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Compromised Public Health





CHELSEA AND EAST BOSTON

Chelsea:

- 1.8 square miles
- 45,000+ residents
- 73% ethnic minorities
- 24% live below poverty line

East Boston:

- 5 square miles
- 55,000+ residents
- 53% Latino
- 17% live below poverty line

Disproportionate Environmental and Public Health Burdens



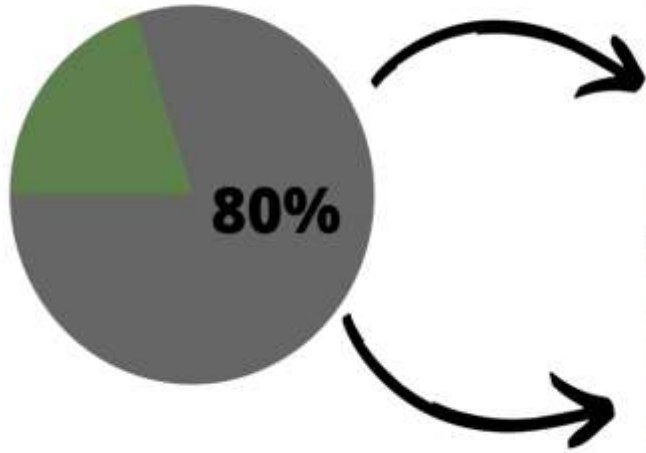


New England Produce Center

2nd Largest Privately Owned in Produce Distribution Center in US



80% impervious surfaces



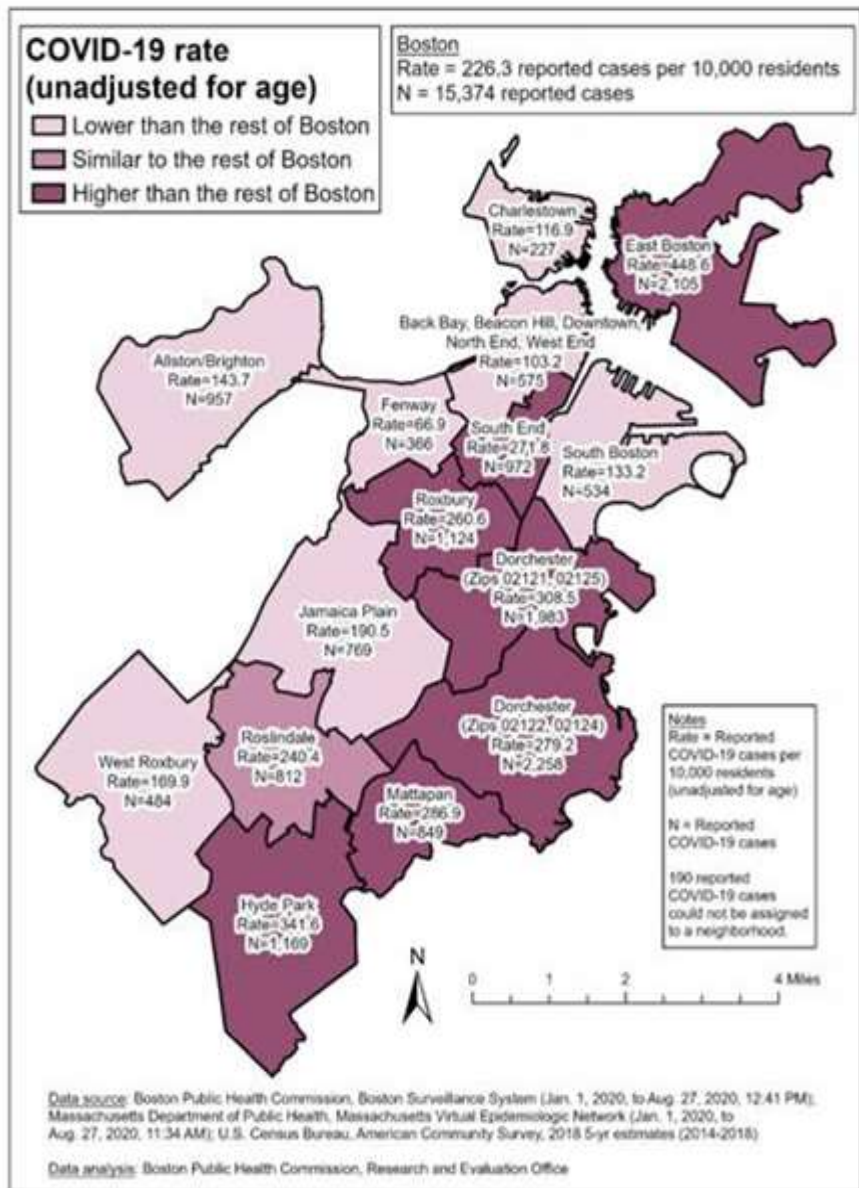
5% open / green space
3% dedicated to parks



