



# Advancing a System of Prevention in Massachusetts

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Partnering to Address the  
Social Determinants of Health

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**Commissioner**  
**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**  
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# Healthiest State in the Nation:



## MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts was ranked the #1 healthiest state in the US in the 2017 *America's Health Rankings* Annual Report.



## VISION

Optimal health and well-being for all people in Massachusetts, supported by a strong public health infrastructure and healthcare delivery.

## MISSION

The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is to prevent illness, injury, and premature death; to ensure access to high quality public health and health care services; and to promote wellness and health equity for *all* people in the Commonwealth.

## DATA

We provide relevant, timely access to data for DPH, researchers, press and the general public in an effective manner in order to target disparities and impact outcomes.

## DETERMINANTS

We focus on the social determinants of health - the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, which contribute to health inequities.

## DISPARITIES

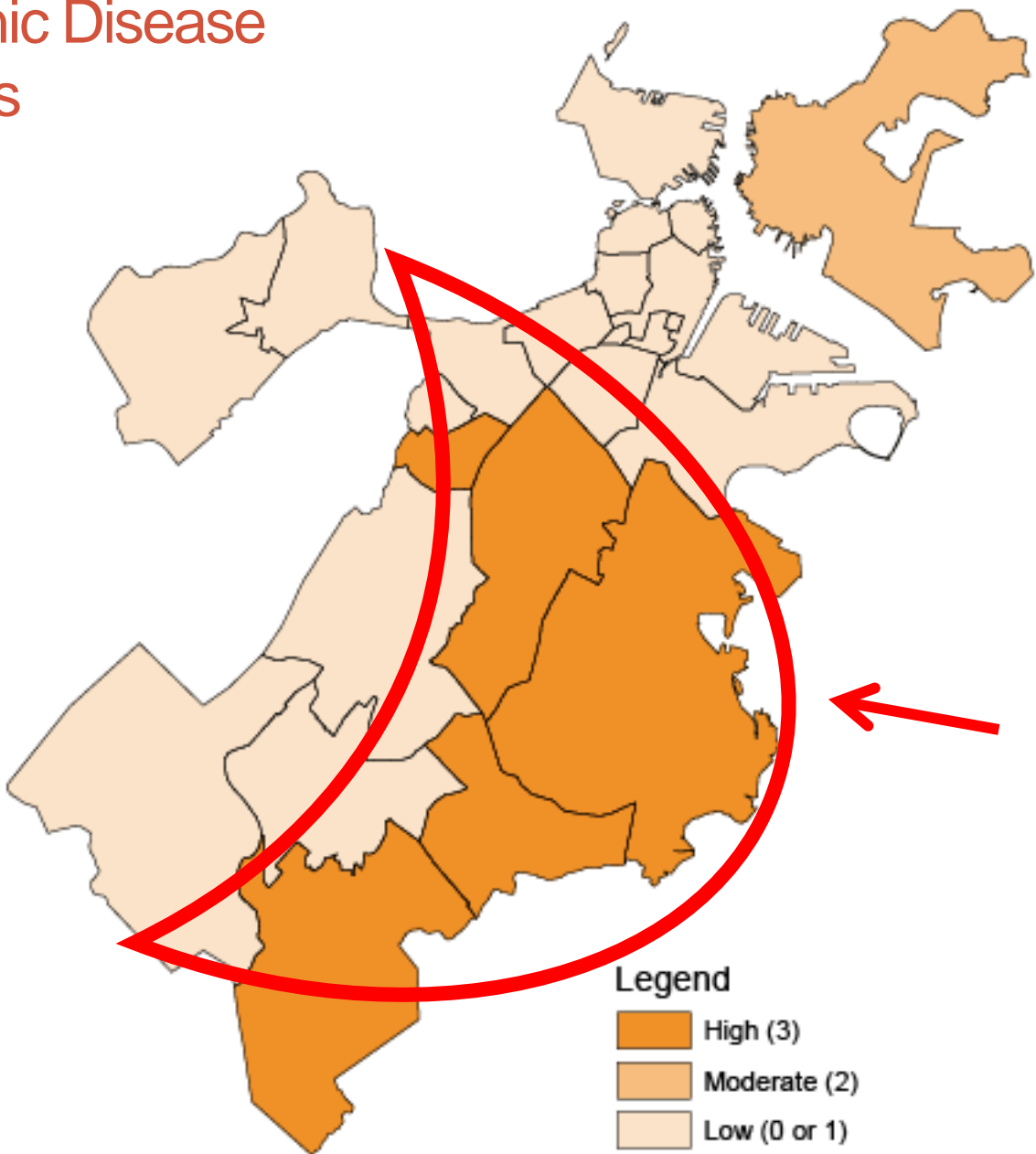
We consistently recognize and strive to eliminate health disparities amongst populations in Massachusetts, wherever they may exist.

EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE

PASSION AND INNOVATION

INCLUSIVENESS AND COLLABORATION

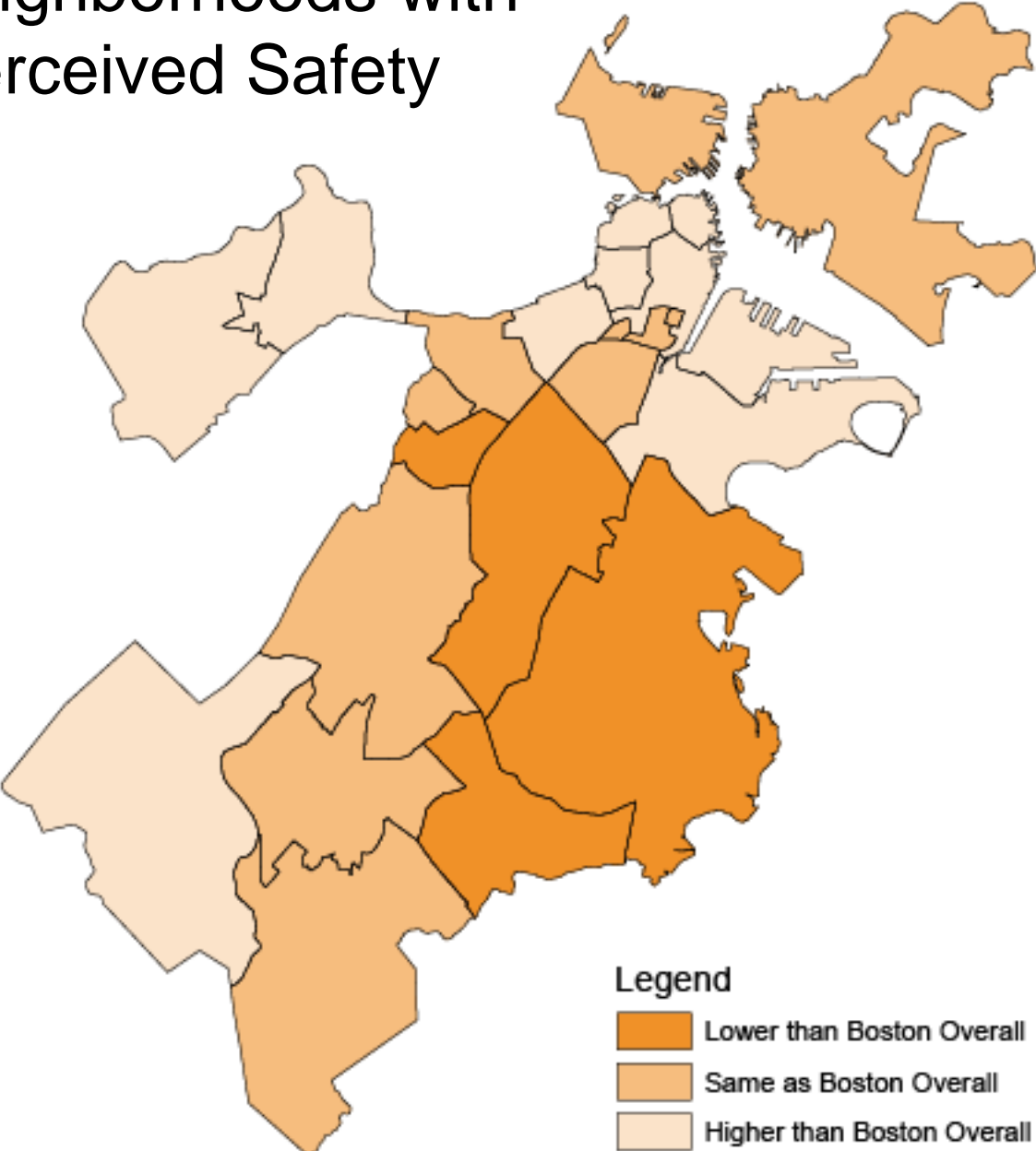
# Boston Neighborhoods with High Rates of Chronic Disease Hospitalizations



