



The City of
WORCESTER

The City of Worcester Department of Health and Human Services

Commissioner Dr. Matilde Castiel

April 9th, 2021

Racism structures opportunity and assigns value based on how a person looks.



The result: conditions that unfairly advantage some and unfairly disadvantage others.

Racism hurts the health of our nation by preventing some people the opportunity to attain their highest level of health.

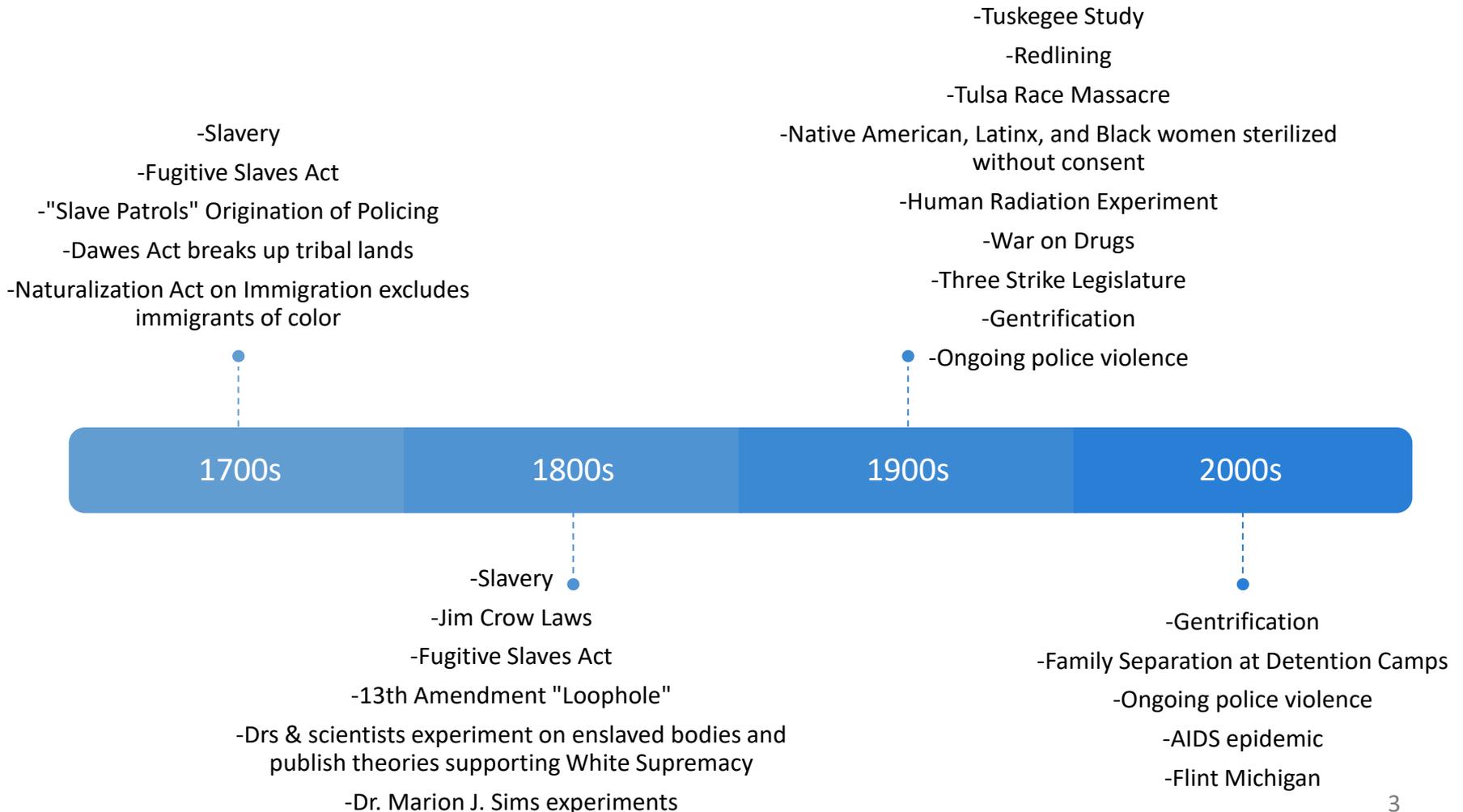
Racism may be intentional or unintentional. It operates at various levels in society.

Racism is a driving force of the social determinants of health (like housing, education and employment) and is a barrier to health equity.



How did we get here?

Timeline of Systemic Racism and Its Implications on Public Health



Health disparities as outcomes of systemic racism:

Black and Latino individuals are roughly **twice** as likely as White counterparts to be employed in high-risk occupations

Hispanic and foreign-born populations have the **highest risks** of work-related fatal injuries

For all cancers combined, the death rate is **25% higher** for African Americans/blacks than for whites.

