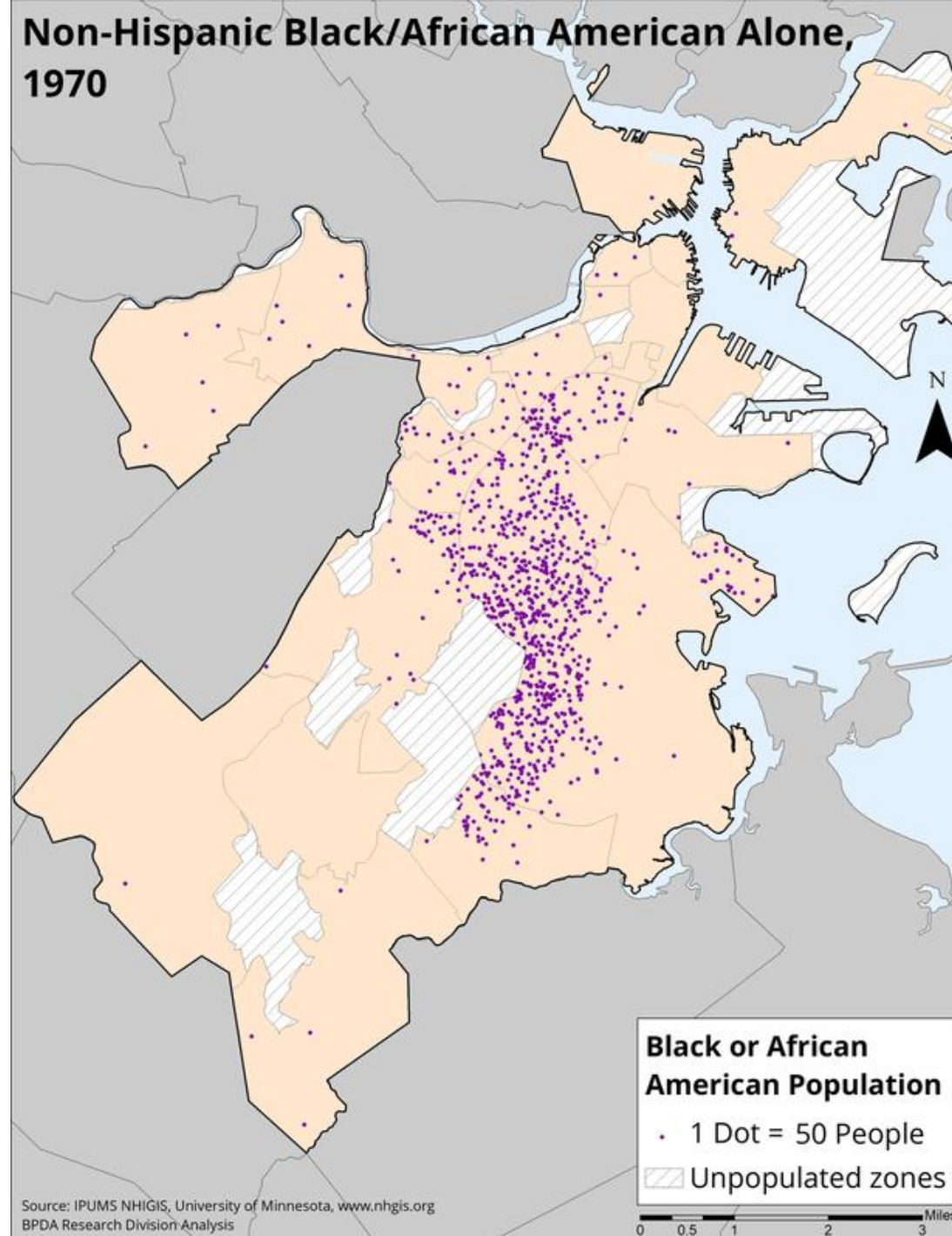


Source: 1970-2010 Decennial Censuses & 2016-2020 American Community Surveys, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Non-Hispanic Black/African American Alone, 1970

In 1970, Boston's Black/African American population was largely concentrated in Roxbury and Dorchester.

By 2020, Boston's Black/African American population had increased in other neighborhoods as well, especially Mattapan and Hyde Park.



Black/African-American males make up a third of the population of Mattapan and over 20% of the populations of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Hyde Park

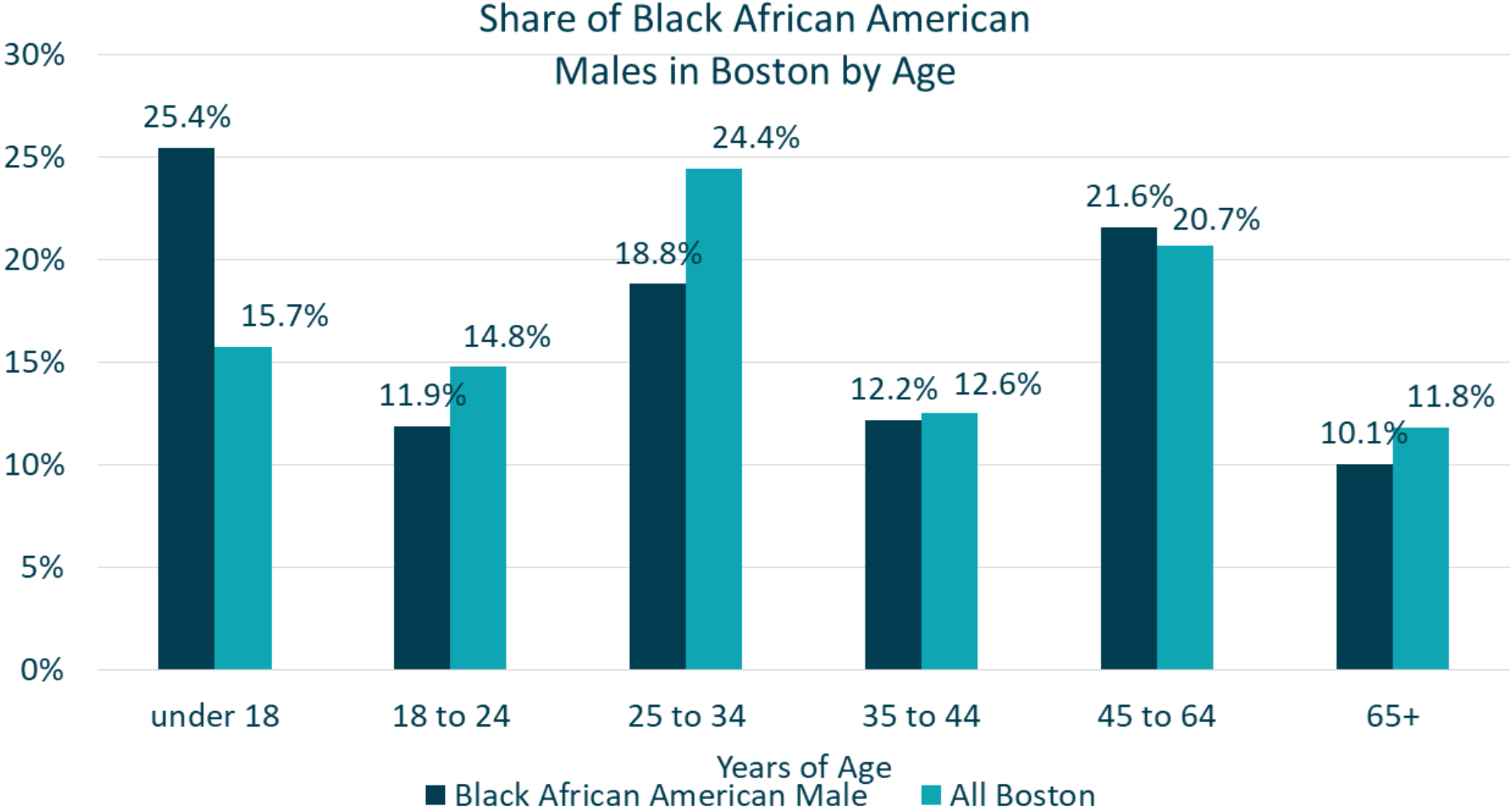
Hyde Park is one of only 4 Black middle class enclaves* in Metropolitan Boston

Boston Neighborhood	Number of Black Males	Black Male Share of Population
Mattapan	9,091	33.9%
Roxbury	12,209	22.9%
Dorchester	27,543	21.6%
Hyde Park	8,402	21.3%
Mission Hill	1,769	10.8%
Roslindale	3,291	10.1%
Jamaica Plain	3,418	8.0%
West Roxbury	1,879	5.5%
West End	333	4.8%
South End	1,433	4.6%
Allston	835	3.6%
South Boston	1,229	3.3%
Charlestown	660	3.2%
Fenway	1,049	3.1%
Brighton	1,386	2.7%
South Boston Waterfront	95	2.2%
Back Bay	387	2.1%
Downtown	250	2.0%
Longwood	104	1.9%
East Boston	883	1.8%
Chinatown	66	1.5%
North End	46	0.4%
Beacon Hill	19	0.2%

*At least 15 percent of the residents are black; and among the black residents, at least 30 percent had a four-year college degree and their household income was at or above the median for their metro area. <https://www.ywboston.org/2017/12/editorial-boston-globes-racism-spotlight/>

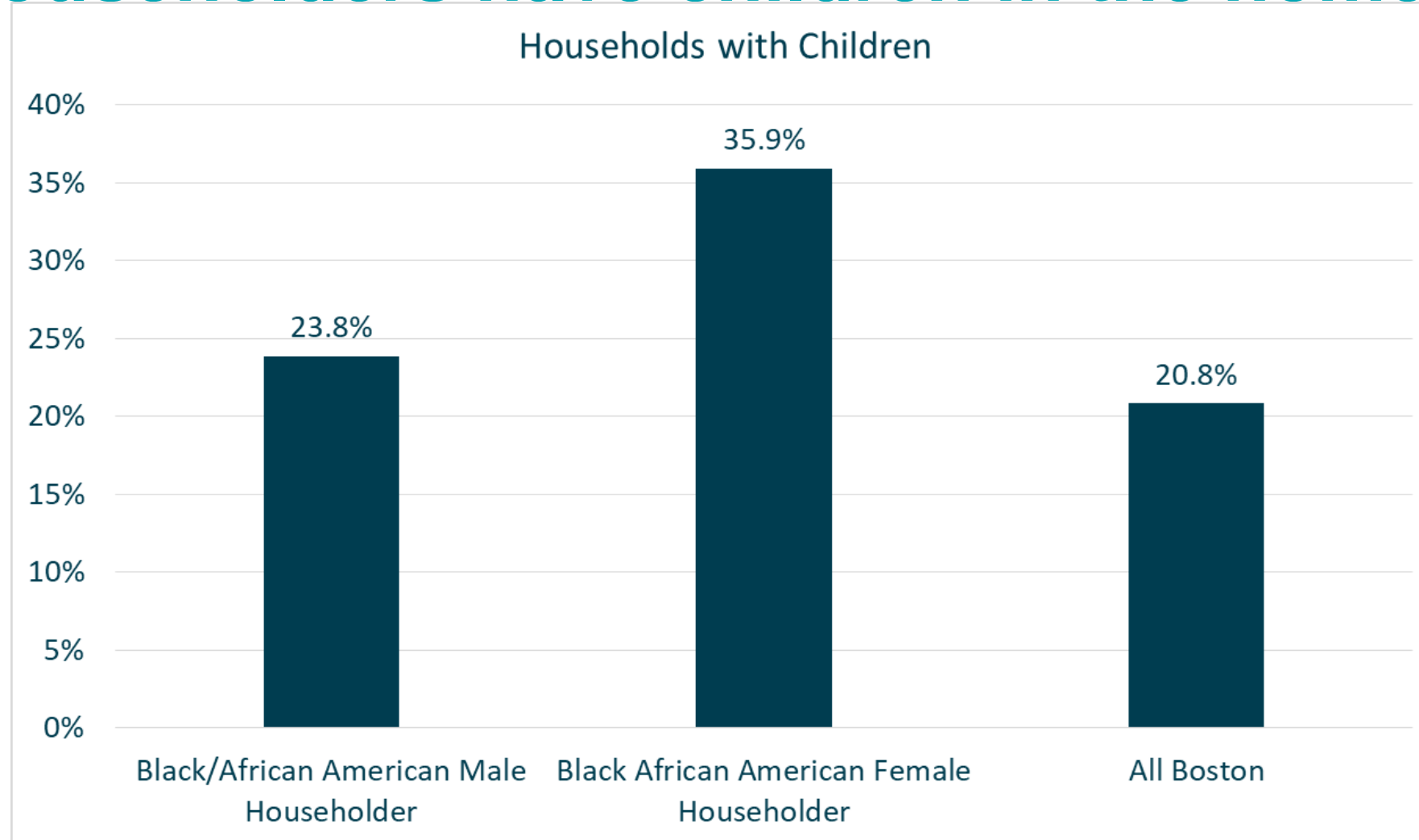
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

25% of Black/African males are children under 18



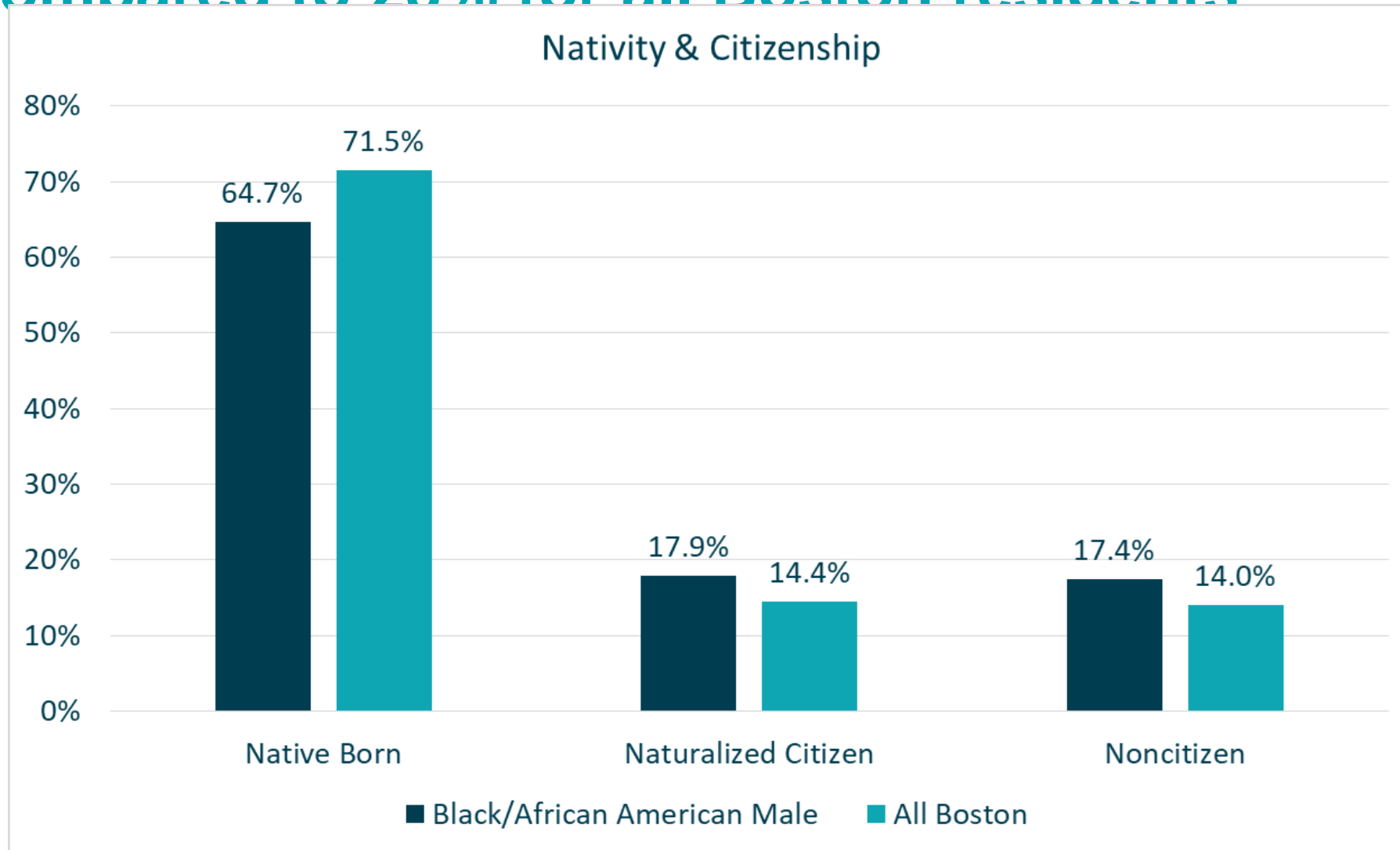
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