Keep your eye on “the crescent”

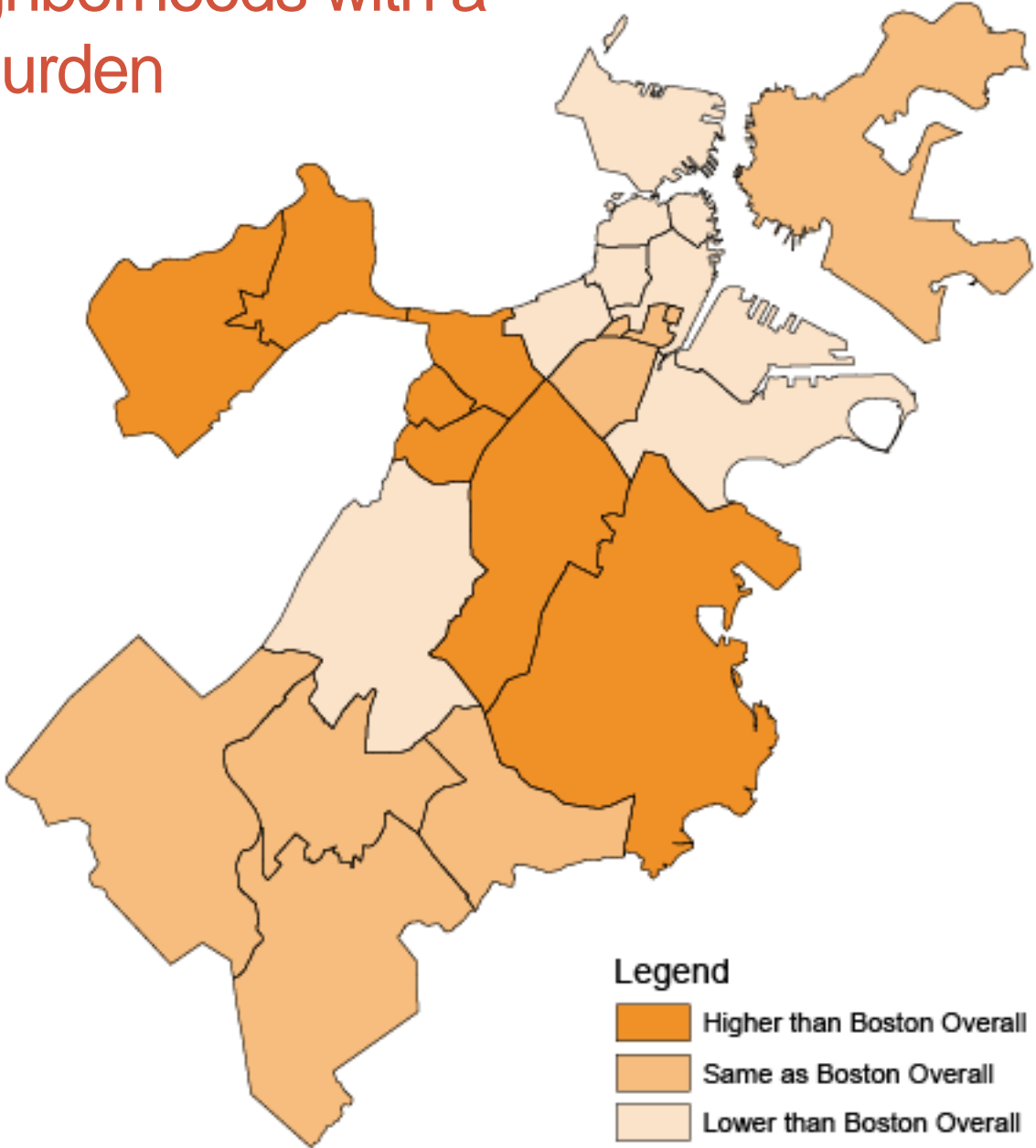
\*2012 CHIA Hospital Discharge Data, age adjusted