Hispanics are **2.5x and 1.5x less likely** to have health insurance than White and Black, Non-Hispanic counterparts

Black and Hispanic youth ages 10-14 are **5x and 4x** more likely than their White counterparts to give birth

Black population have **6 less** expected years free from chronic conditions than their White counterparts

Black and Hispanic populations are **roughly twice as likely** as White counterparts to have diabetes

Black men are roughly **8x more likely** than White men to have HIV

Black women are **1.6x more likely** than White counterparts to have pre-term birth

Hispanics are **50% more likely** than White counterparts to die of diabetes or liver disease

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2013. "CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Report — United States, 2013." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6203.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Minority Health and Health Equity. 2015. *Hispanic Health*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/hispanic-health/index.html>

National Cancer Institute. Examples of Cancer Health Disparities. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/about-health-disparities/examples>

Indicators of Systemic Racism as Social Determinants of Health in Worcester:

Latinos in Worcester have a poverty rate **2x greater** than White counterparts¹

Latino Worcester residents are **3.6x less likely** than White residents to obtain a Bachelor's Degree¹

Black and Latino WPS students experience discipline **2x the rate** of White students²

In 2017, Black and Latino youth were arrested at rates **3.2x and 2.4x higher** than white youth⁸

In Worcester, the Infant Mortality Rate for Latino and Black women are **3x and 2x greater** than their White counterparts³

Black and Latino communities make up **30%** of Worcester's total population, but **53%** of DCF children under 18⁴

66% of homeless youth in Worcester identify as Latino, Black or Multiracial⁵

BIPOC make up **43%** of the Worcester's total population, but only **16%** of the City of Worcester's full-time employment in 2019⁶

Black and Latino individuals make up **6%** of UMass Medical School's Executive and Managerial leadership and **13%** of total faculty.⁷

Sources:

¹US Census 2018 ACS 5-Year Survey

²Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. 2019. Worcester.

³Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative. 2014-2016 IMR Data.

⁴Mass.gov. 2020. MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES QUARTERLY PROFILE -- FY'2020, Q3 (01/01/20 - 03/31/20)

⁵Massachusetts Youth Count data for Worcester County (data collected between April 23 and May 13, 2018).

⁶The City of Worcester Diversity & Inclusion Division. 2019. Diversity & Inclusion Demographic Analytics - City of Worcester's Workforce. The City of Worcester.

⁷Umass Medical School. 2013. Organizational Profile. <https://www.umassmed.edu/globalassets/diversity-and-equality-opportunity-office/documents/aap-dci-tables-22.pdf>. Umass Medical School.

⁸Ross, L. 2018. WORCESTER RR YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE Results • Date and 2018 Community Assessment. Clark University. <http://www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/d8/29/d8294dfe2b77552450fa850061eb2128/youth-violence-prevention-initiative.pdf>

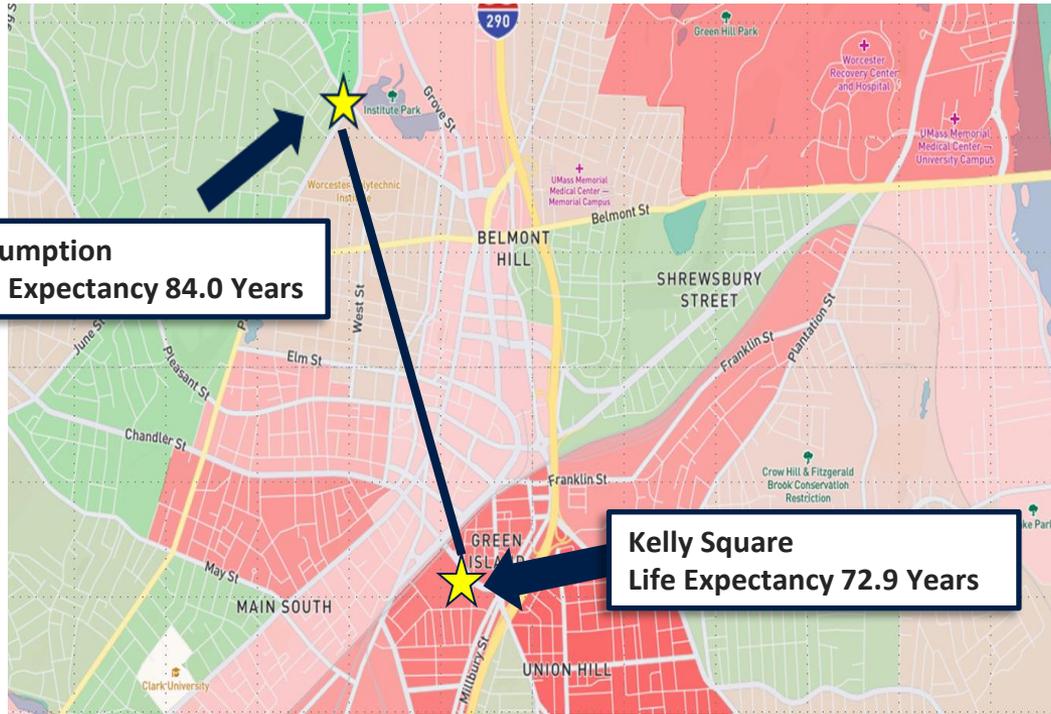
What does it take to achieve Health Justice?