24% of Black/African American male householders have children in the home



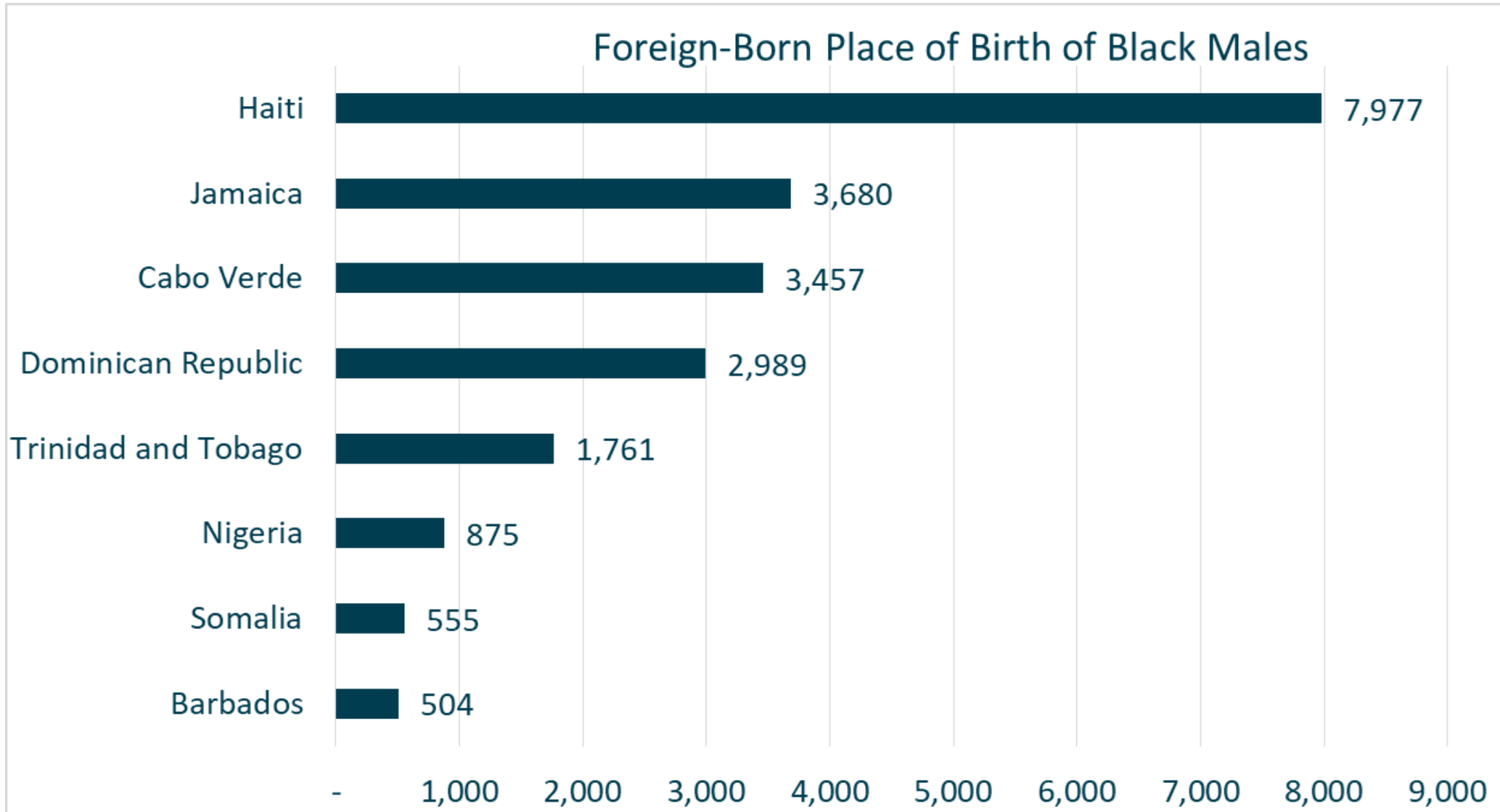
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

35% of Black/African American males in Boston are foreign born compared to 28% for all Boston residents



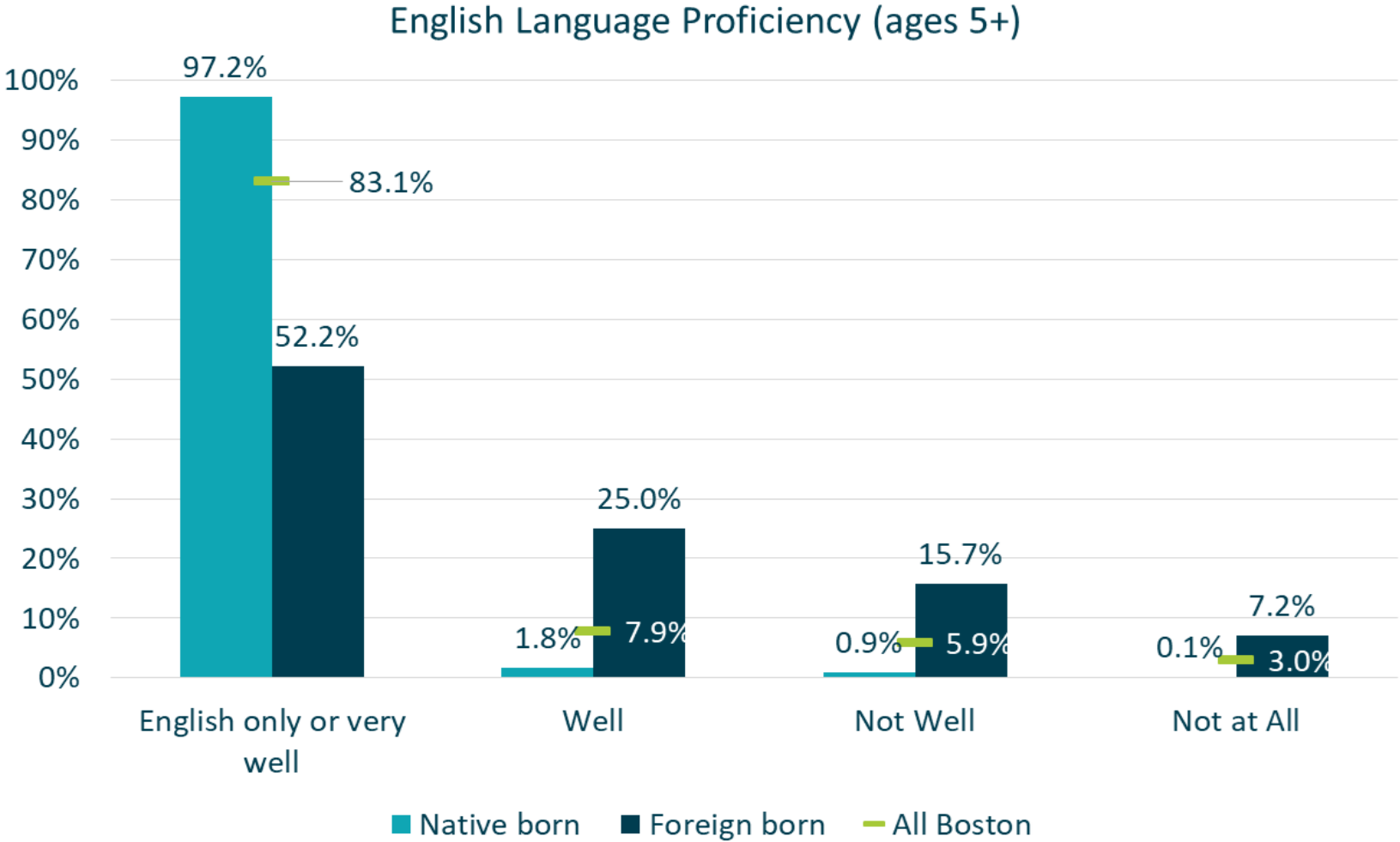
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

The countries with the largest number of foreign-born males are Haiti, Jamaica, & Cabo Verde



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Over half of foreign-born Black/African American males speak English only or very well



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

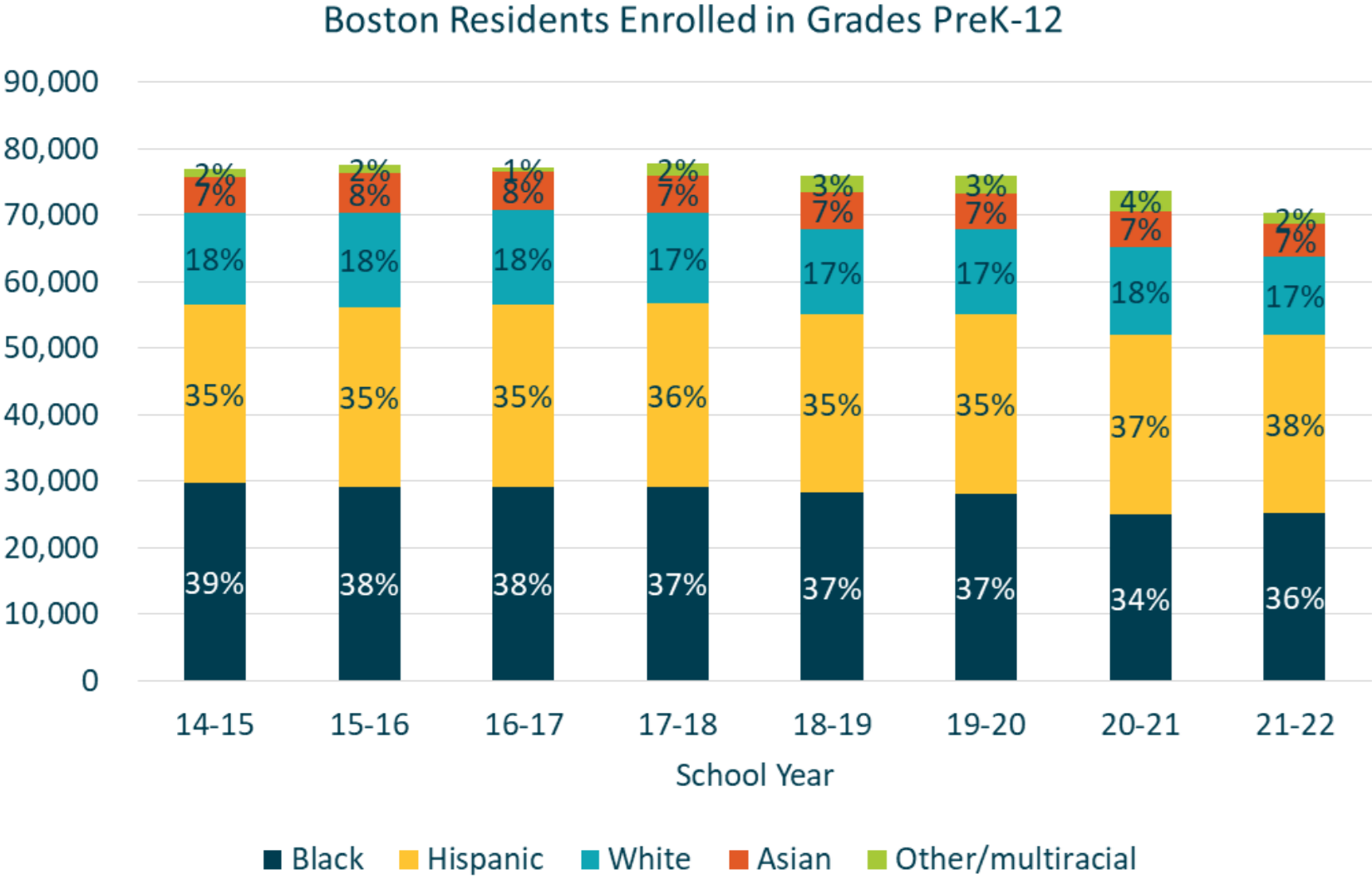
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Education



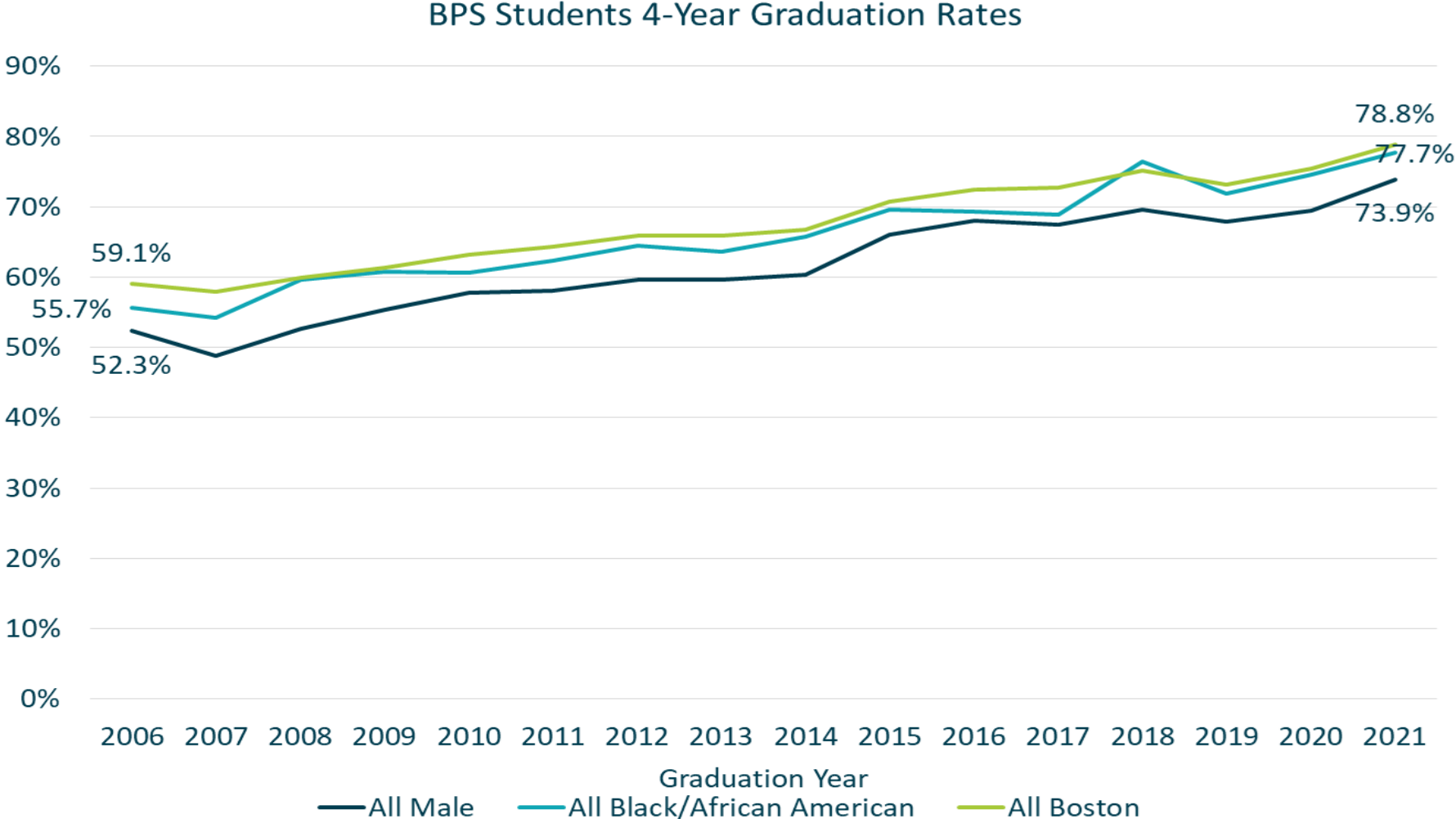
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36% of all pre-K to grade 12 students in Boston are Black, 23% of BPS teachers and guidance counselors are Black