# Boston Neighborhoods with Poor Perceived Safety



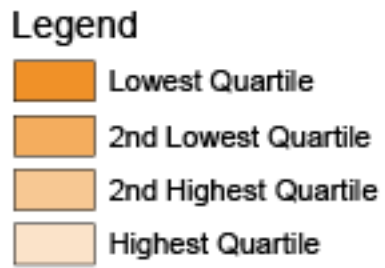
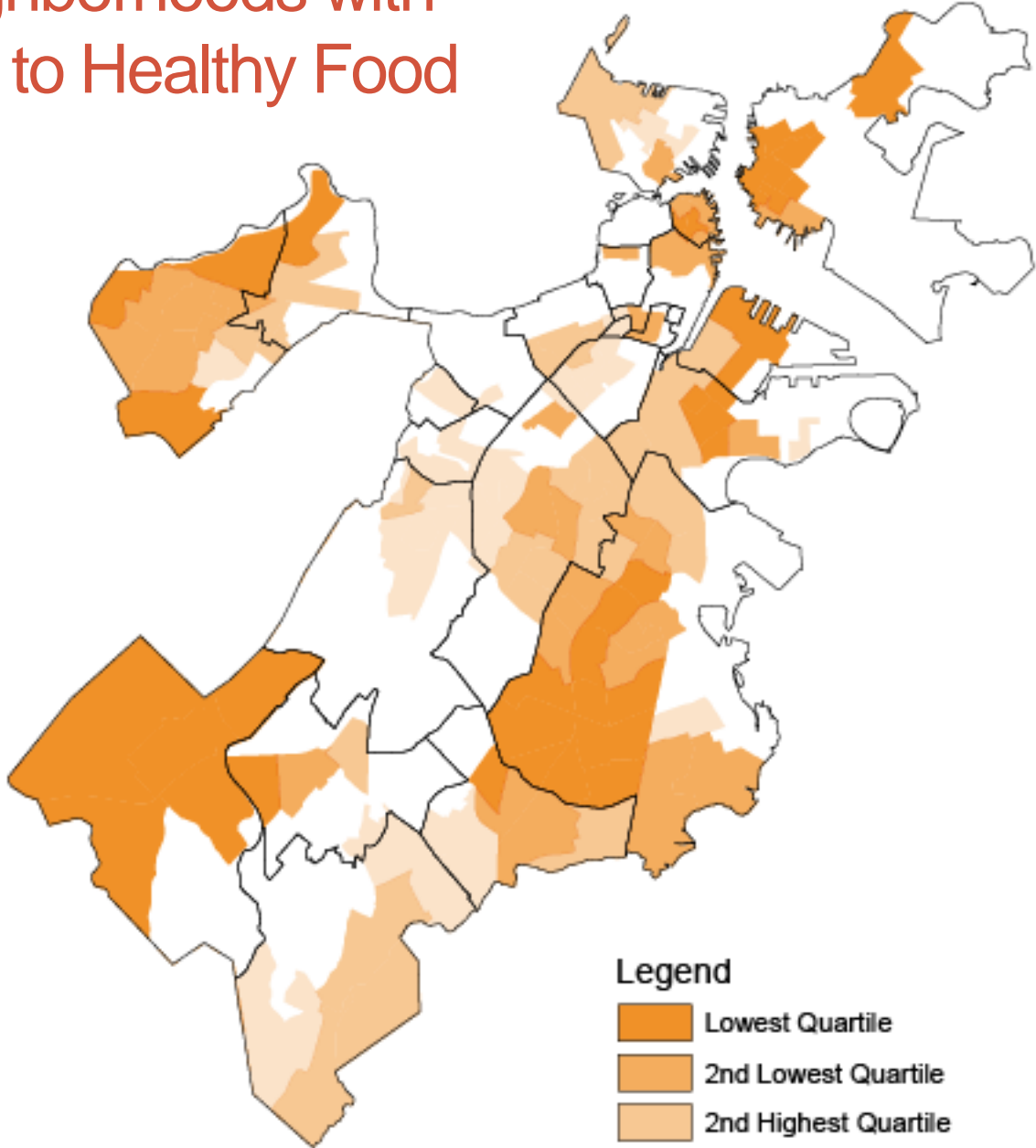
\*Boston Neighborhood Survey (BNS), 2008; Harvard Youth Prevention Center through Cooperative agreement with the CDC

# Boston Neighborhoods with a High Rent Burden



\* American Community Survey, 2008-2012, US Census Bureau

# Boston Neighborhoods with Low Access to Healthy Food



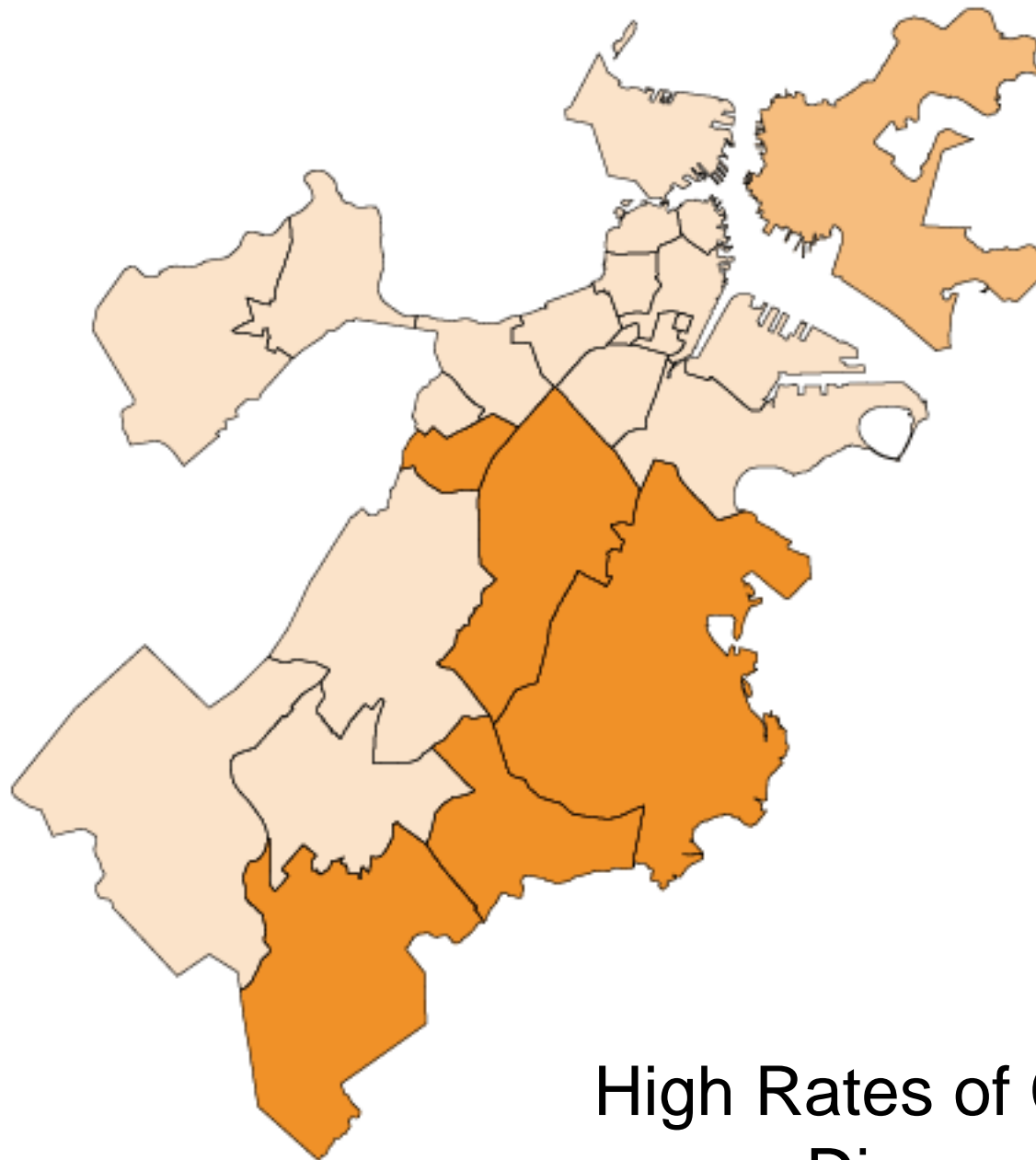
\* Modified Retail Food Environment Index, CDC