- Poor conditions prevent people from practicing healthy behaviors **and achieving good health.**

Two Miles Apart, 11.1 Years of Life Expectancy Difference

**Assumption
Life Expectancy 84.0 Years**



**Kelly Square
Life Expectancy 72.9 Years**

	Life Expectancy at Birth
Massachusetts	80.7
USA	78.5
Albania	76.4
Vietnam	76.3
Honduras	75.2
Worcester- Main South 1	74.1
Venezuela	74.1
Worcester- Kelly Square	72.9
Bangladesh	72.7
Libya	71.9
Worcester- Union Hill	71.6

Life Expectancy in Context

The COVID-19 Equity Task Force will leverage resources to address systemic barriers to health equity and provide access for all, through a cross-sectoral partnership.

Mission: This Task Force aims to deeply review the systemic racial and other inequities that inflict our healthcare system and are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to address these systemic barriers, the Task Force calls to elevate equity-focused solutions in response to short and long-term needs.

Transparent Data
Working Group

Outreach &
Education
Working Group

Testing Working
Group

Access Working
Group



Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA by City/Town, January 1, 2020 – March 2, 2021

City/Town	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days) ¹	Relative Change in Case Counts ²	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)	Change in Percent Positivity ³
Williamstown	222	10	10.0	Lower	62351	8177	11	0.13%	Lower
Wilmington	1870	64	18.7	Lower	37800	2618	68	2.60%	Lower
Winchendon	592	33	21.9	Lower	13559	881	39	4.43%	Lower
Winchester	1101	39	12.5	Lower	57450	5059	42	0.83%	Lower
Windsor	19	0	0	Lower	866	42	0	0%	Lower
Winthrop	2106	77	29.1	Lower	60852	3360	88	2.62%	Lower
Worcester	3689	616	18.9	Lower	80356	5449	129	2.37%	Lower
Worcester	20857	616	23.0	Lower	624004	47016	713	1.52%	Lower
Worcester	30	0	0	No Change	1603	101	0	0%	No Change
Wrentham	902	35	22.2	Lower	24602	1500	36	2.40%	Lower
Yarmouth	1128	53	15.7	Lower	32737	1875	59	3.15%	Lower
Unknown ⁴	1486	21	*	*	261740	14412	26	*	*
State	553220	20763	21.3	Lower	16419989	1246187	24038	1.93%	Lower

⁴Address information for these cases is currently being obtained.

Data are current as of 11:59pm on 03/02/2021; For populations <50,000, <5 cases are reported as such or suppressed for confidentiality purposes. ¹ For the calculations used to delineate Grey, Green, Yellow, and Red, please see table on page 25. ²Number of new cases occurring over the current two-week period (2/14/2021 – 2/27/2021) compared to the previous two-week period (2/7/2021 – 2/20/2021). **Higher**=number of new cases in the current two-week period higher than the number of new cases during the last two-week period. **Lower**=number of new cases in the current two-week period lower than number of new cases during the last two-week period. **No change**=number of new cases in current two-week period is equal to the number of new cases during the last two-week period. ³Change in percent positivity compared to the previous week's (2/25/2021) report. **No Change**= <0.10% difference in the percent positivity. DPH calculates rates per 100,000 population using denominators estimated by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute using a modified Hamilton-Perry model (Strate S, et al. Small Area Population Estimates for 2011 through 2020, report, Oct 2016.) As of 11/5/2020, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is using the 2019 population estimates, the most current available data. **Please note:** Data for these tables are based on information available in the DPH surveillance database at a single point in time. Case counts for specific cities and towns change throughout the day as data cleaning occurs (removal of duplicate reports within the system) and new demographic information (assigning cases to their city or town of residence) is obtained.