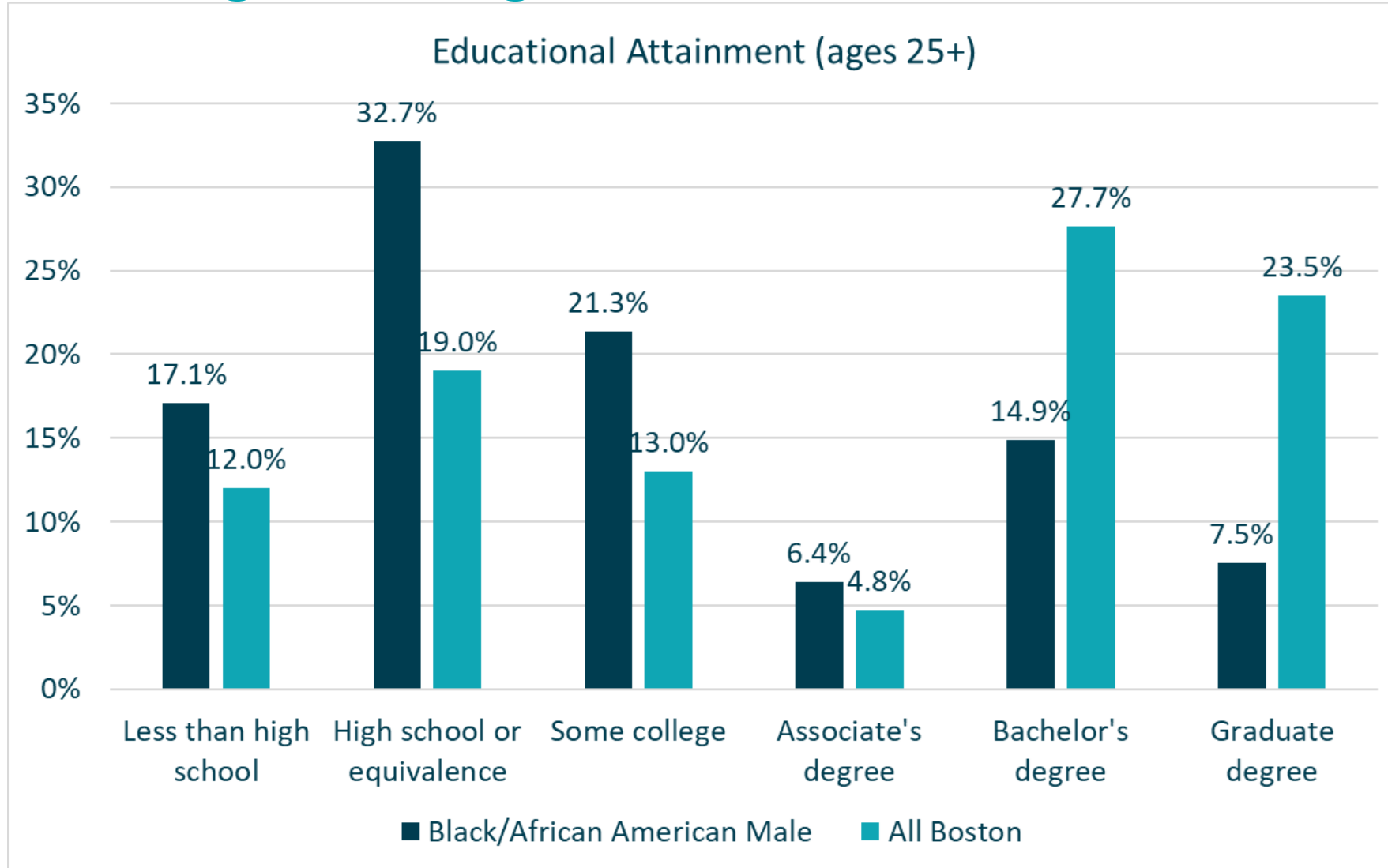
Source: Boston Public Schools at a Glance, BPDA Research Division Analysis

BPS 4-year graduation rates have improved for all students, but remain lower for Black/African-Americans and for male students



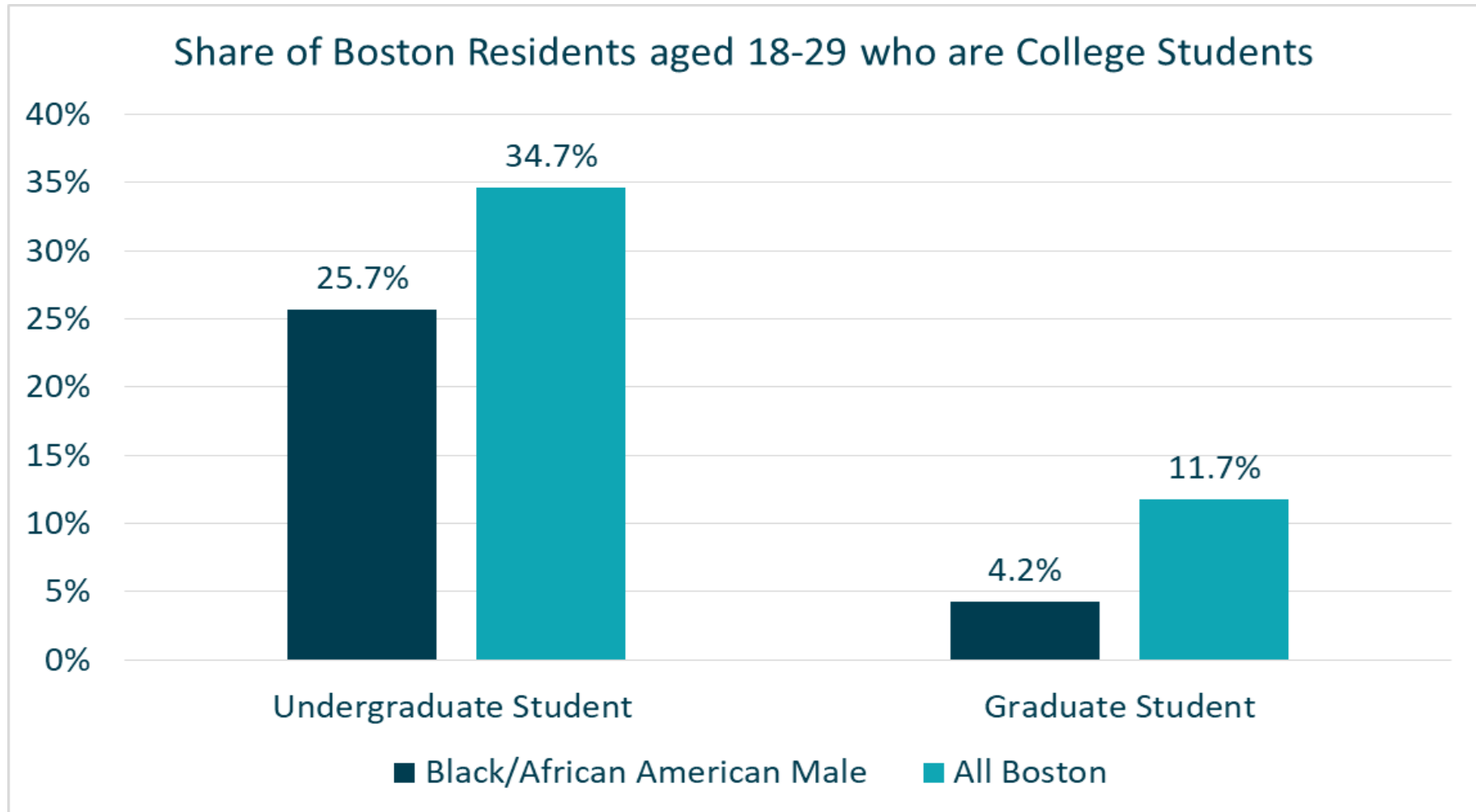
Source: Massachusetts Department of Education, BPDA Research Division Analysis

24% of Black/African American males aged 25+ have a Bachelor's degree or higher



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Black/African American males ages 18-29 are less likely to be enrolled in college than other Boston residents



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

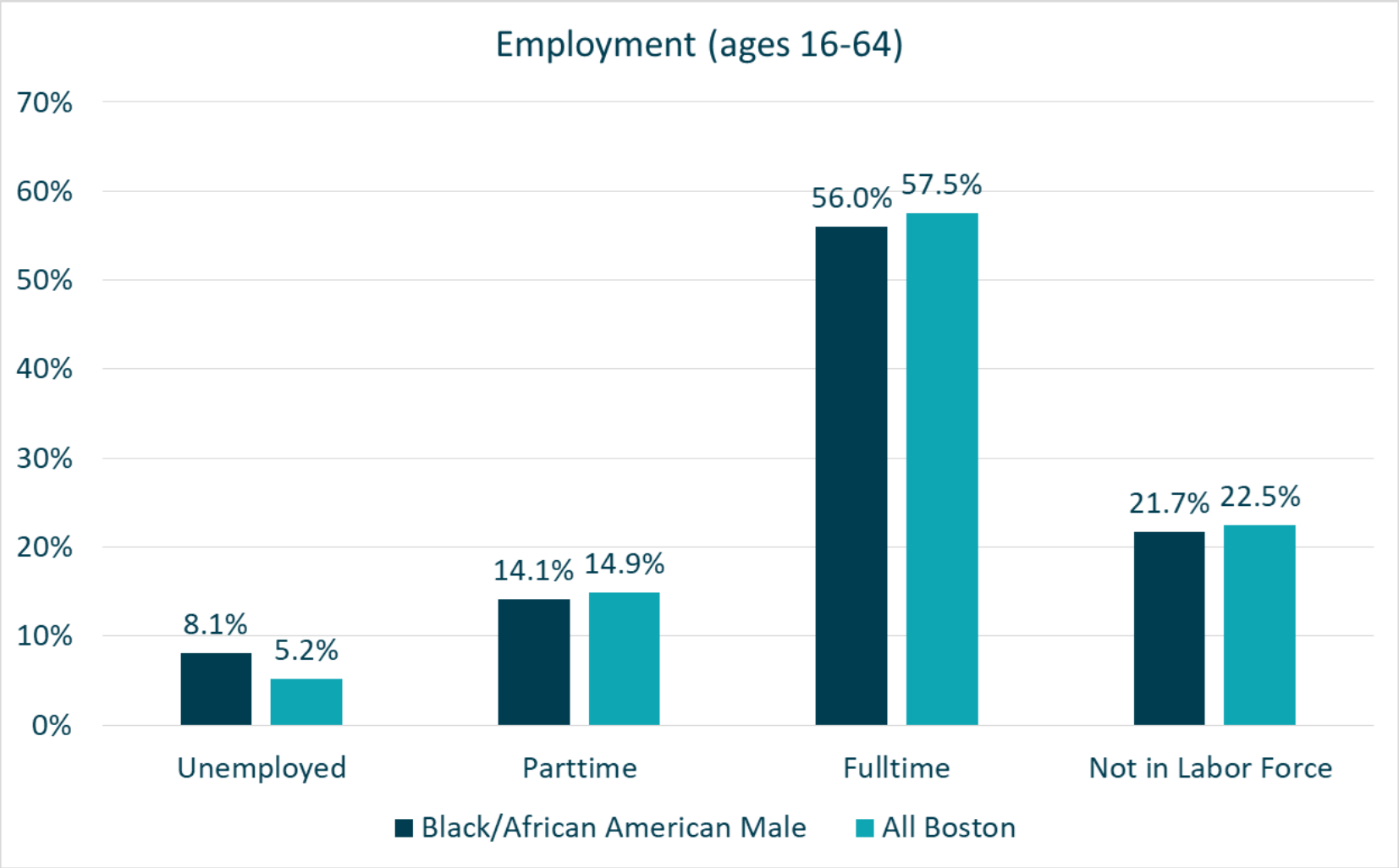
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Employment and Earnings



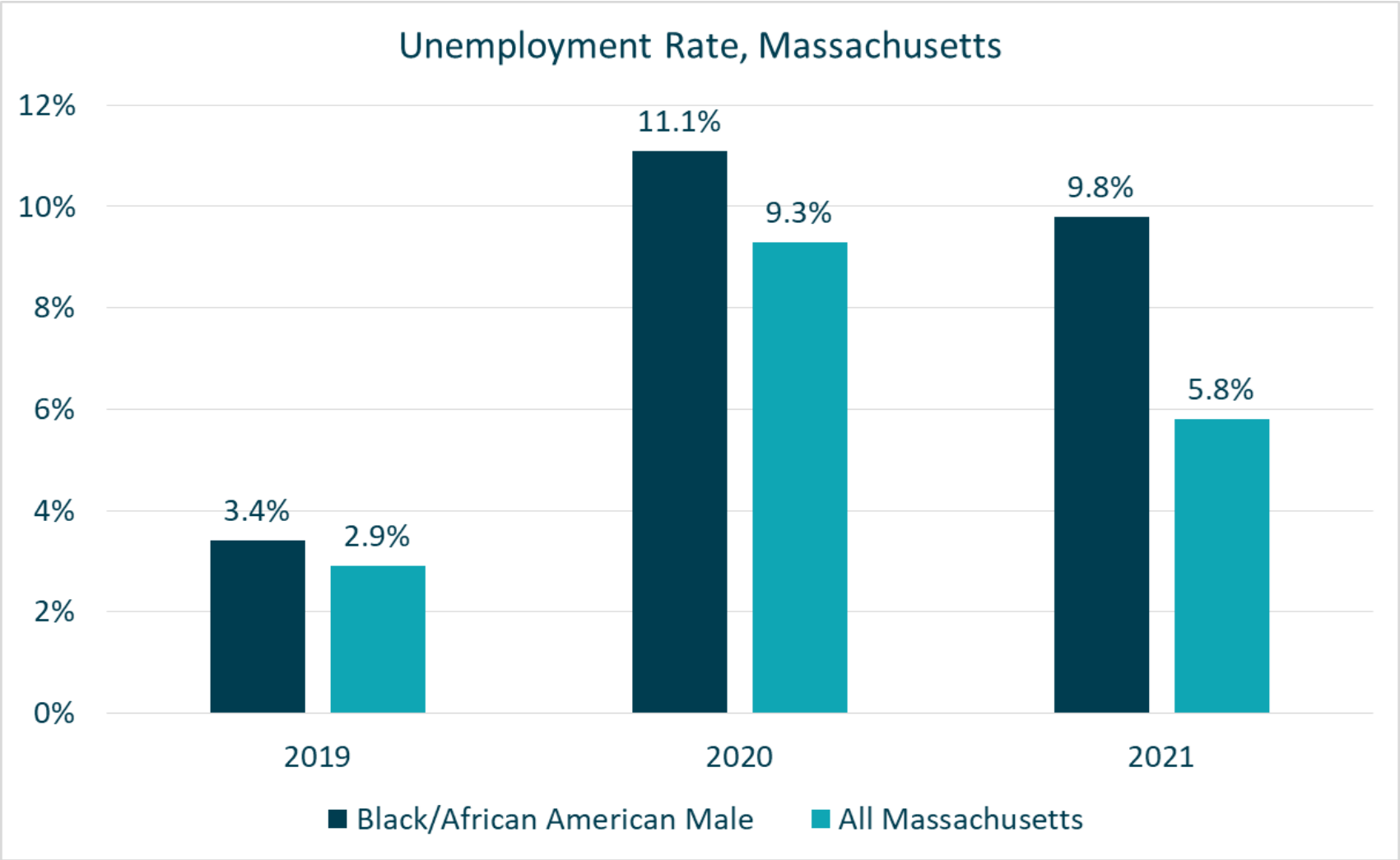
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Before the pandemic, 56% of Black/African American males worked full time - similar to the rate for all Boston adults