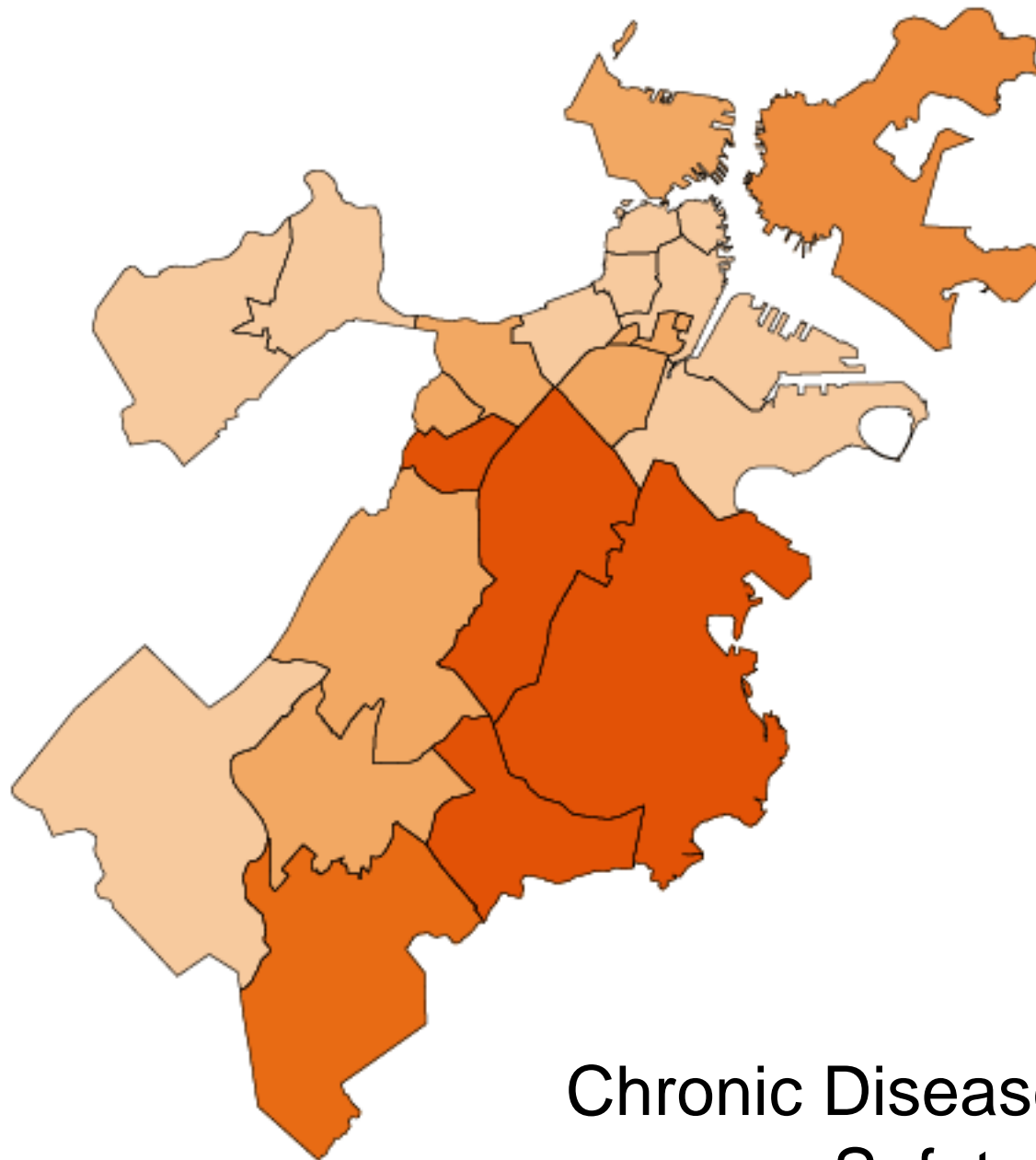
And put them all together  
and....

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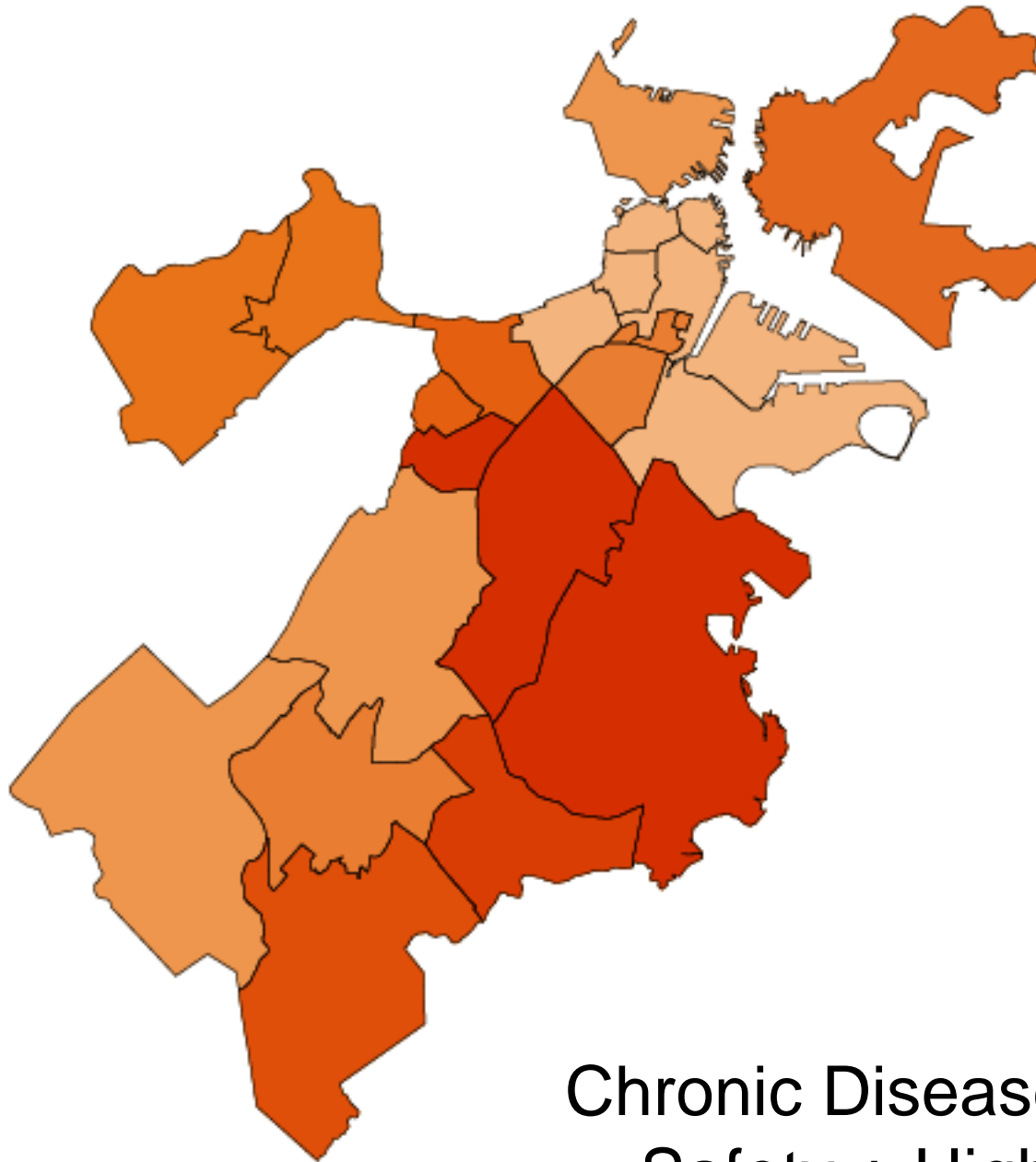