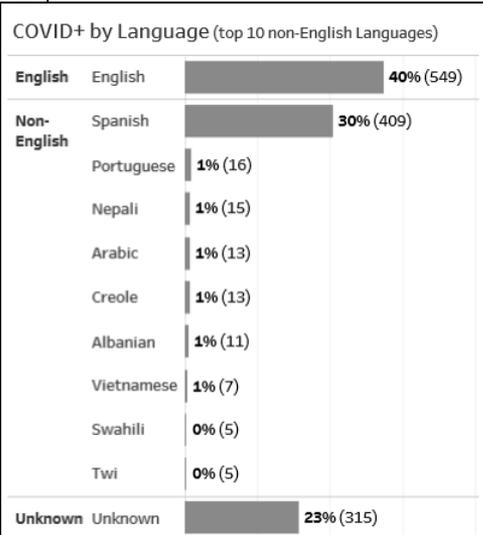
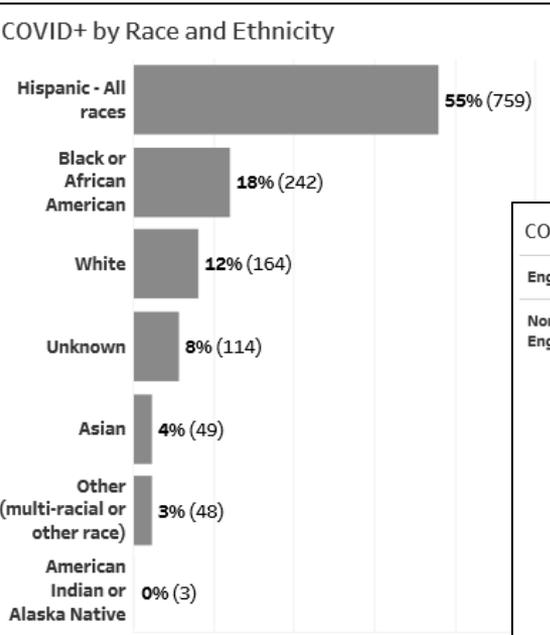
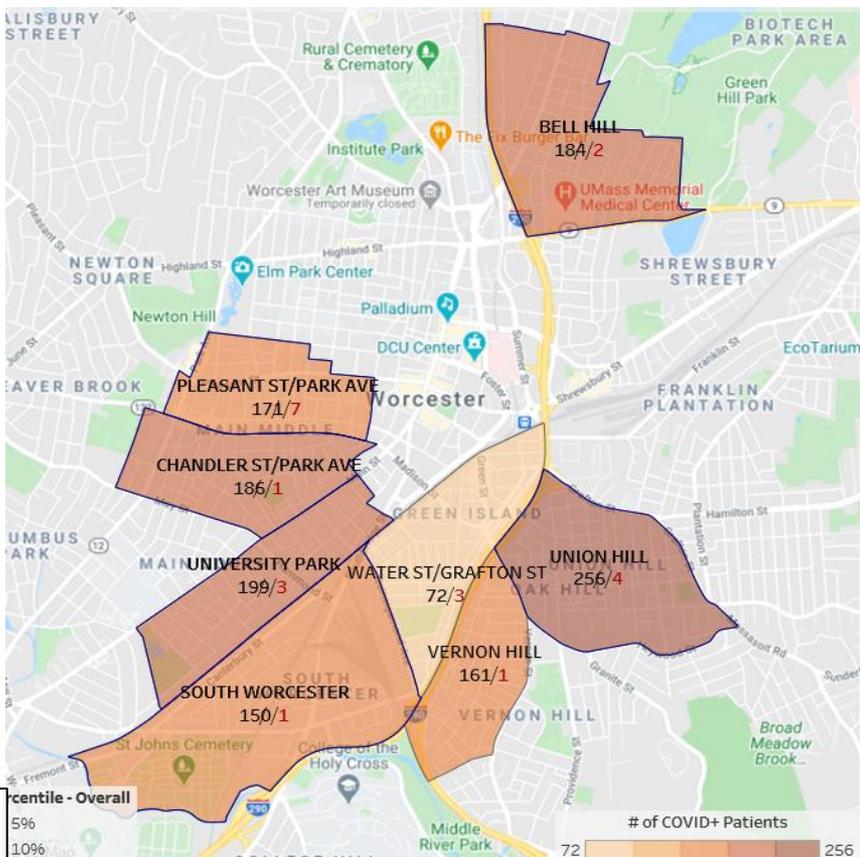
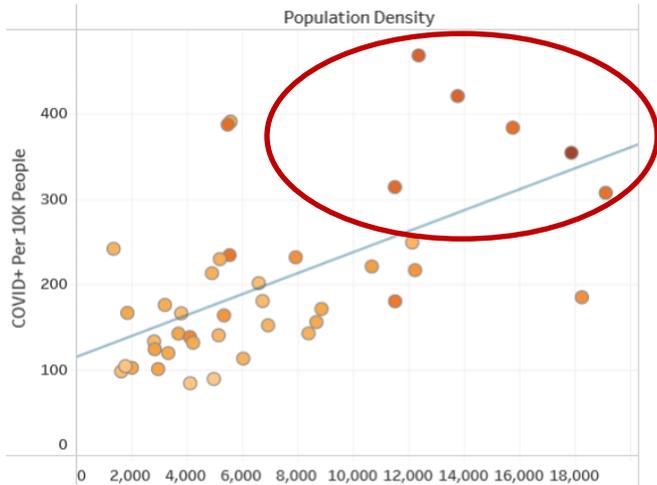
Week Ending	Patients Positive by Molecular Method	Patients Negative by Molecular Method	Other Molecular Results*	Total Molecular	Percent Positive Molecular
3/14/20	0	3	0	3	2.88%
3/21/20	3	101	0	104	2.88%
3/28/20	31	407	0	438	7.08%
4/4/20	105	726	0	831	12.64%
4/11/20	253	664	2	919	27.53%
4/18/20	444	832	0	1276	34.80%
4/25/20	656	1230	2	1888	34.77%
5/2/20	676	1434	17	2127	31.78%
5/9/20	703	1898	4	2605	26.99%
5/16/20	607	1902	2	2511	24.17%
5/23/20	663	2465	5	3133	21.16%
5/30/20	490	1863	4	2357	20.79%
6/6/20	211	1539	1	1751	12.05%
6/13/20	148	1377	1	1526	9.70%
6/20/20	111	1672	3	1786	6.22%
6/27/20	73	1781	1	1855	3.94%
7/4/20	73	1334	2	1409	5.18%
7/11/20	40	1433	1	1474	2.71%
7/18/20	60	2023	0	2083	2.88%
7/25/20	58	2950	4	3012	1.93%
8/1/20	90	1847	1	1938	4.64%
8/8/20	90	2344	6	2440	3.69%