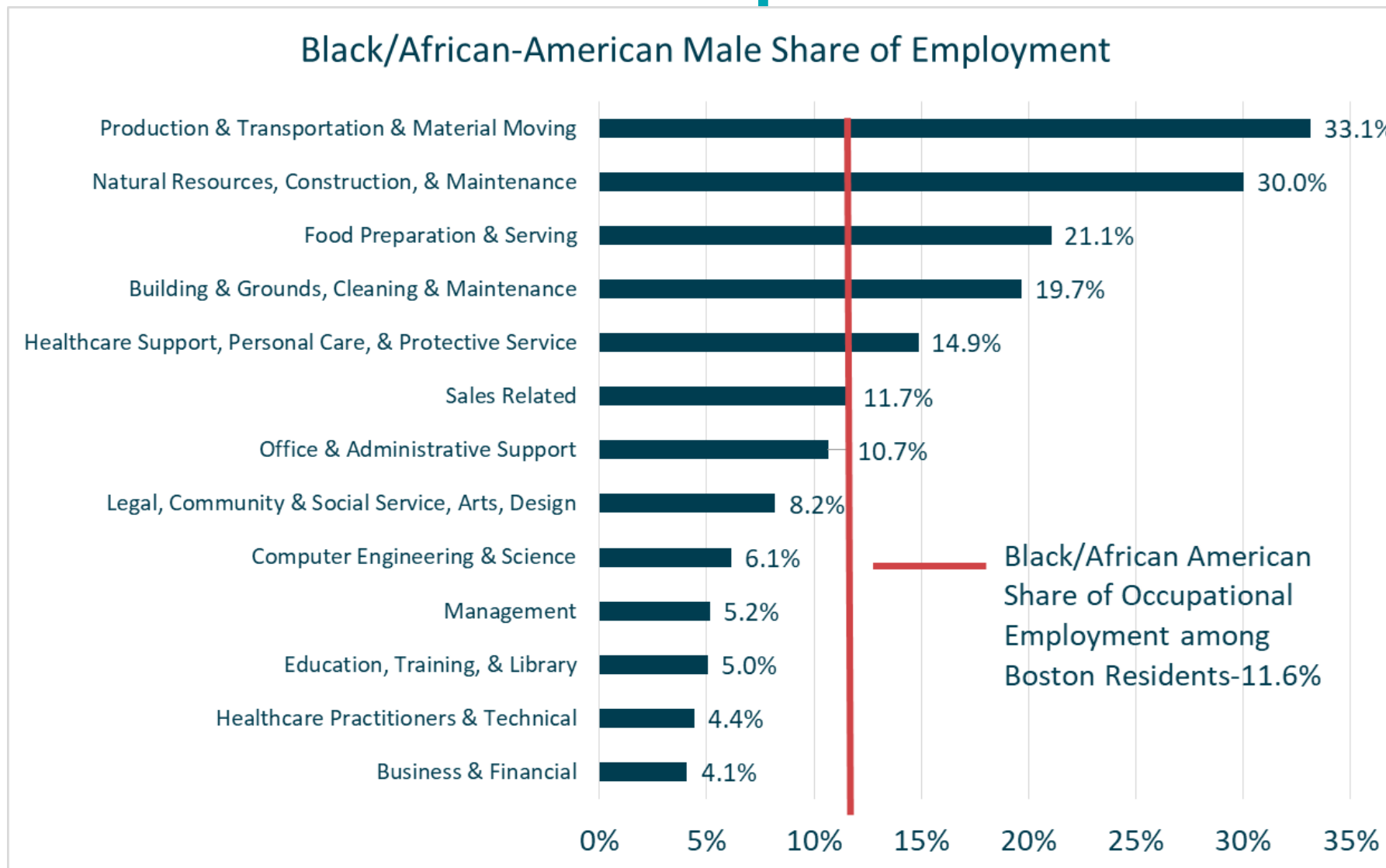
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Since the onset of the pandemic, the employment of Black/African American males has recovered more slowly, with state-level unemployment still at almost 10% in 2021



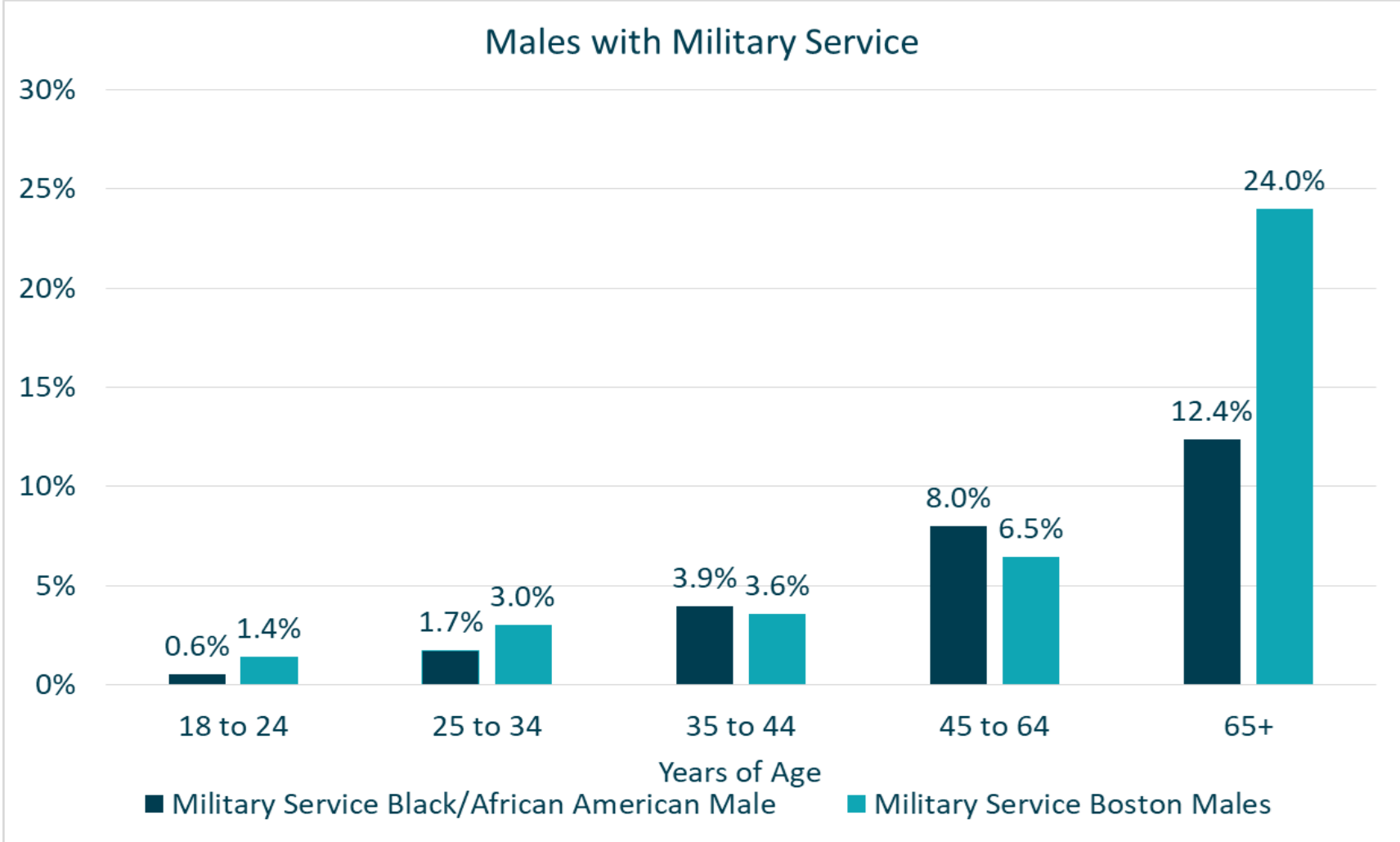
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Expanded State Unemployment Status Demographic Data; BPDA Research Division Analysis

Black/African American males are more likely to work in jobs that must be done in-person



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

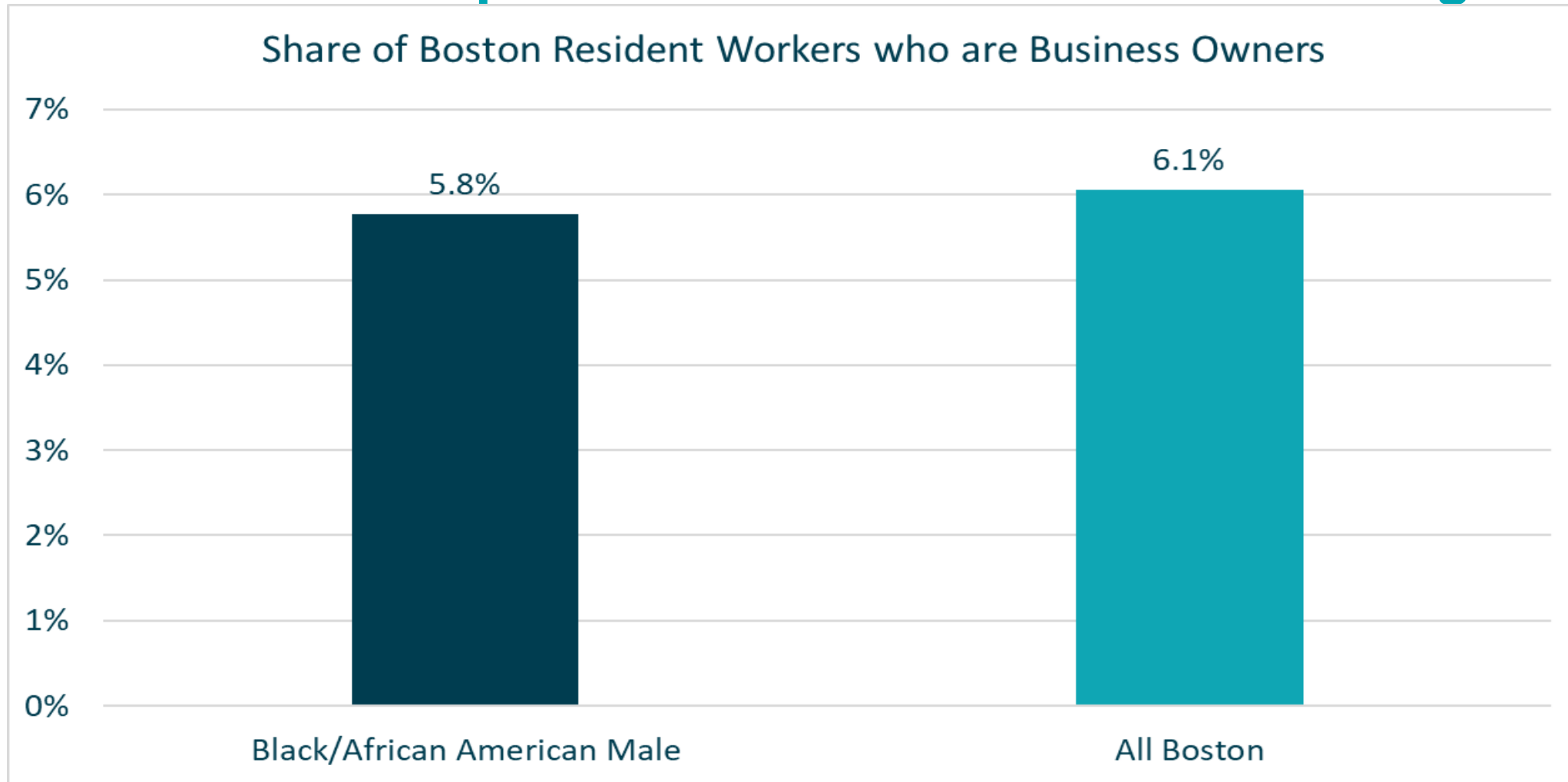
5% of Black African American males are serving or have served in the U.S. military



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

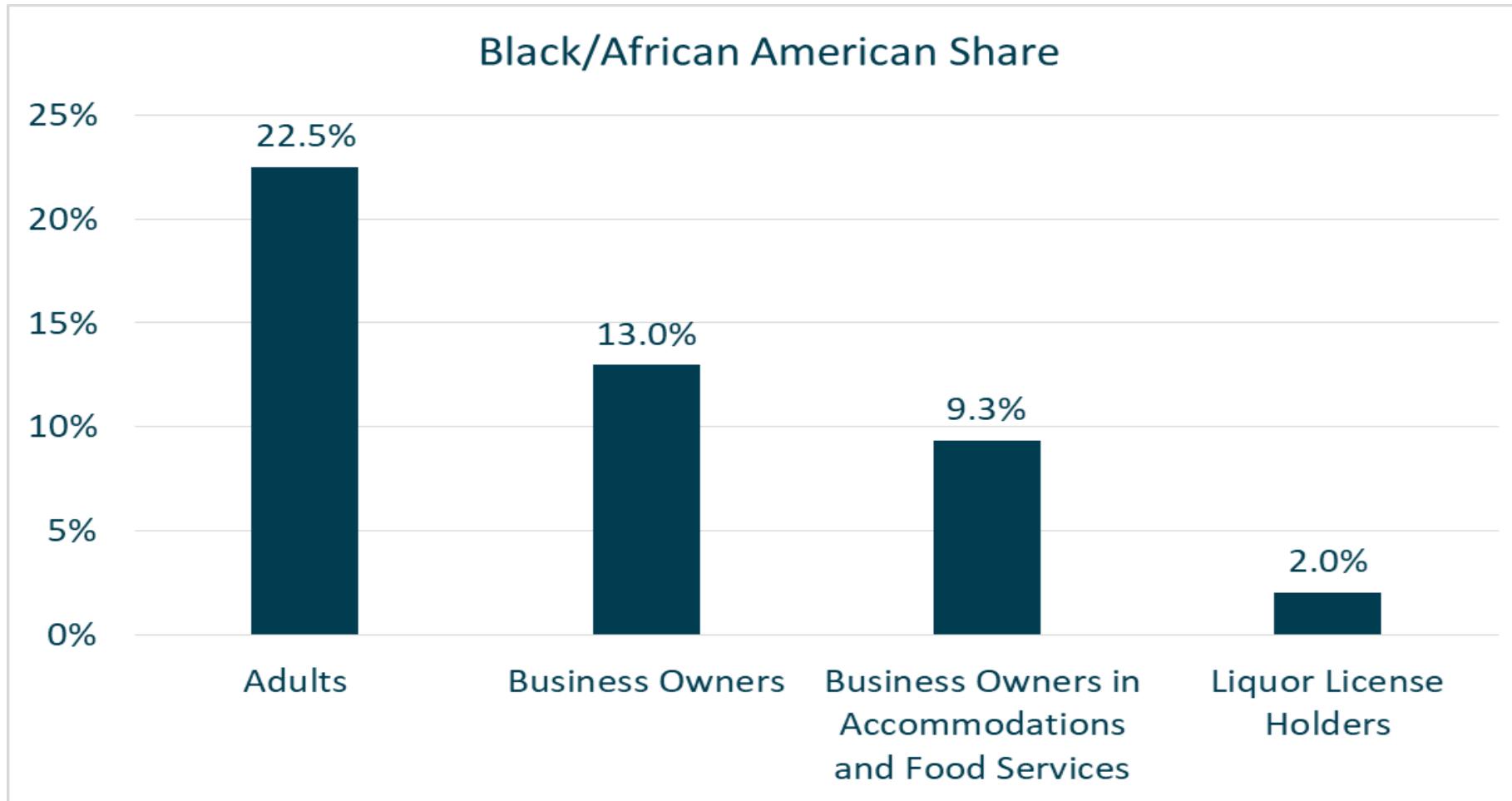
Boston is home to ~2,500 Black male business owners

Approximately 6% of Blacks are business owners, and Black men and women make up 13% of all business owners living in Boston