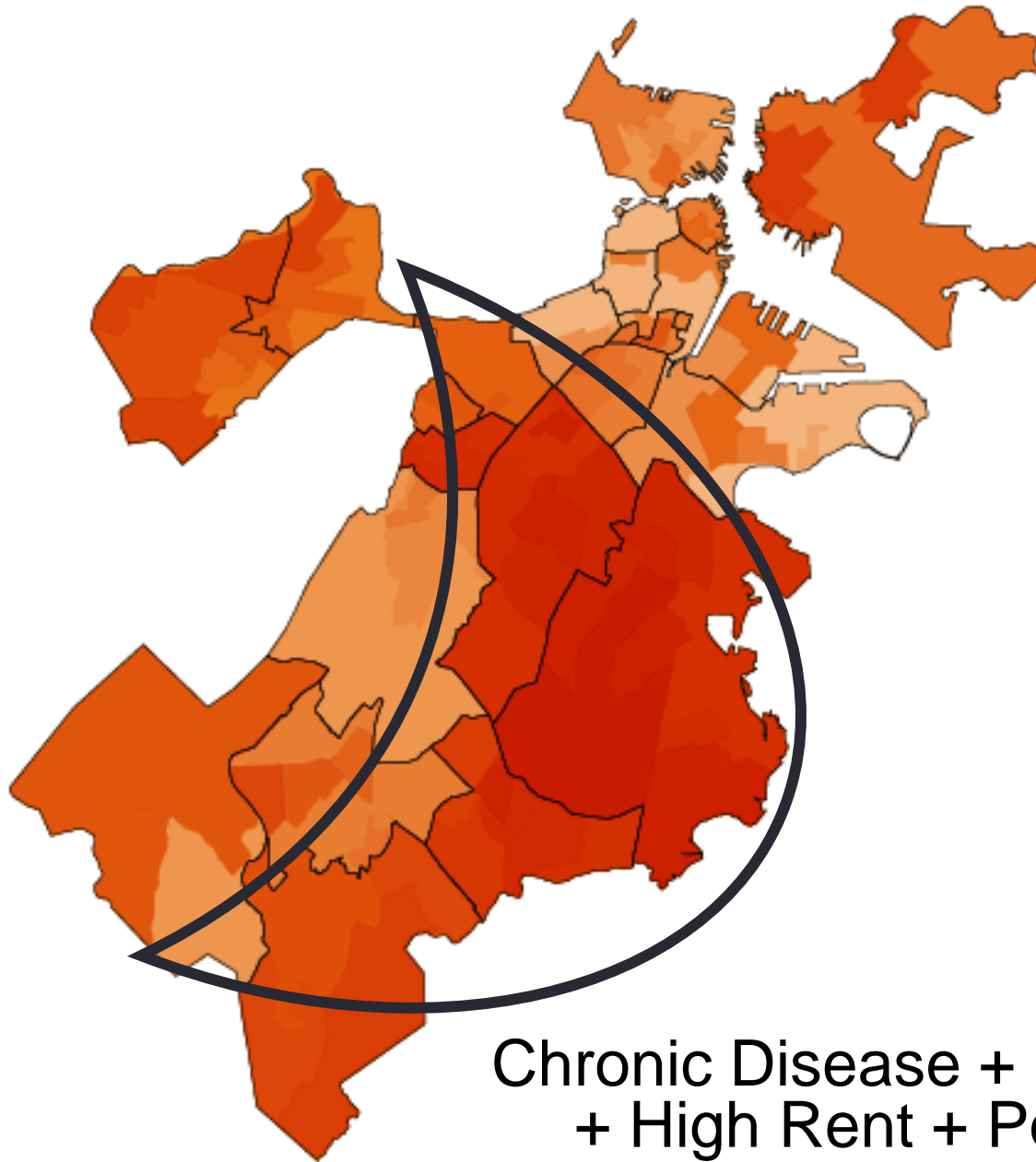
High Rates of Chronic  
Disease



Chronic Disease + Poor  
Safety



Chronic Disease + Poor  
Safety + High Rent



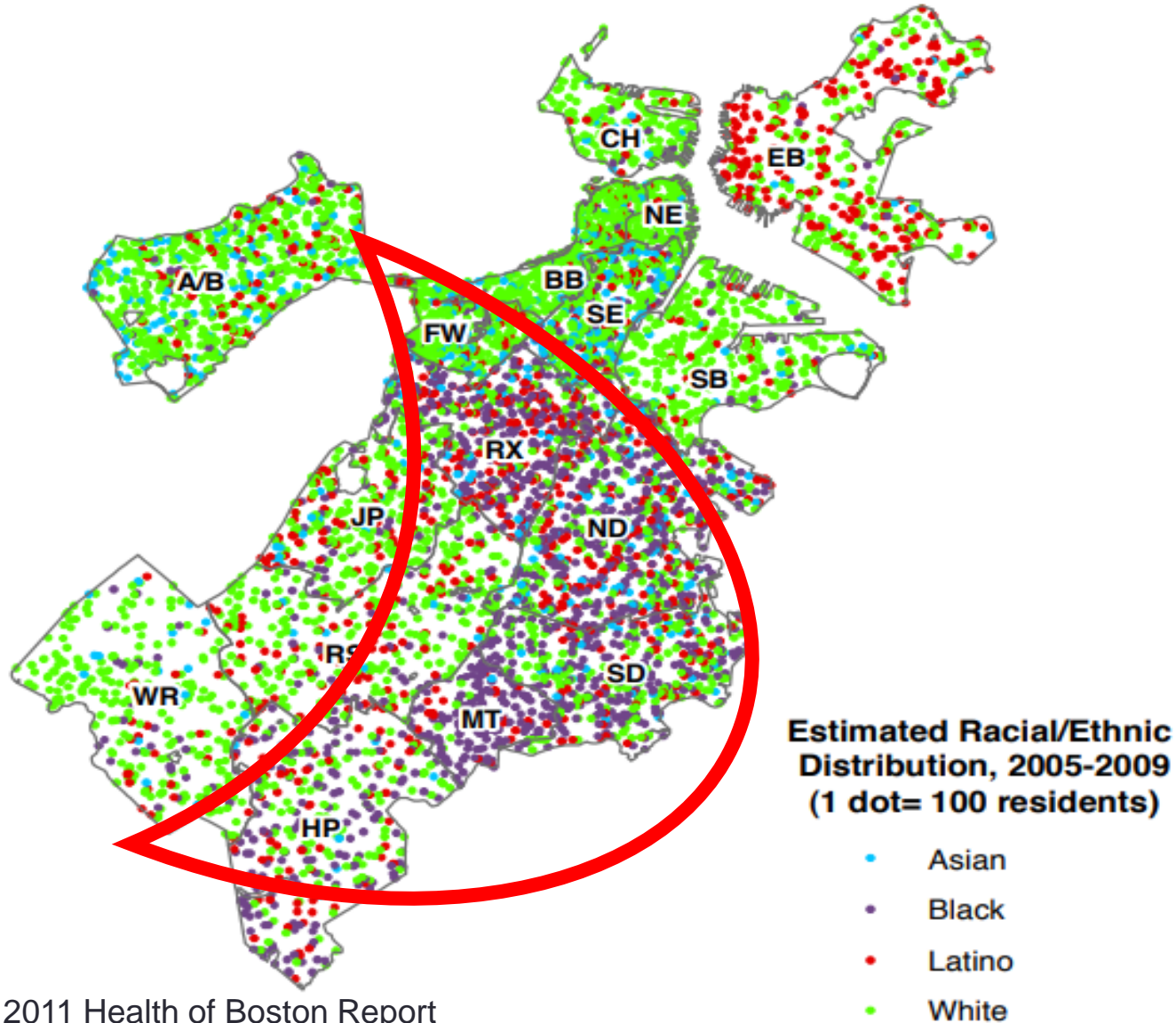
Chronic Disease + Poor Safety  
+ High Rent + Poor Food  
Access