2% Tree Canopy



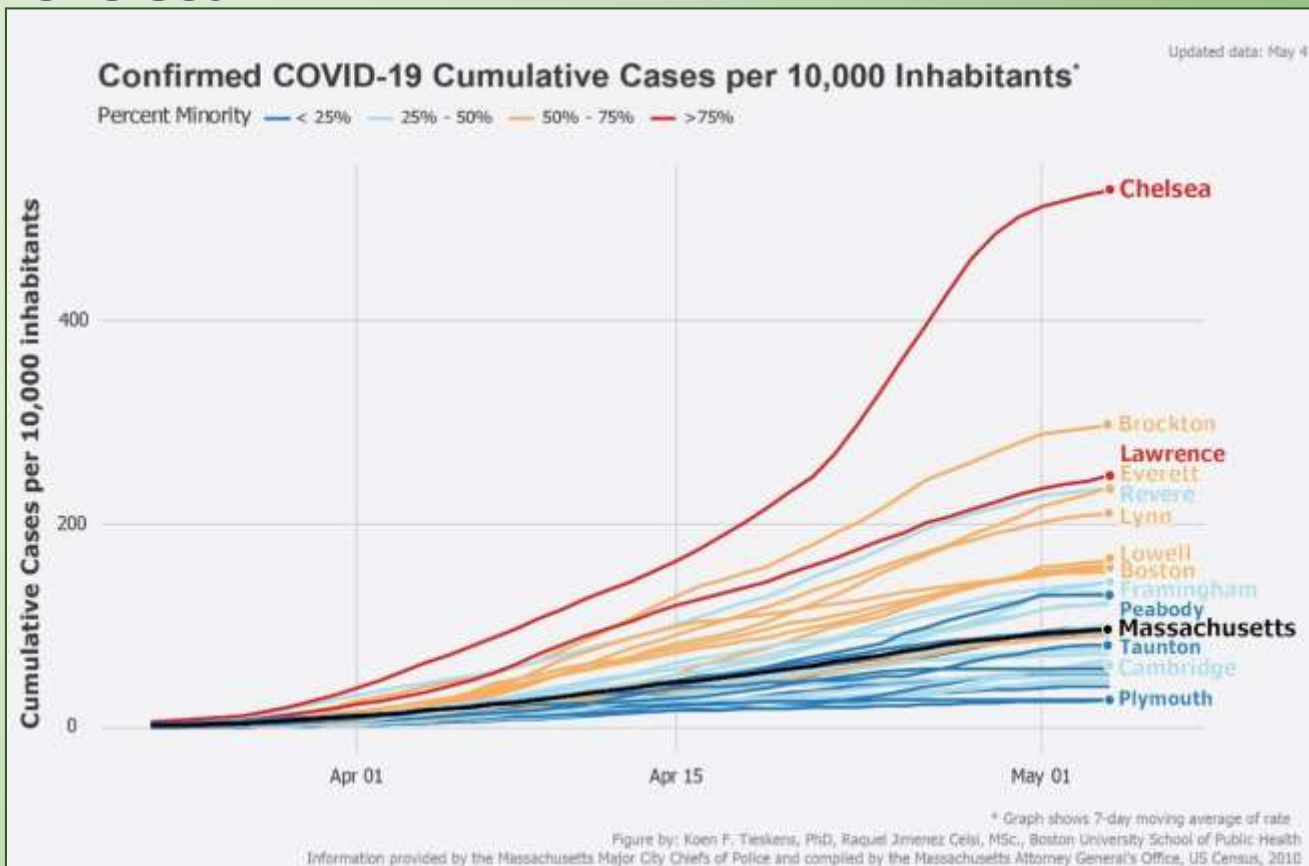
East Boston



CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

Healey Report Highlights COVID-19 Impact on Environmental Justice Communities

Chelsea



The Boston Globe

YVONNE ABRAHAM

In Chelsea, the deadly consequences of air pollution

Coronavirus isn't just a health crisis in Chelsea. It's also an environmental one.

By [Yvonne Abraham](#) Globe Columnist, Updated April 29, 2020, 6:43 p.m.



Massachusetts communities with dirty air are coronavirus hotspots

By [Zoe Greenberg](#) Globe Staff, Updated April 29, 2020, 7:33 p.m.

BU Today

News, Opinion, Community

PUBLIC HEALTH

BU Public Health Researchers Aid Chelsea, Epicenter of State's COVID-19 Outbreak

"Every person counts," says epidemiologist whose data show the city's rate of confirmed cases is higher than rates in Manhattan and Brooklyn

CommonWealth

NONPROFIT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, IDEAS & CIVIC LIFE

COVID-19's link to environmental racism

Even now it's happening along Chelsea Creek

wbur

A Look Inside Chelsea, The State's Top Coronavirus Hotspot

The New York Times

In a Crowded City, Leaders Struggle to Separate the Sick From the Well

Chelsea, Mass., has an infection rate higher than any other community in the state. With families in cramped housing, it is difficult to contain the spread.

wbur

COMMENTARY

You May Not Realize It, But Chelsea Makes Your Life Better. Now It's The Epicenter Of COVID-19 In Mass.

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

A Look Inside Chelsea, The State's Top Coronavirus Hotspot



What could have been...



What is...