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

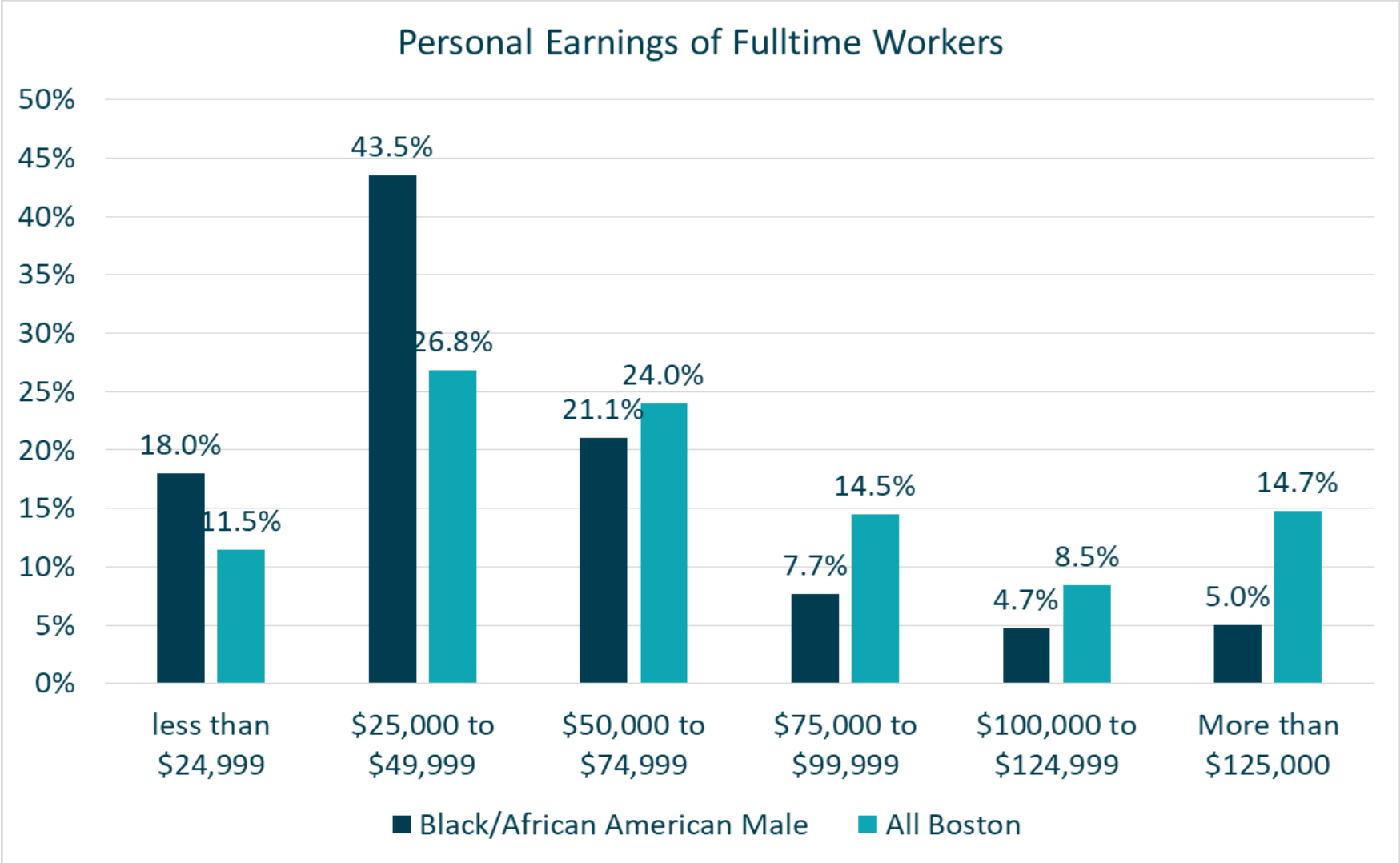
Black restaurant owners are less likely to hold liquor licenses*



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

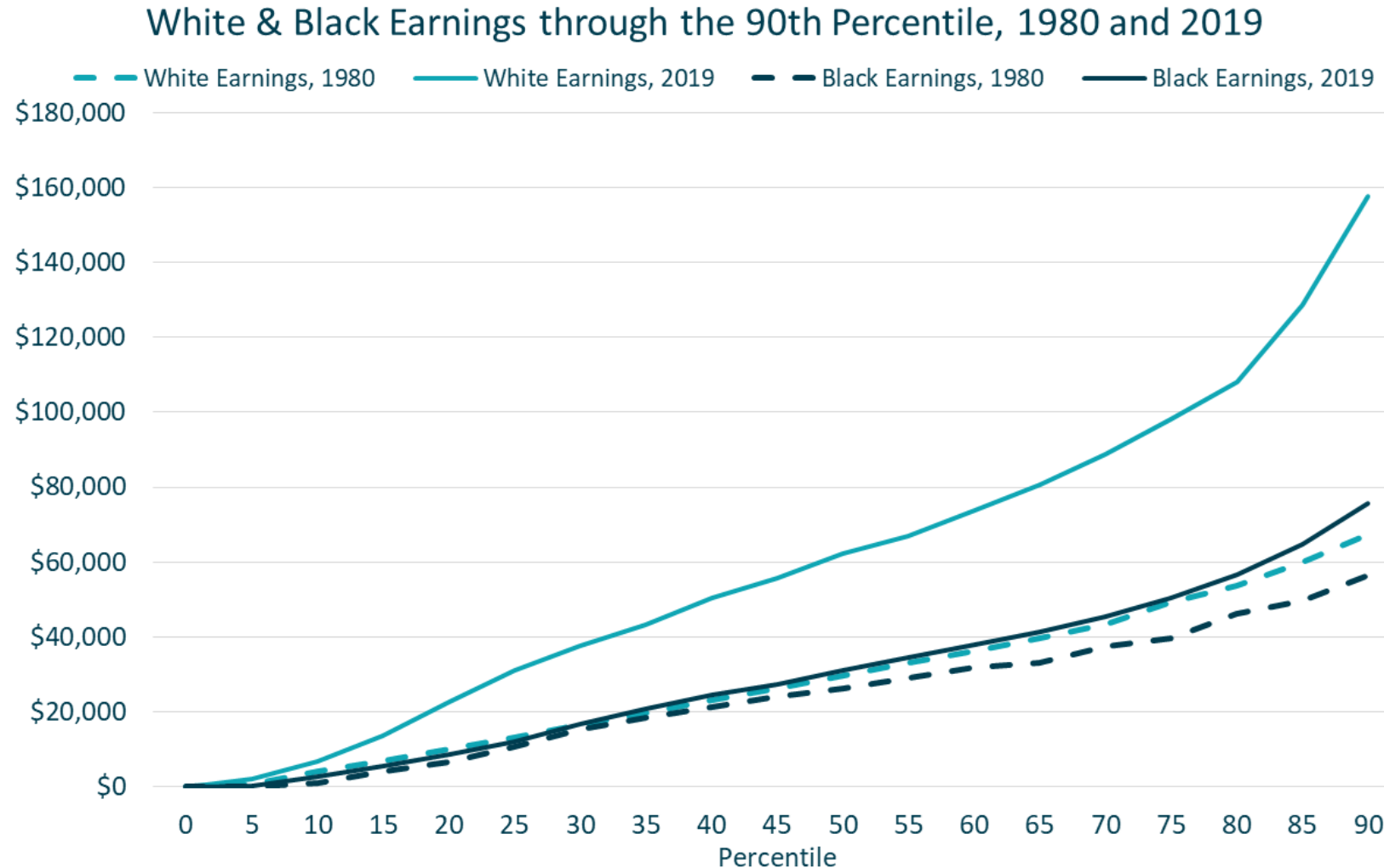
* <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/06/20/metro/only-2-percent-boston-liquor-license-holders-are-black-new-report-reveals-startling-disparities/>

More than 60% of Black/African American male full-time workers (33,607 workers) earn less than \$50,000/year



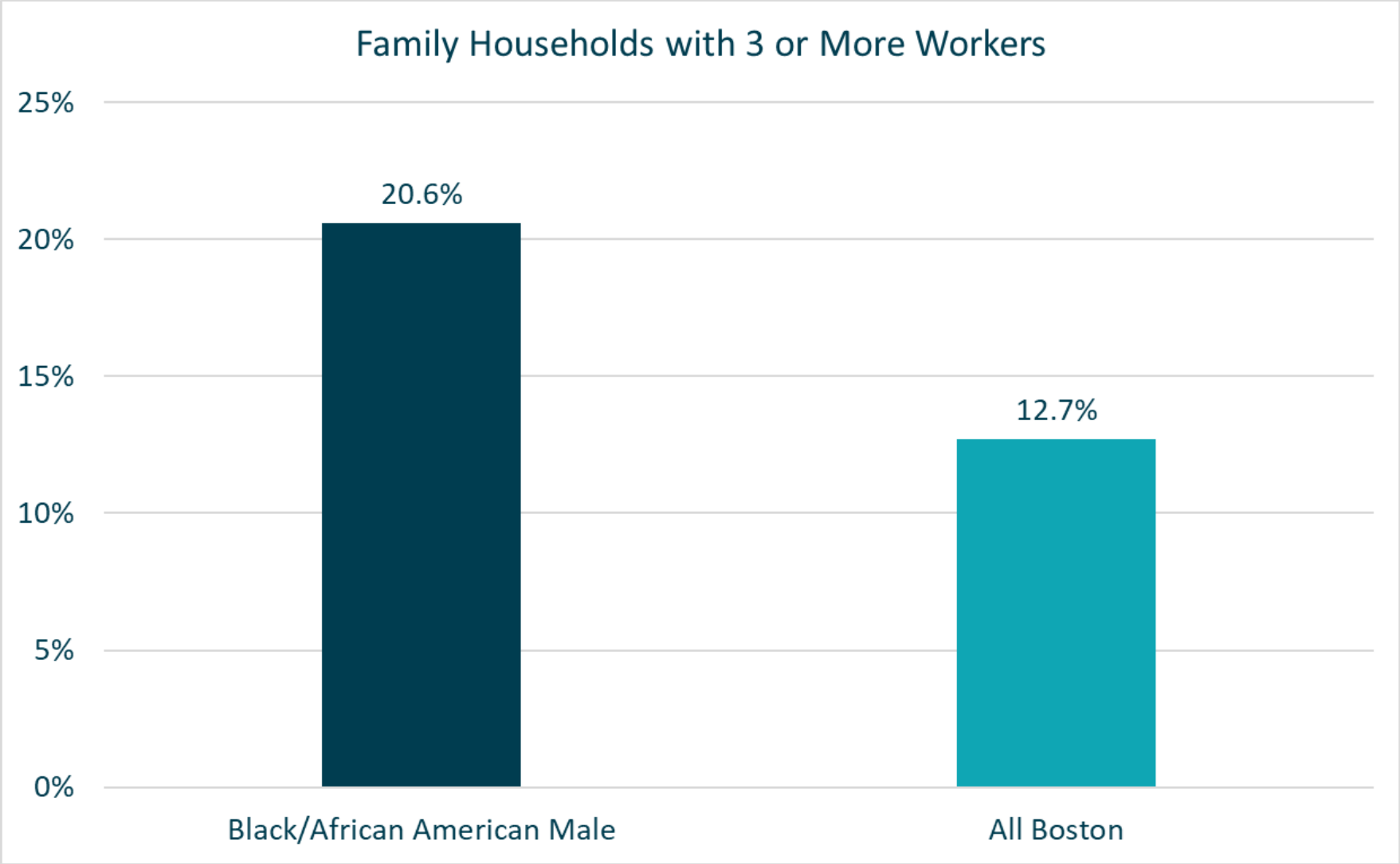
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

The disparity between White and Black earnings in Boston has been increasing since 1980, and is more pronounced at the top end of the income spectrum.



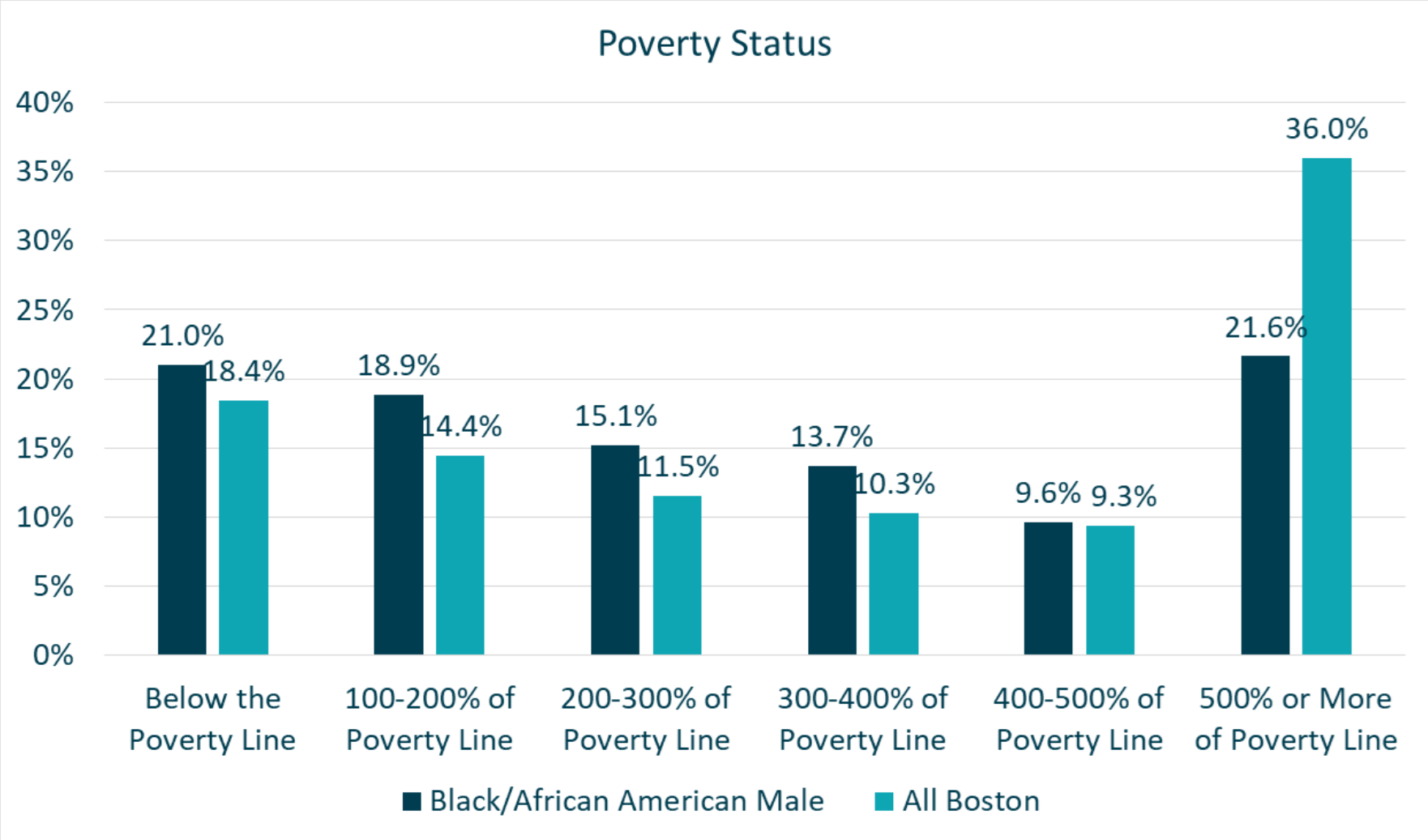
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1980 Census & 2015-2019 American Community Survey. IPUMS-USA; BPDA Research Division Analysis

Black male-headed family households are more likely to have 3 or more workers than other family households



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Black/African American males are more likely to live in poorer households