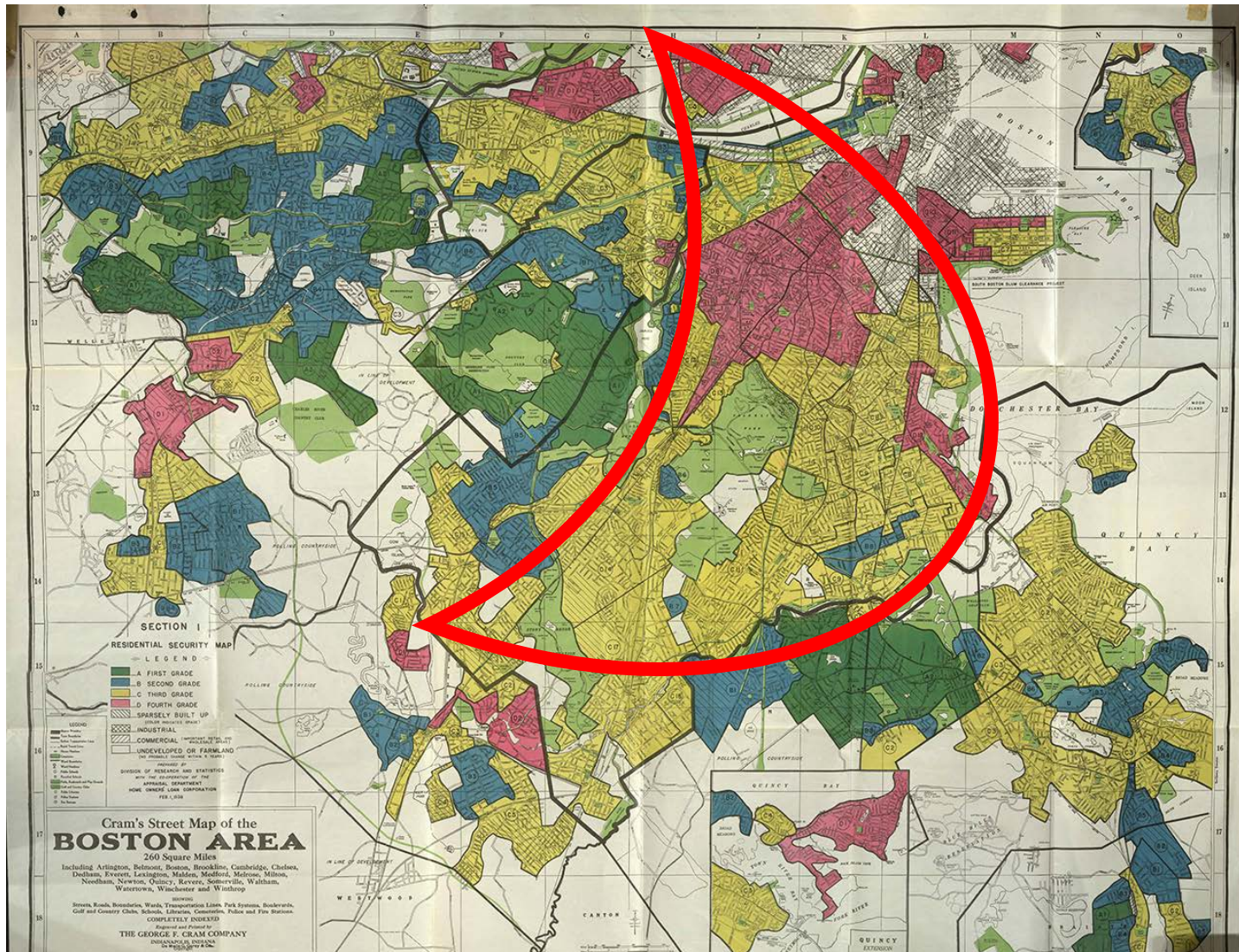
What else is going on in “the crescent” ...

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# Race Matters



# Redlining of Boston Neighborhoods





# DPH's role in addressing the social determinants of health

1. Data: access and translation
2. Workforce development: ex. community health workers
3. Regulatory guidance and technical assistance: ex. Determination of Need Community Health Initiatives