8/15/20	53	2726	1	2780	1.91%
8/22/20	58	3705	2	3765	1.54%
8/29/20	83	5522	3	5608	1.48%
9/5/20	85	3619	0	3704	2.29%
9/12/20	116	3808	2	3926	2.95%
9/19/20	138	2179	1	2318	5.95%
9/26/20	105	2618	3	2726	3.85%
10/3/20	118	2338	3	2459	4.80%
10/10/20	151	2410	5	2566	5.88%
10/17/20	160	2709	3	2872	5.57%
10/24/20	181	2300	3	2484	7.29%
10/31/20	225	2633	1	2859	7.87%
11/7/20	213	2265	7	2485	8.57%
11/14/20	401	3072	6	3479	11.53%
11/21/20	637	5972	4	6613	9.63%
11/28/20	661	3287	11	3959	16.70%
12/5/20	655	2292	8	2955	22.17%
12/12/20	1202	3325	11	4538	26.49%
12/19/20	1244	3122	17	4383	28.38%
12/26/20	1074	2553	19	3646	29.46%
1/2/21	928	2337	8	3273	28.35%
1/9/21	1098	2307	13	3418	32.12%
1/16/21	1330	2951	12	4293	30.98%
1/23/21	1064	2531	7	3602	29.54%
1/30/21	835	2483	11	3329	25.08%
2/6/21	704	2849	24	3577	19.68%
2/13/21	559	1911	25	2495	22.40%
2/20/21	409	1827	17	2253	18.15%
2/27/21	319	1522	14	1855	17.20%
3/6/21	100	590	6	696	14.37%
3/13/21	20491	115588	303	136382	14.96%