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

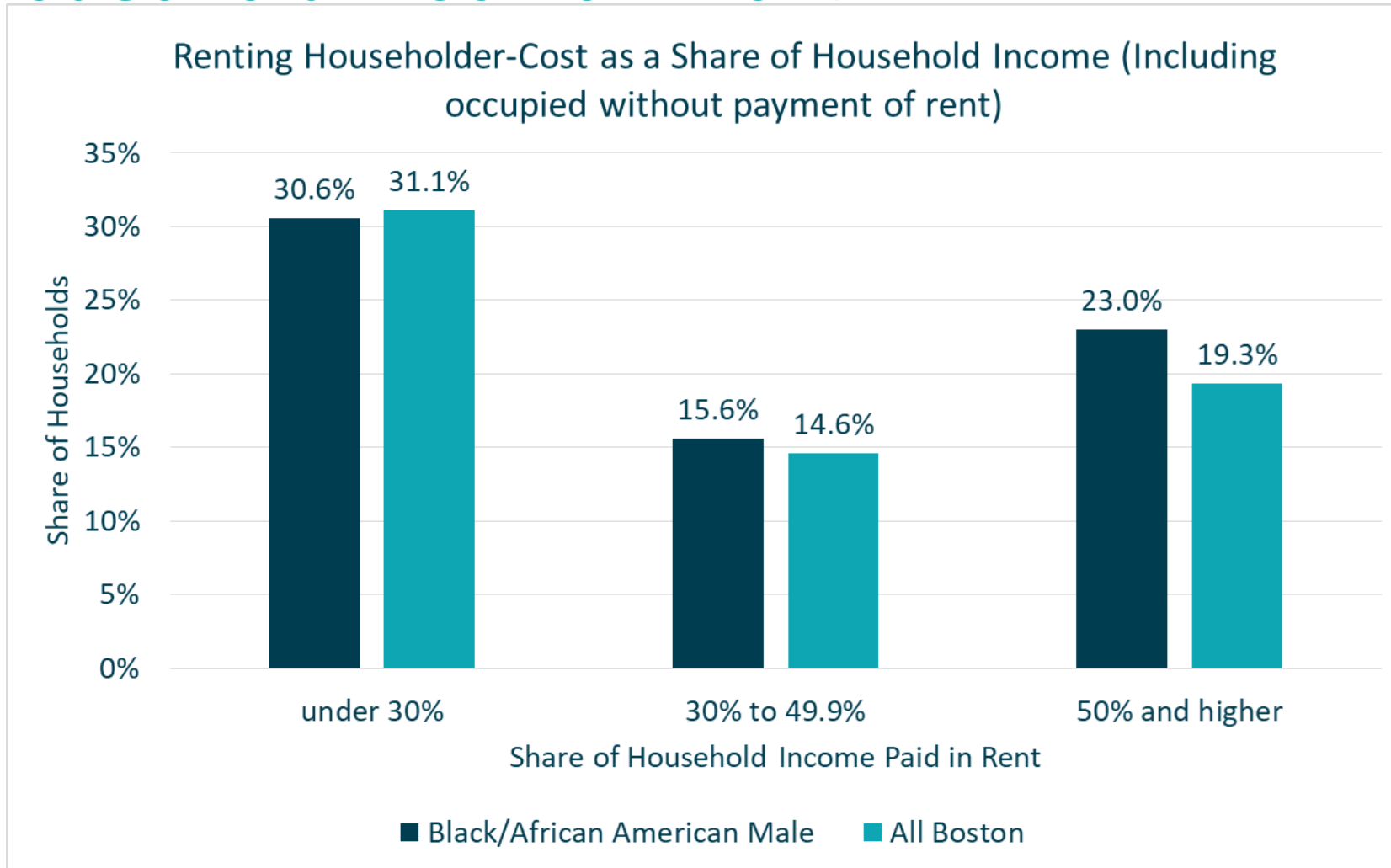
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Housing



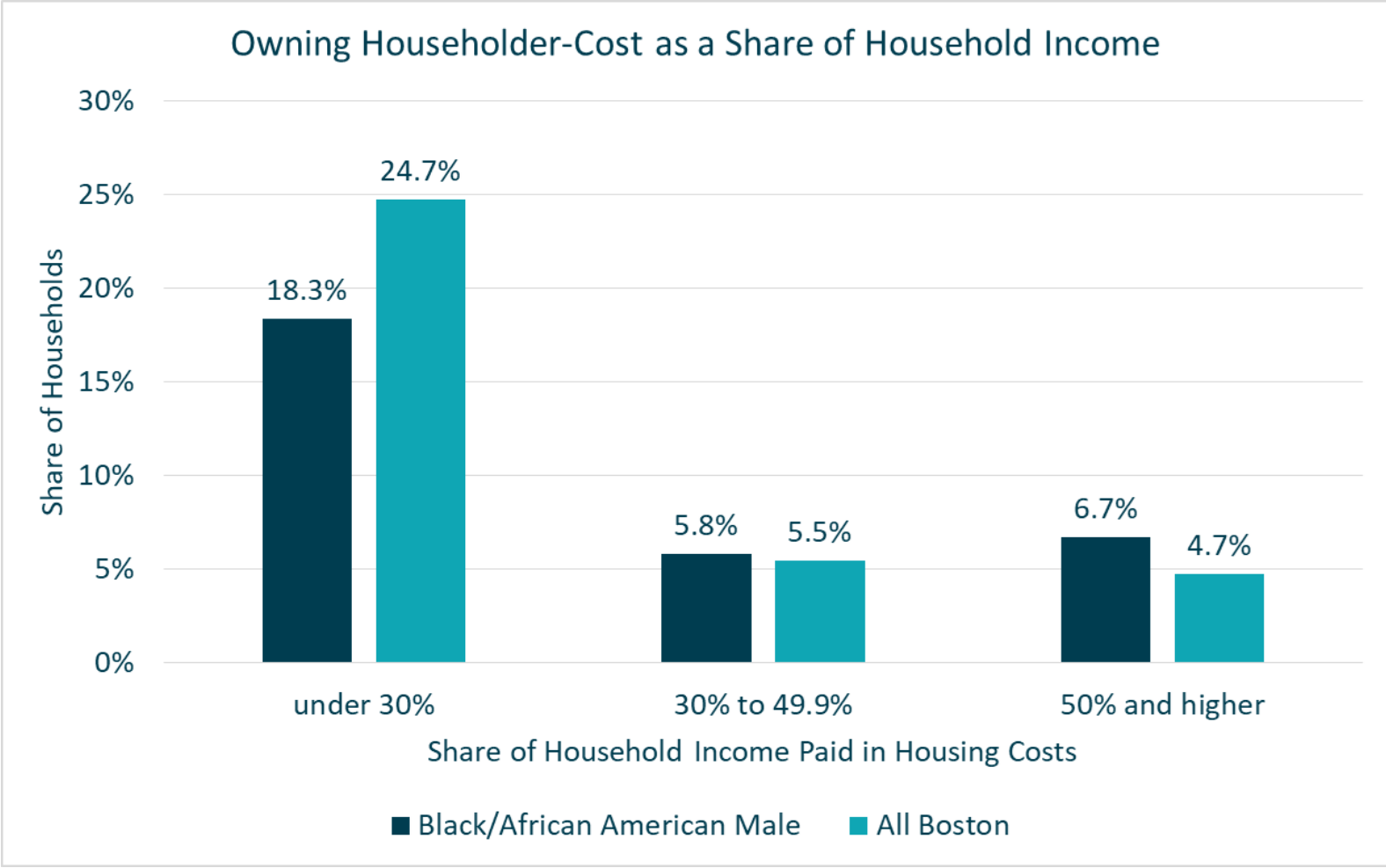
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Over 17,000 Black/African American male householders live in renter occupied housing - 5,600 pay more than half their household income in rent



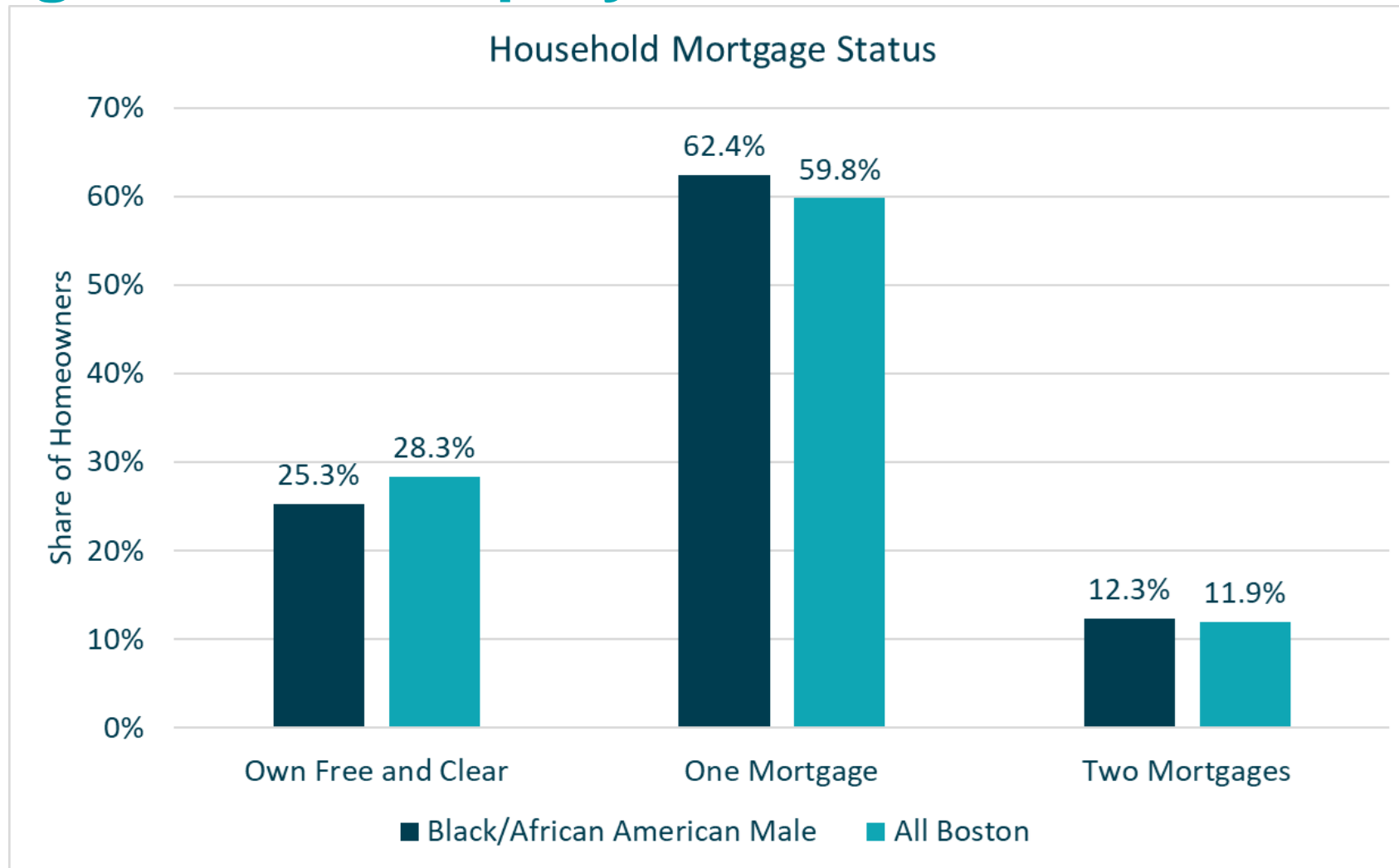
Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Over 7,500 Black/African American men are homeowners, but 1,600 pay more than half of their household income in housing costs



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

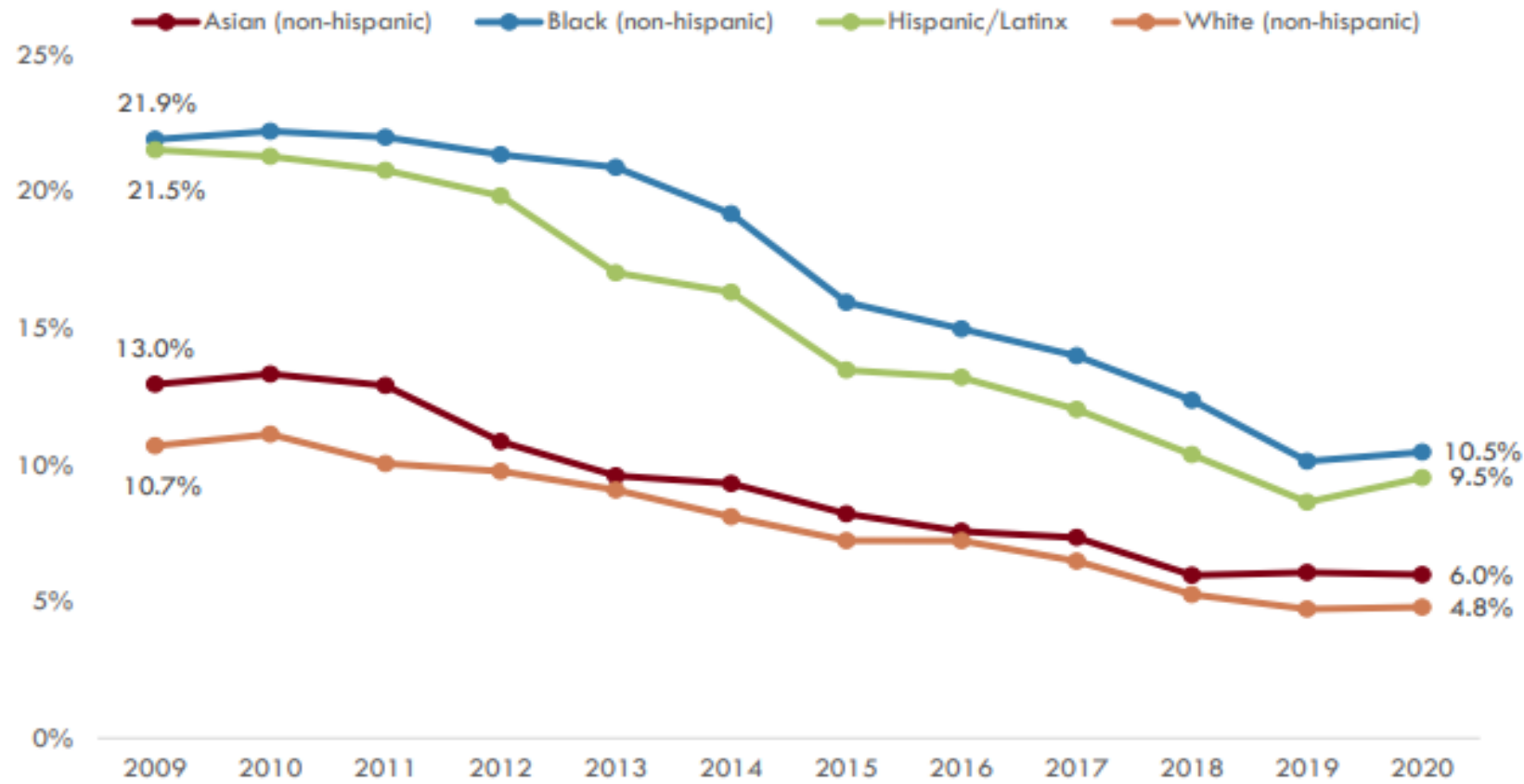
Only 25% of Black/African American male homeowners own their home with no mortgage - 12% have a second mortgage or home equity loan



Even though mortgage denial rates declined over the last decade, Black and Latino rates remain higher

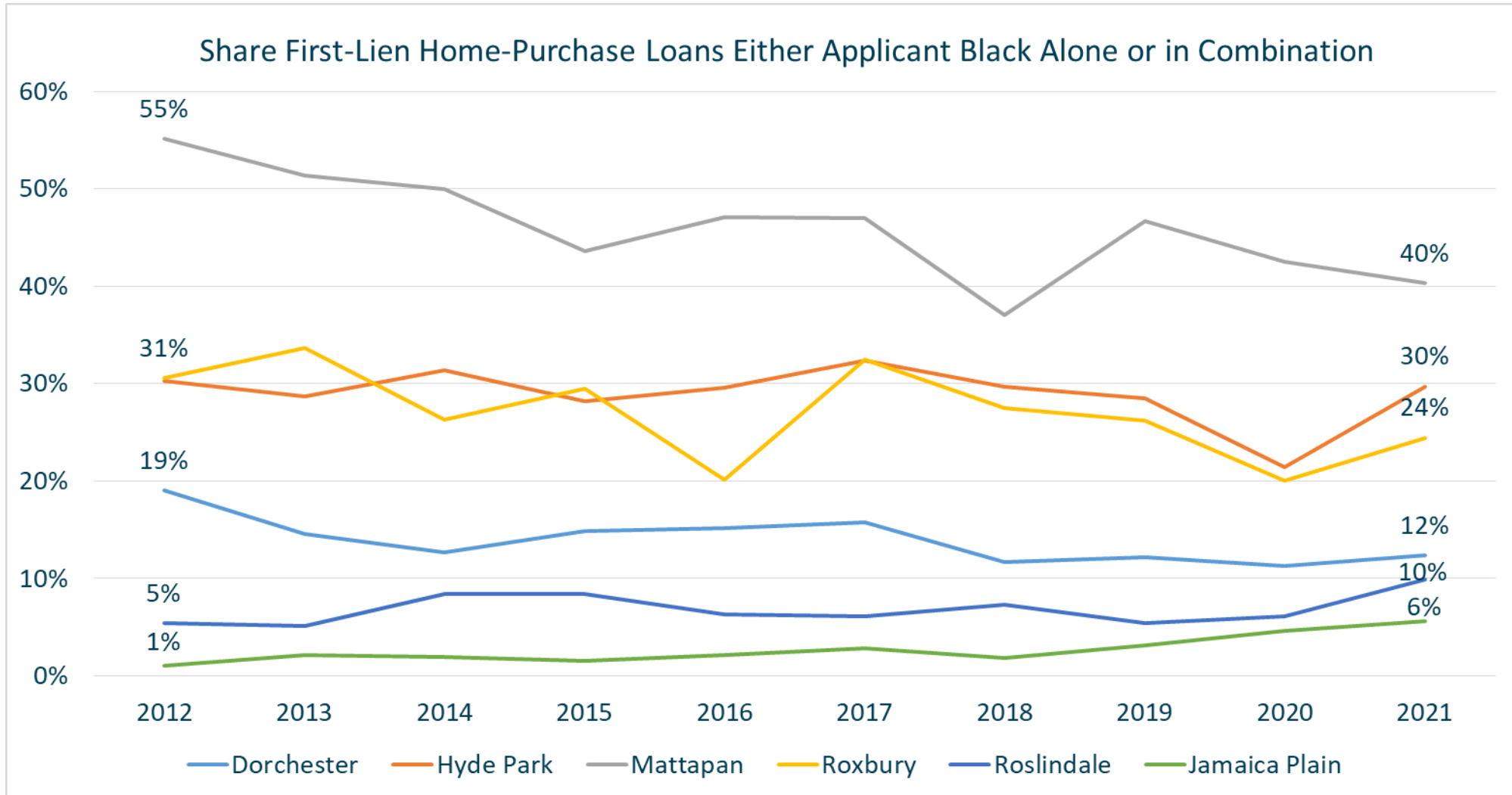
Figure 13. Denial Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2009-2020