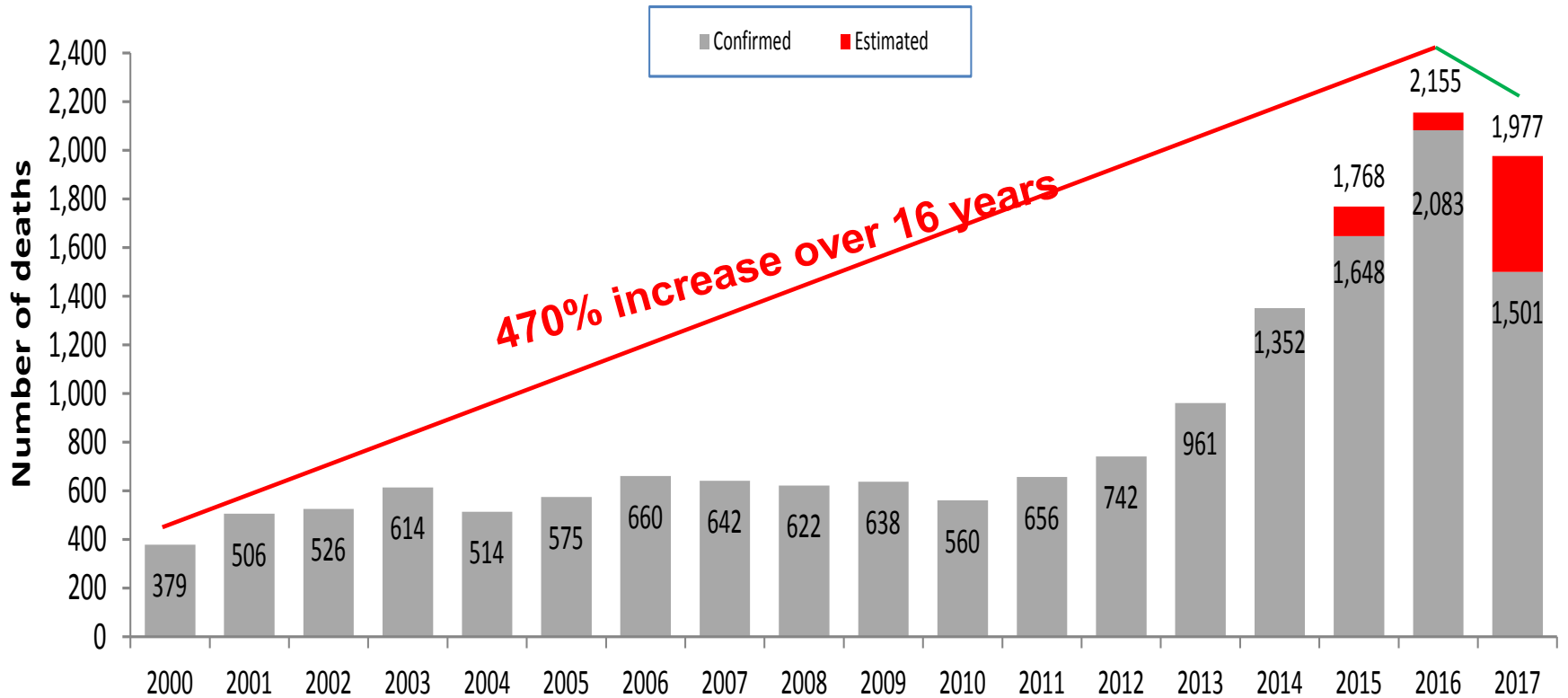
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# Opioid Related Overdose Deaths

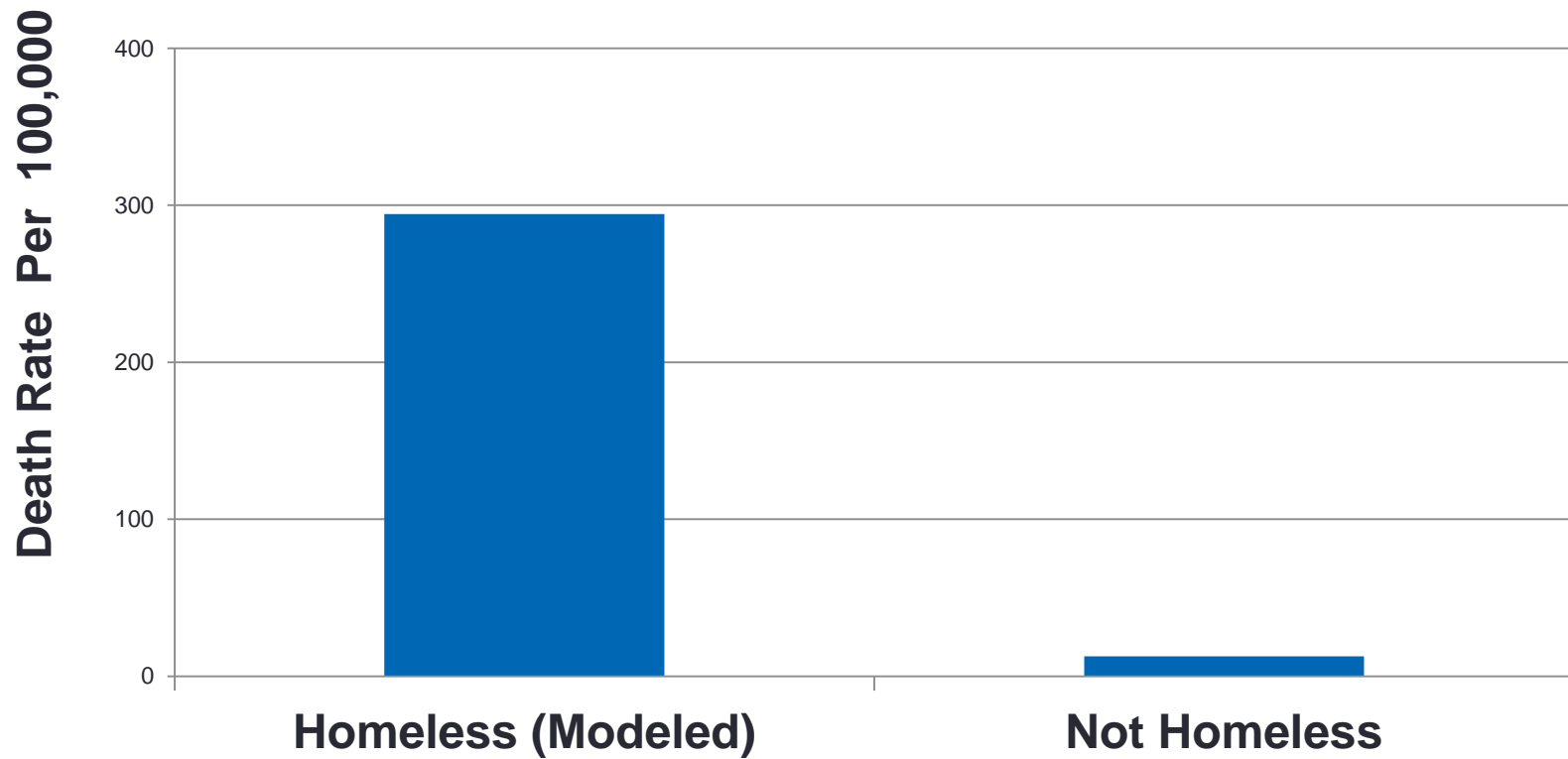
Figure 2. Opioid<sup>1</sup>-Related Deaths, All Intent  
Massachusetts Residents: 2000 - 2017





