Massachusetts Health Policy Forum

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Associate Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Baker-Polito Administration

Governor Charlie Baker & Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito

Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders

Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel
About DPH

1799
History of department dates to Paul Revere

15 sites, 3000 employees
DPH is located across the Commonwealth, and partners with local boards of health

8 Bureaus, 6 Office
DPH covers a range of issues from birth until death

$1 billion
Annual budget, comprised of federal, state, and grant funding
The Range of DPH

Massachusetts DPH will continue to be a national leader in innovative, outcomes-focused public health based on a data-driven approach, with a focus on quality public health and health care services and an emphasis on the social determinants and eradication of health inequities.
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
CDC Health Impact Pyramid

Factors that Affect Health

Examples
- Eat healthy, be physically active
- Rx for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes
- Immunizations, brief intervention, cessation treatment, colonoscopy
- Fluoridation, trans fat, smoke-free laws, tobacco tax
- Poverty, education, housing, inequality

Check the Tarrant County Public Health Web site to learn more.
http://health.tarrantcounty.com
Social Determinants

Individual resources
Education, occupation, income, wealth

Opportunity structures
Schools, jobs, justice

Neighborhood resources
Housing, food choices, public safety, transportation, parks and recreation, political clout

Hazards and toxic exposures
Pesticides, lead, reservoirs of infection

CDC: Social Determinants of Health and Social Determinants of Equity, the Impacts of Racism on the Health of our Nation
A FOCUS ON HEALTH EQUITY
U.S. Infant Mortality Rate 2011

U.S. rate = 6.15

CDC Vital Statistics
Infant Mortality Rates in Massachusetts’ Largest Cities 2012

**Statewide rate = 4.26**

**All Causes of Death - Infant Deaths (ICD 10)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Mortality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somerville</td>
<td>2.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quincy</td>
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<td>Worcester</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mortality data courtesy of MA DPH. Map created by BEH-GIS, MDPH
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

Legend
- Higher than Boston Overall
- Same as Boston Overall
- Lower than Boston Overall

* American Community Survey, 2008-2012, US Census Bureau
Boston Neighborhoods with Low Access to Healthy Food (mRFEI)

Legend
- Lowest Quartile
- 2nd Lowest Quartile
- 2nd Highest Quartile
- Highest Quartile

* Modified Retail Food Environment Index, CDC
But put them all together and...
High rates of Chronic Disease
Chronic Disease + Poor Safety + High Rent
Chronic Disease + Poor Safety + High Rent + Poor Food Access
What else is going on in “the crescent”...
Place Matters

Map Source: 2011 Health of Boston Report
Data Source: Census 2000, US Census Bureau
Redlining of Boston Neighborhoods

Connect with DPH

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Massachusetts Department of Public Health

DPH blog
https://blog.mass.gov/publichealth

www.mass.gov/dph