Denials Following Applications for First-Lien Home-Purchase Loans for Owner-Occupied Homes



Source: CFPB HMDA, 2020 LAR

From 2012-2021, Black mortgage origination declined in Boston's largest Black neighborhoods but increased in Roslindale and Jamaica Plain

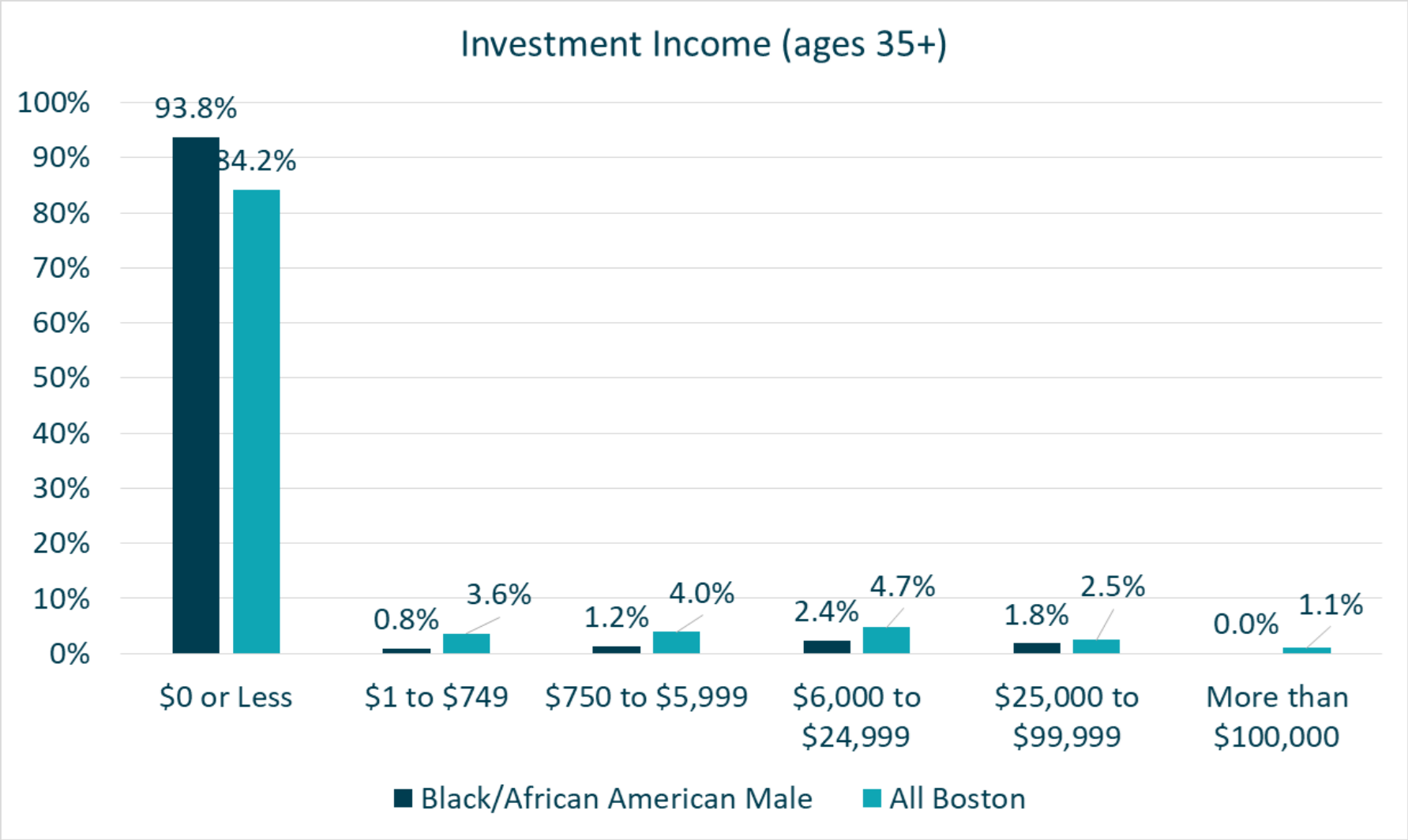


Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, BPDA Research Division Analysis

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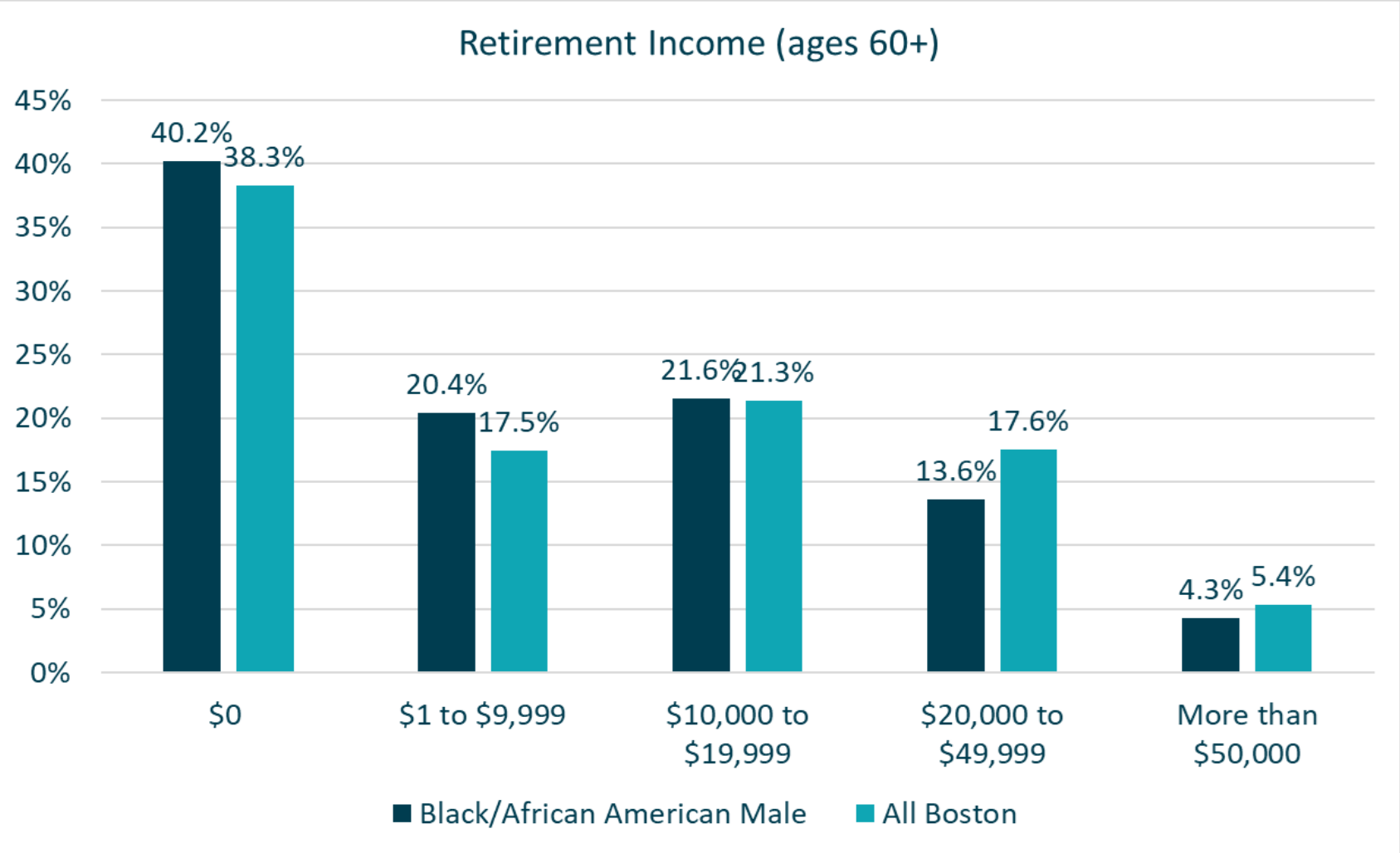
Assets & Liabilities

94% of Black African American males over age 35 have no investment income



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

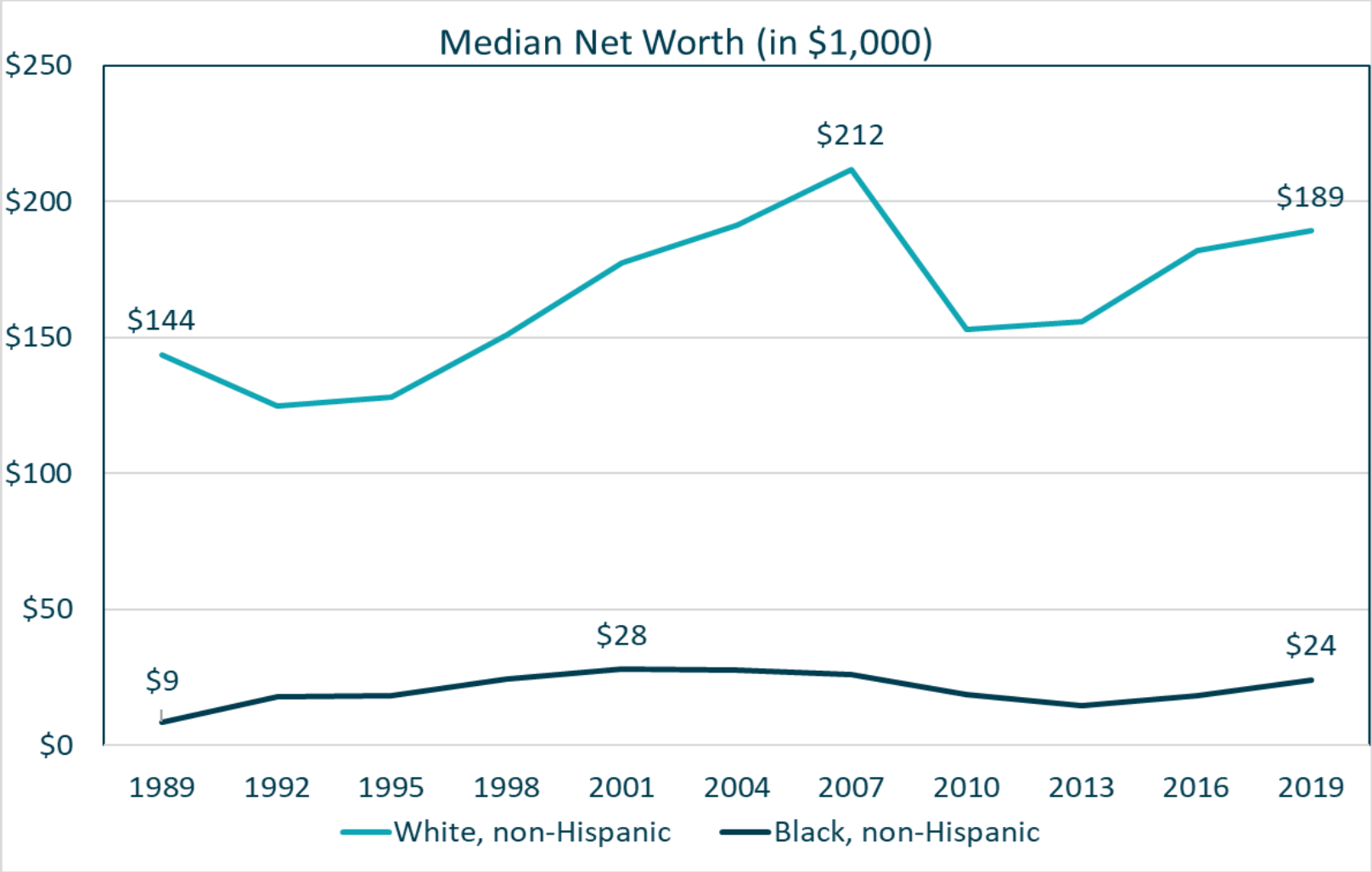
Only 18% of Black/African American males aged 60+ have more than \$20,000/year in retirement income



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

National data suggest that Black families have a median net worth of \$24,000, compared to \$8 in Color of Wealth survey in Greater Boston

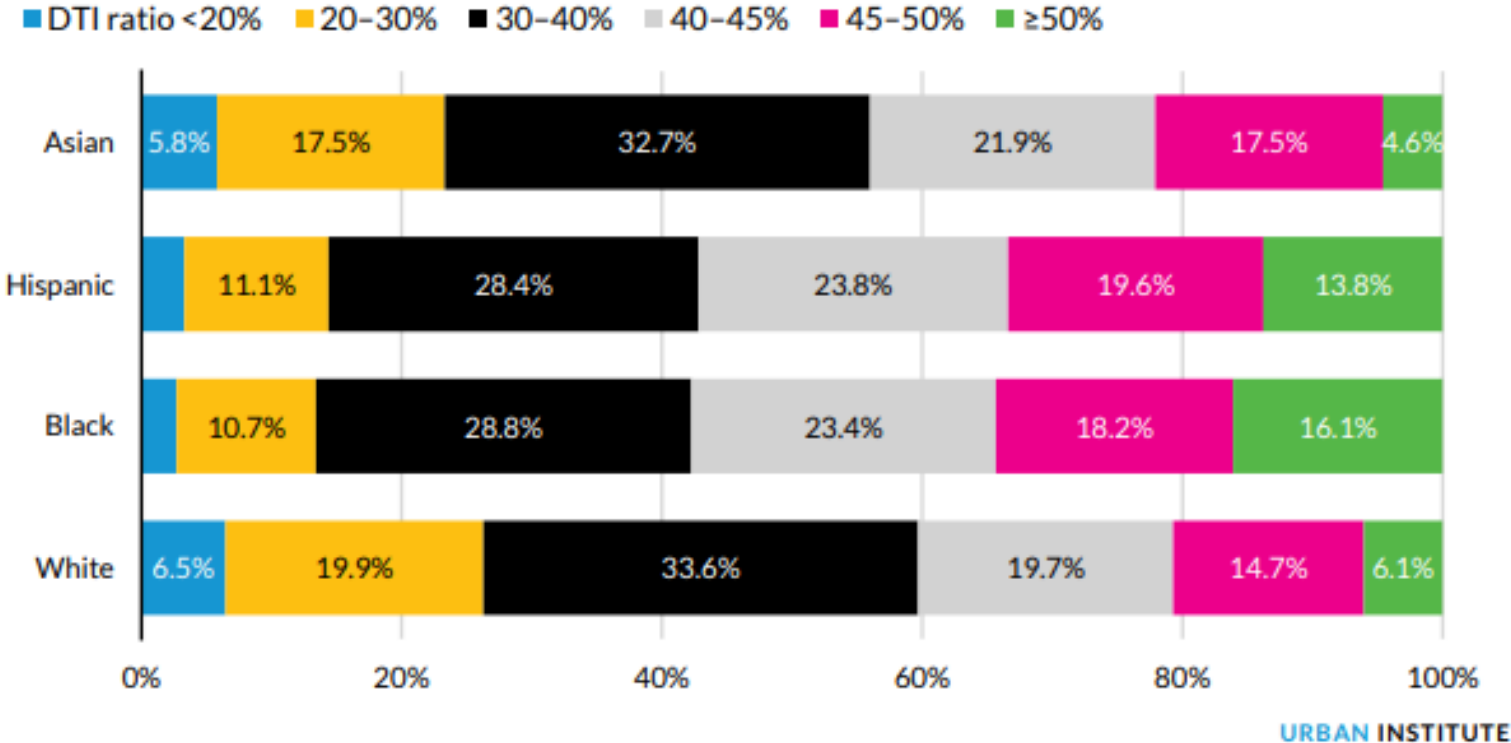
National Net Worth of Non-Hispanic Black Families



Source: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/scf/dataviz/scf/chart/>

Nationally in 2019, the median debt payment to income ratio for Black homebuyers was 41% compared to 37% for White homebuyers.