# Persons Experiencing Homelessness

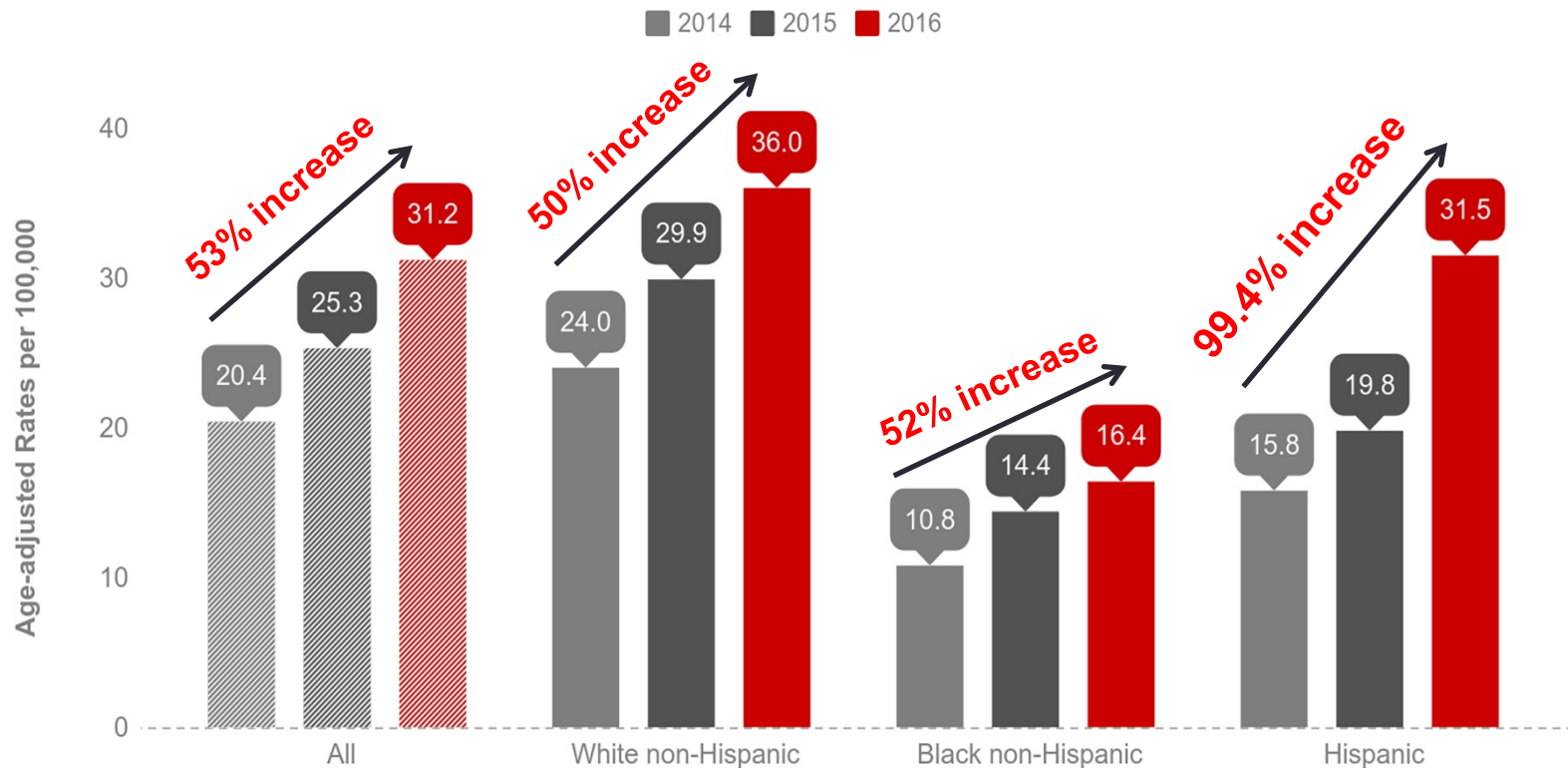
Opioid Death Rate **30 Times Higher**  
for the Homeless Individuals





# The age-adjusted opioid-related overdose death rate for Hispanics doubled in three years (2014-2016)

Confirmed Opioid-Related Death Rates, All Intent, by Race and Year





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# Certification of CHWs

CHWs are trusted members of the community:

- Hired primarily for their **understanding of the populations and communities** they serve
- **Bridge between healthcare systems and patients** to support well-being and prevention
- New **voluntary certification of individual CHWs at DPH** – first within health professions licensure



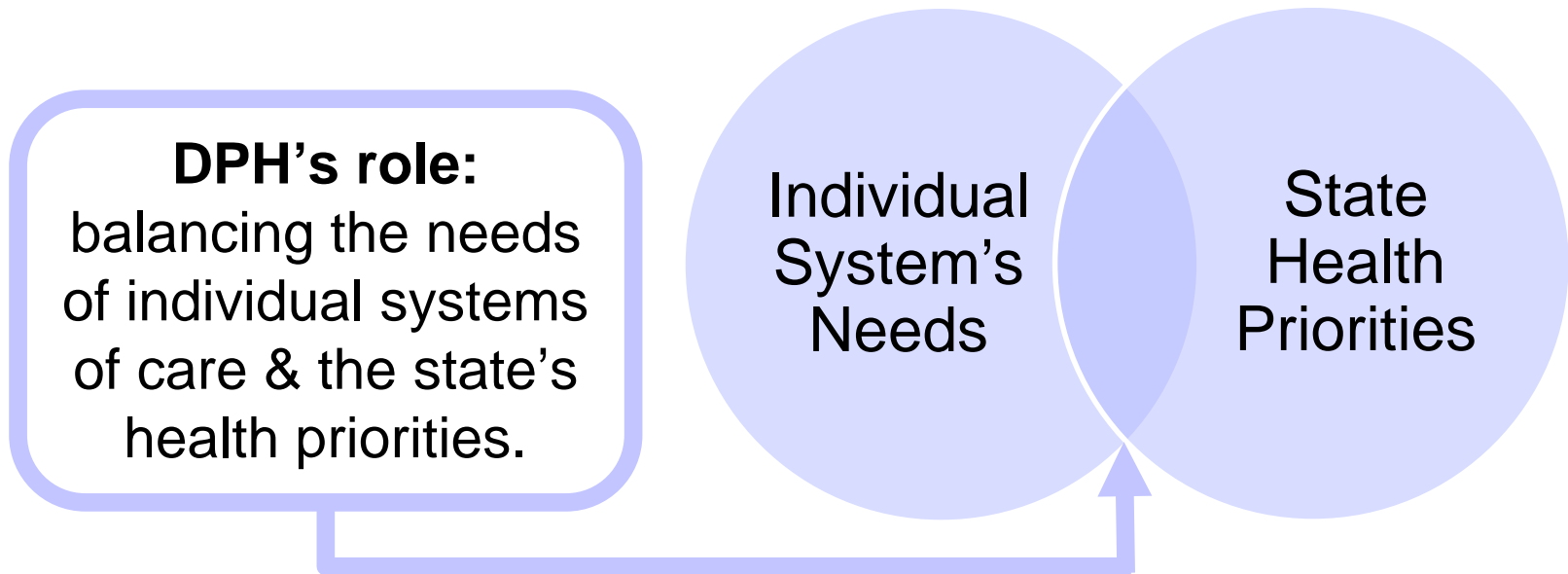


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# Public Health's role in DoN



- **Individual System's Needs:** Applicants can best demonstrate the Triple Aim (IHI model) 1) need within their system, 2) value-based competition, and 3) demonstrable “public health value”.
- **Health Priorities:** With state agency and community partners, DPH establishes “Health Priorities” to tackle the common community-level/underlying social determinants of health.
- **DoN Role:** The question for DoN becomes how proposed projects address and balance both a system's needs and health priorities.





# Health Priority Social Determinants of Health



**Mental Health & Wellness**  
**Homelessness & Housing Stability**

**Substance Use Disorder**  
**Preventable Chronic Disease**



**THANK YOU**

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