63,000 daily vehicular trips across the Tobin Bridge

37,000 annual trucks to/from NEPC

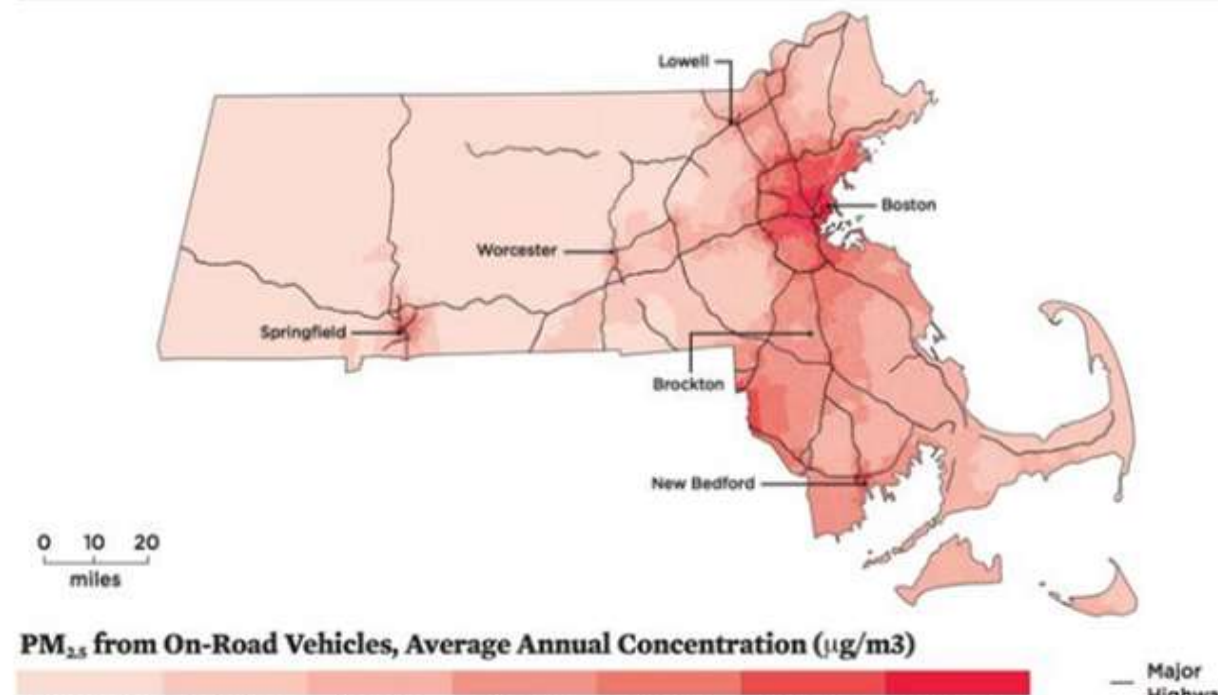
20% Chelsea exceeds EPA's diesel concentration level by 20%

2x Chelsea residents face nearly double the risk of air pollutants and approximately

1.5x the rate of cancer compared to all of MA



FIGURE 1. High Variation in Exposure to PM_{2.5} Pollution from On-Road Vehicles in Massachusetts







**Non-Road Worthy, Dirty Diesel Engines
Operating 24/7**

Collaborative and Innovative Solutions



**Repowered/Retrofitted
132 Dirty Diesel
Engines**

**Eliminated 2,000 tons
of annual air pollutants**

**Improved public health
outcomes**

**Reduced health care
costs**



1 Stationary Air Quality Monitor
9 Mobile Monitors
<https://fire.airnow.gov/>



~ 200 Indoor Air
Purifiers





COVID-19 in Chelsea: A Glance Into One of the Hardest Hit Cities And the Role of Intersecting Social Determinants of Health

COVID-19



Chelsea, Massachusetts was one of the first cities in the nation to experience the catastrophic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At its peak, Chelsea had the highest positivity rate in the state for months on end. As the early epicenter in Massachusetts, Chelsea had an infection rate equal to or surpassing most other regions in the nation. Factors such as an essential workforce, racial inequities, significant overcrowded housing, pre-existing health conditions, high rates of poverty, industrial pollution, and various other inequalities contributed to higher risk of infection, serious illness, and death. The city and its residents remain vulnerable to these inequities related to the social determinants of health.

"The pandemic cannot be considered in isolation. The impacts of racism and discrimination on health are well established and measures must be taken to address the root causes of these disparities. At the same time, we need to urgently protect ethnic groups most at risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19 [...]. The effects of racism, in particular systemic racism, are still not widely recognized and must be acknowledged by both healthcare professionals and policymakers so that more can be done to redress the balance and reduce these inequalities."

—Dr. Mohammed Hossain, Researcher at St. George's University of London

Unwritten Rules of Engagement

1. Uplift Community Voices

2. Don't be extractive

3. Partner with CBOs, appreciate lived experience

4. Support community-led policy and legislative initiatives

with health data and research

5. Share Out Data

6. Listen & Follow Community Lead



Sam

Chelsea is home. We may be small. We may be considered poor in the context of Massachusetts. But, we are rich in culture and community. It is so beautiful how our different cultures mix with each other. We may not speak the same languages, and our food might have different spices, but Chelsea mixes so beautifully. I know I can communicate with a neighbor across the street even if they don't speak English, because we all speak immigrant!



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