FIGURE 6
2019 DTI Ratios, by Race or Ethnicity



Source: 2019 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data.
Note: DTI = debt to income.

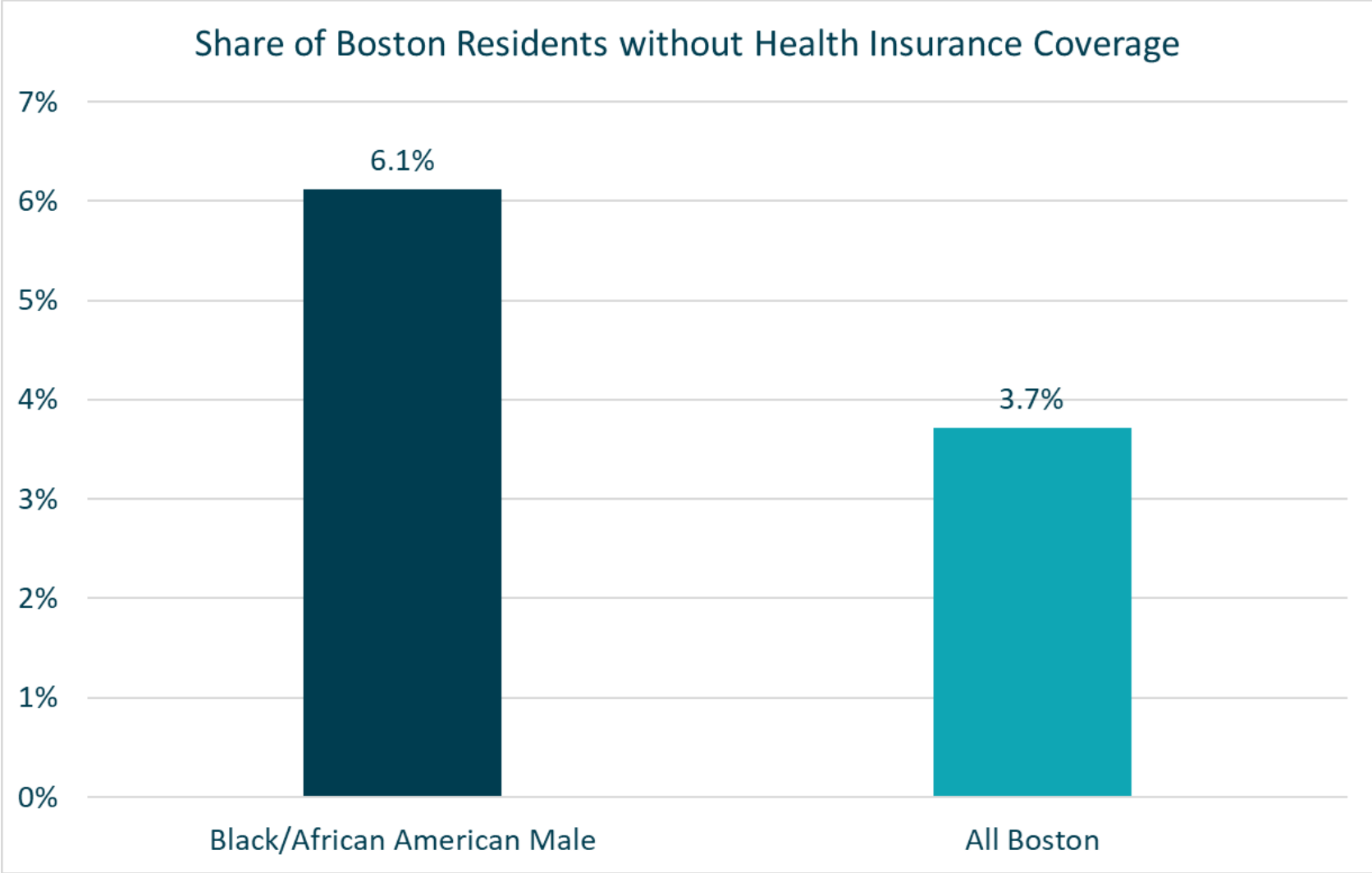
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Health



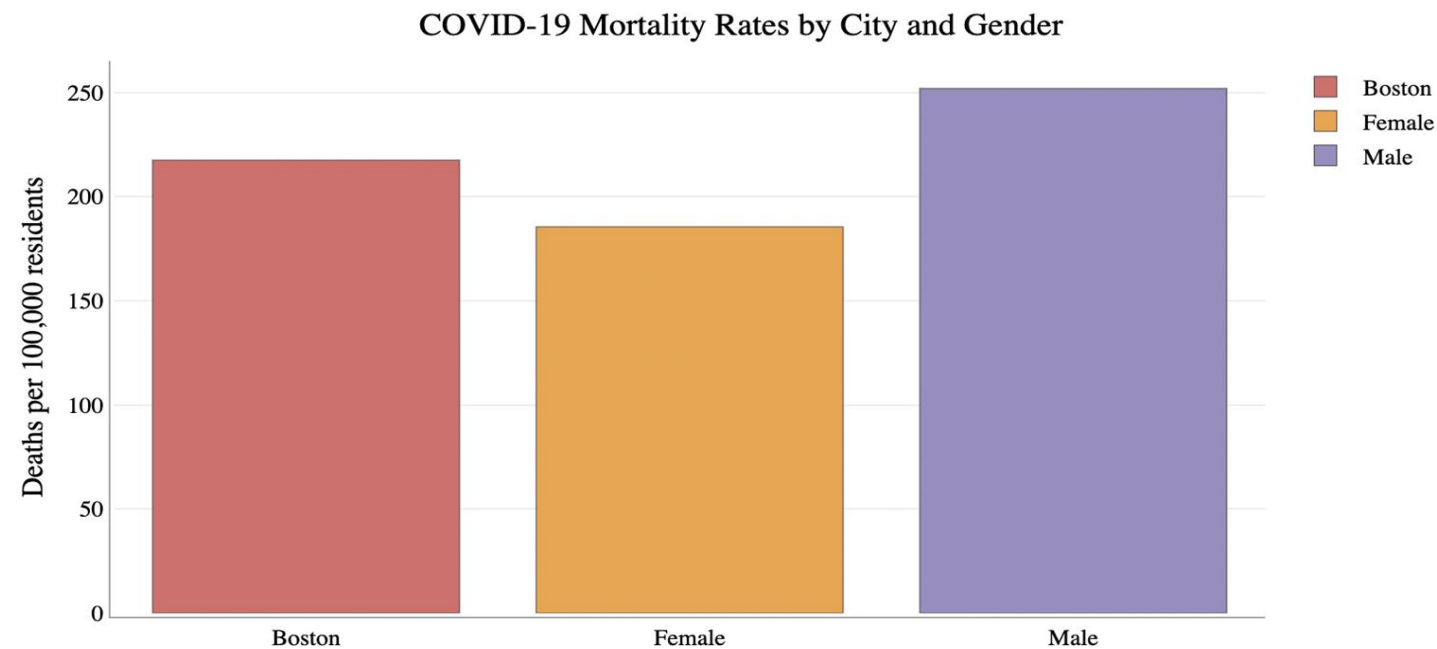
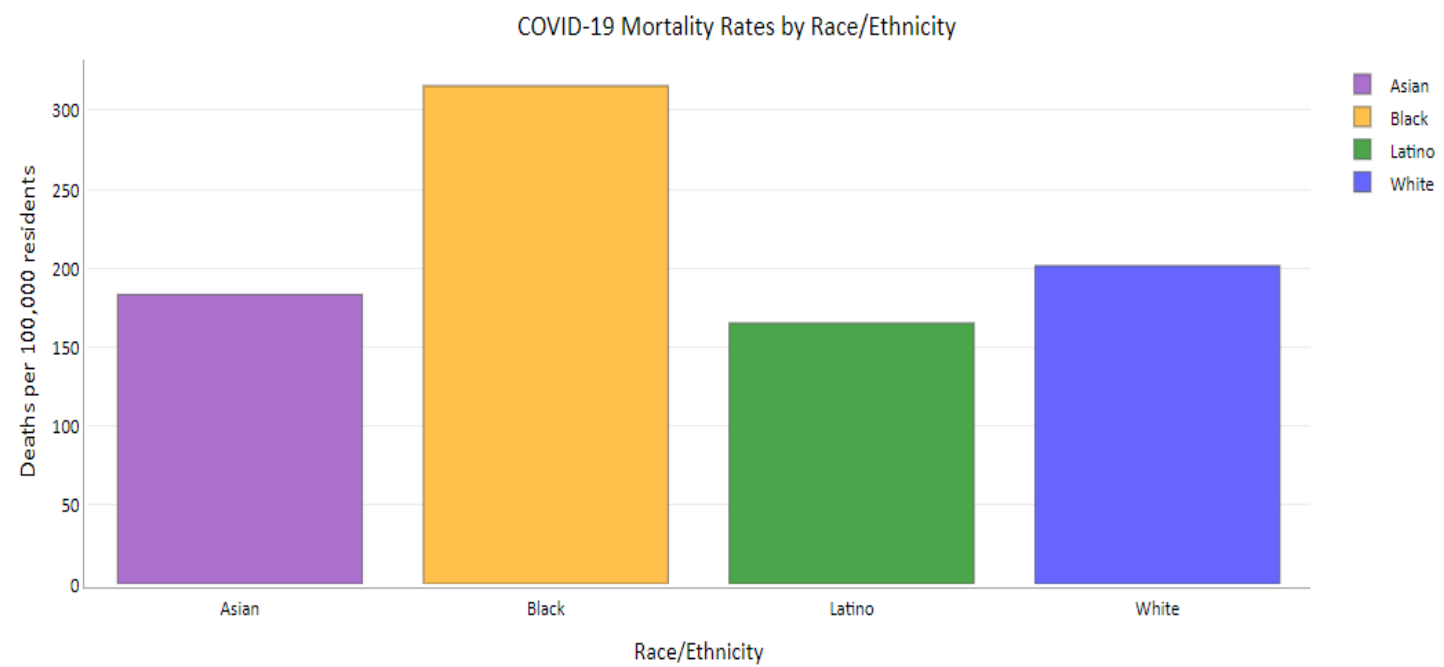
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6% of Black African American males are without health insurance coverage



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

In Boston, Black residents and male residents have had the highest rates of mortality from COVID-19.



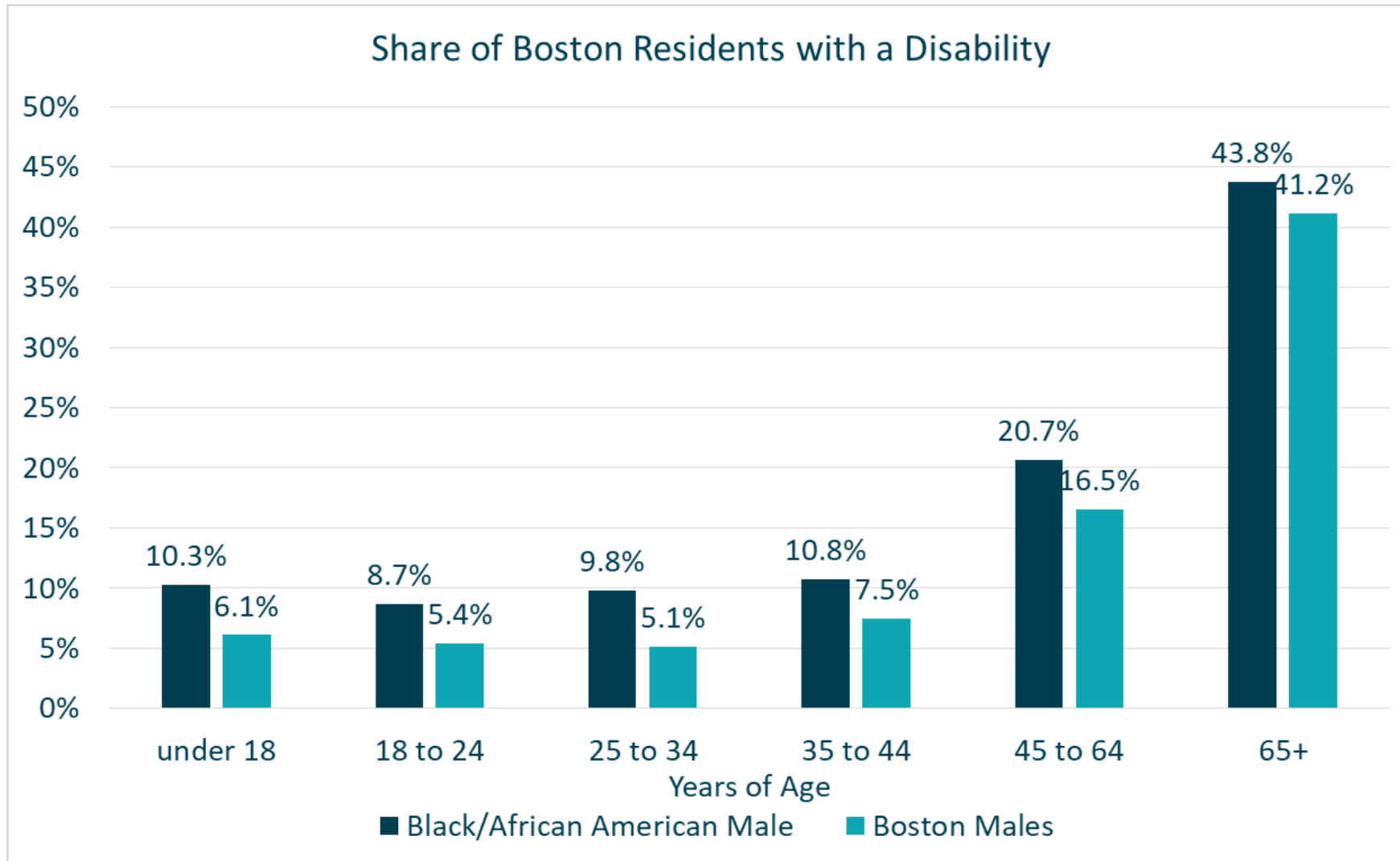
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Other Issues



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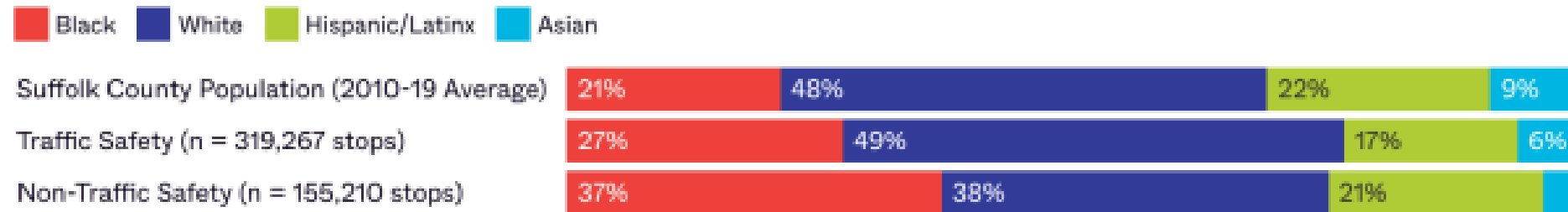
16% of Black African American males have a disability



Black drivers were pulled over approximately 2.5 times more often than White drivers between 2010 and 2019, according to research by the Vera Institute for Justice

Figure 4

Traffic safety vs. non-traffic-safety stops, Suffolk County, 2010–2019



Note: Indigenous population and traffic stop percentages are absent due to small demographic share (less than 1%).

Source: US Census Bureau, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)