March 14th , 2020 – 2.88%

April 11th , 2020 – 34.80%
(highest positivity rate)*

February 27th , 2021 – 14.37%

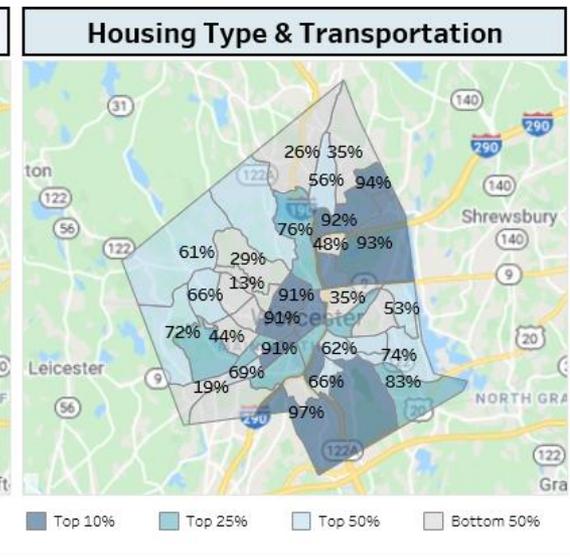
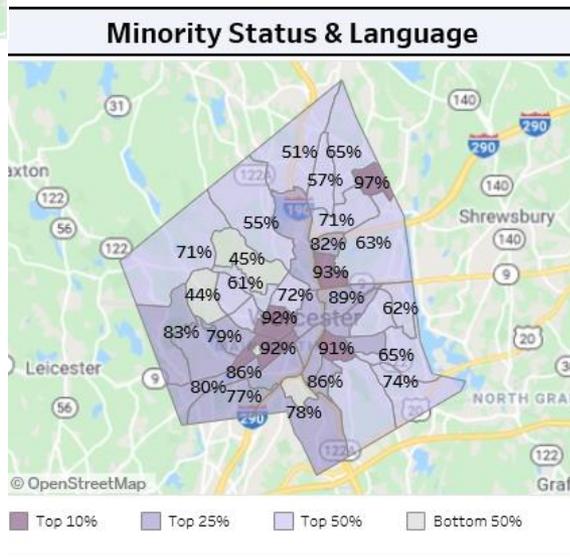
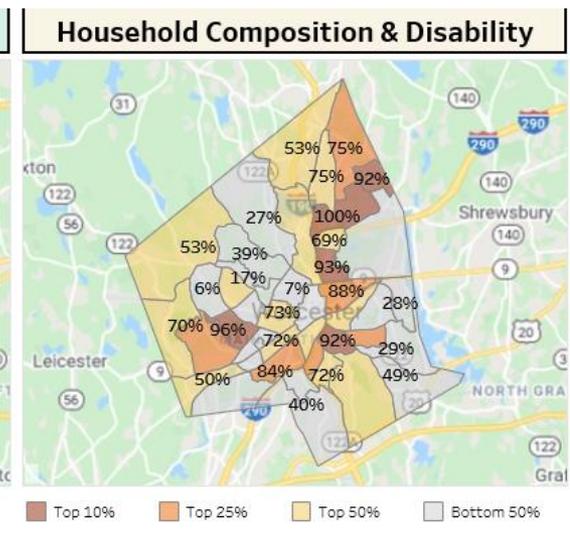
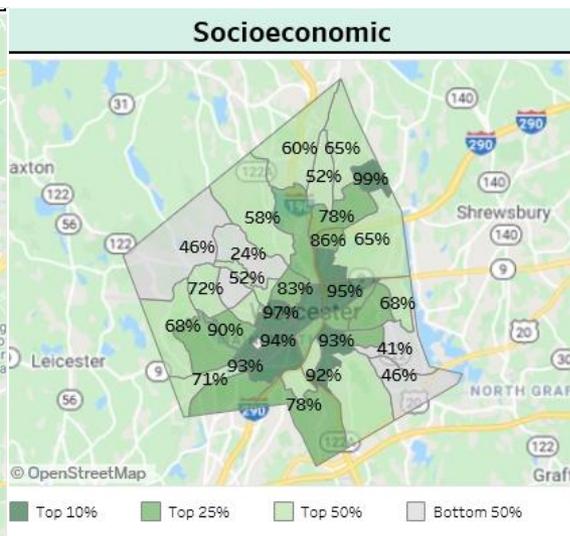
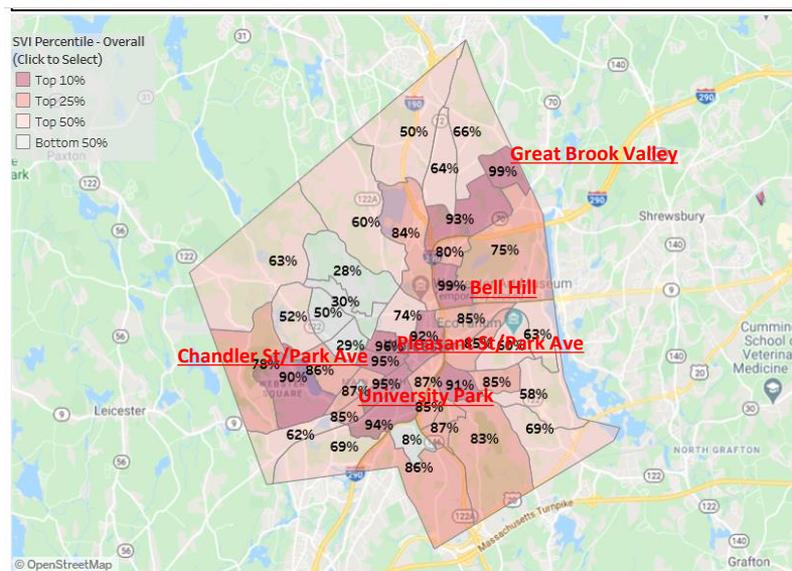
COVID-19 Highest Positives in High Population Dense Neighborhoods



Neighborhoods with highest cases are those with highest population density. Rate of Hispanic positivity in these neighborhoods jumps to 55% and Black to 18% with the White race positivity at 12% of all cases in these neighborhoods

CDC Social Vulnerability Index 2018

City of Worcester



- ★ 99% | BELL HILL
- ★ 99% | GREAT BROOK VALLEY
- 96% | PLEASANT ST/PARK AVE
- 95% | CHANDLER ST/PARK AVE
- 95% | UNIVERSITY PARK
- 94% | SOUTH WORCESTER
- 93% | LINCOLN VILLAGE/BEVERLY ROAD
- 92% | CITY CENTER
- 91% | UNION HILL
- 90% | SWAN AVENUE

★ - Top 1% Nationally

Provided by the Office of Clinical Integration, UMMHC

47,224 vaccines to date (3/31/21)



COVID19: VACCINATION

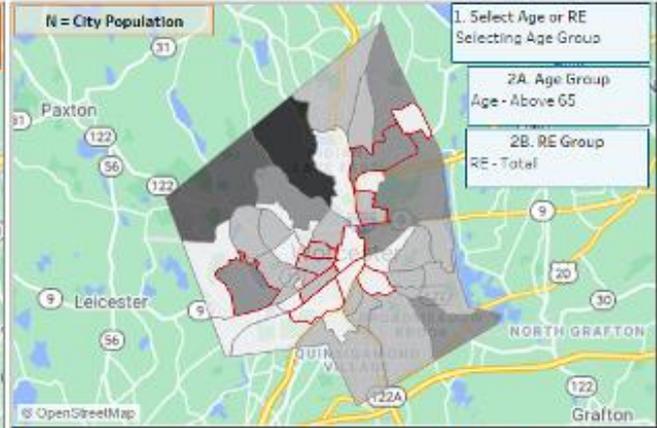
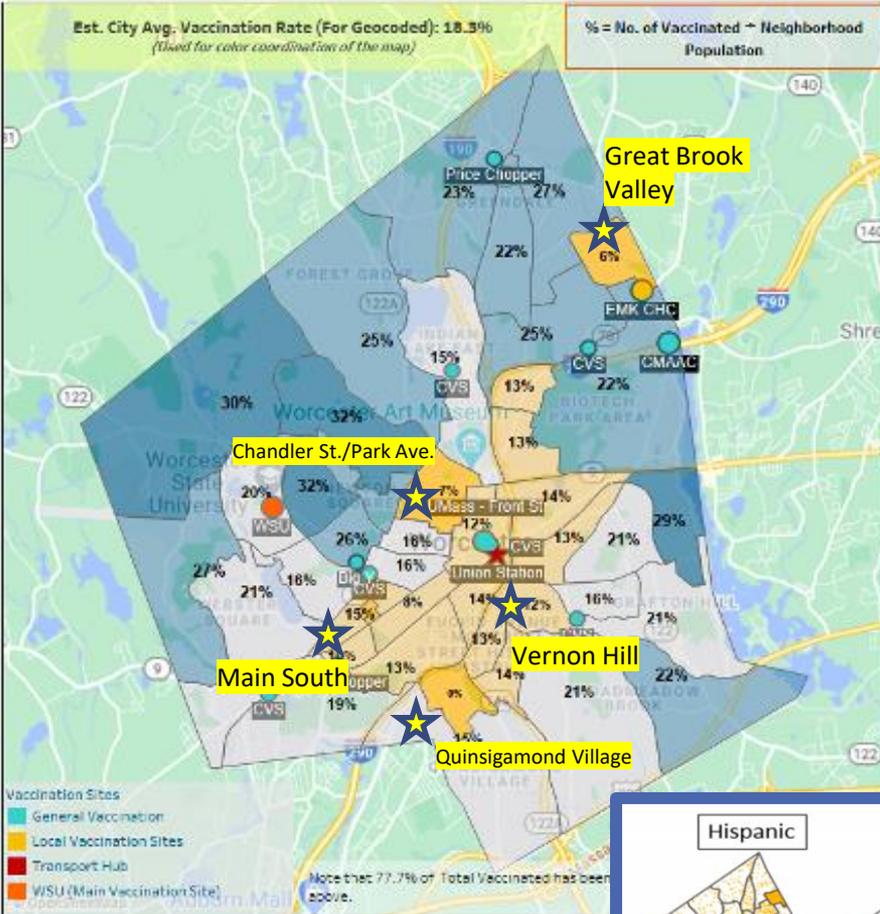
DATA SOURCE:
 Vaccine Data - Data Extraction from MIPS (as of 3/31/2021)
 COVID19 Covid Positive - MAVEN (from Worcester City) + UMMHC (EPIC)
 Demographic Census Data - ACS 2019 5-yr Estimates
 Developed by the Office of Clinical Integration

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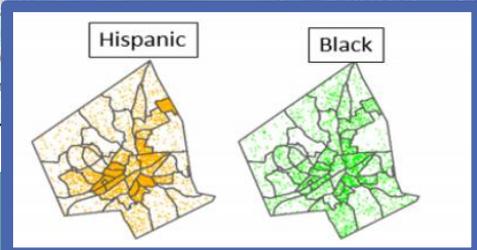
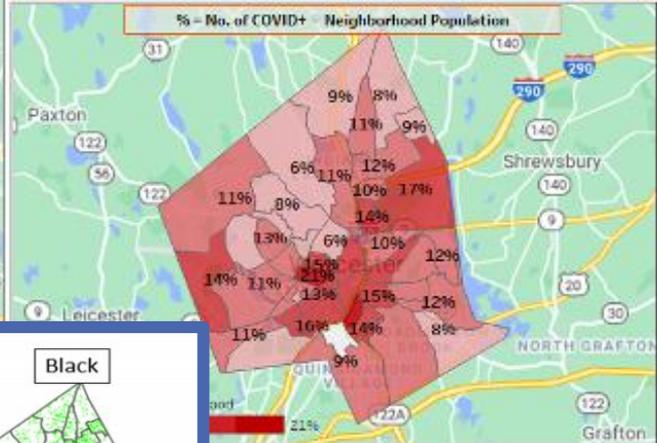
Est. City Avg Vaccination Rate: 25.5%

No. Vaccinated by Neighborhood
 Indicates less than average (lighter shades) | Avg. (medium) | Indicates higher than average (darker shades)

Population by Age/RE
 (The darker the shade indicates higher # of selected population)

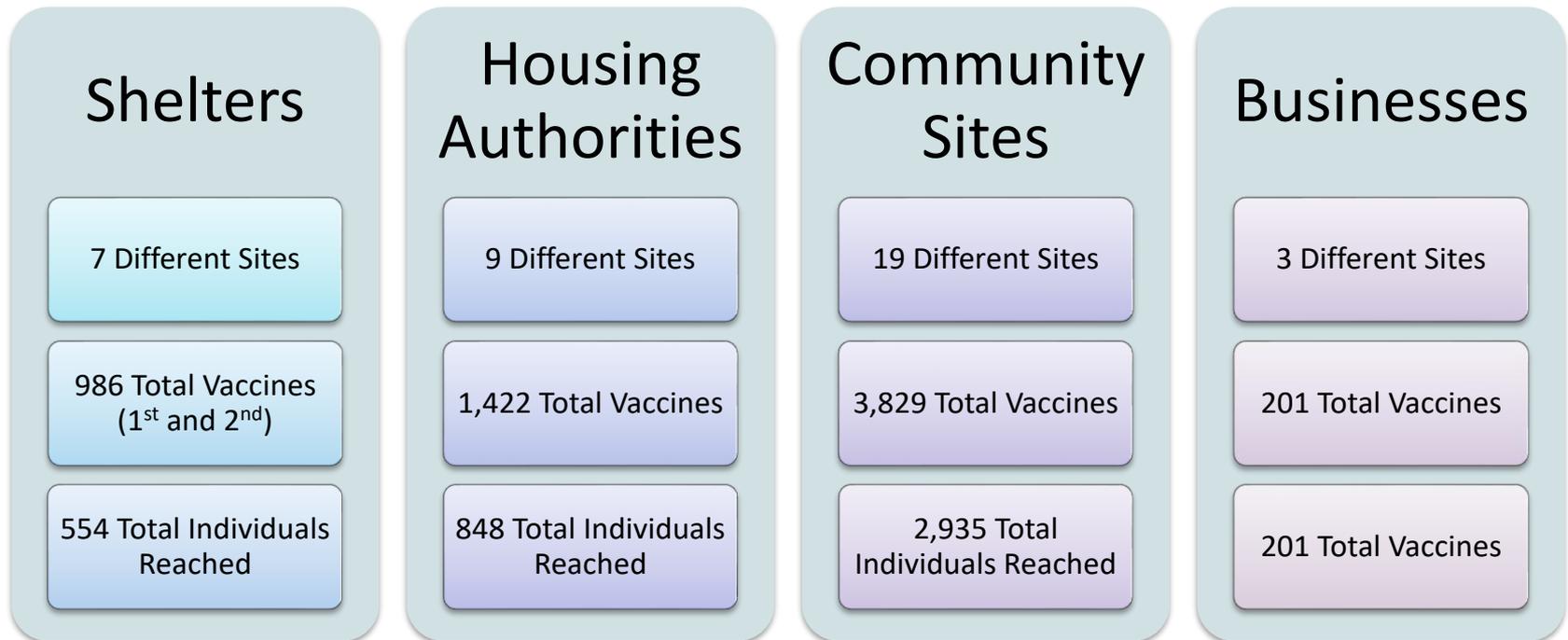


Neighborhoods most impacted by COVID (No. of + Cases)



HHS Mobile Vaccine Clinic is the Equitable Approach to Vaccinating Worcester's Vulnerable Populations

1/19/21-4/8/2020



HHS Mobile
Vaccine Clinic has
administered
6,438 total
vaccines to 4,538
individuals as of
4/8/2020

Column1	Dose 1	Dose 2	Single Dose	Total Doses	Individuals
Equity	2267	663	845	3775	3112
Shelter	505	432	49	986	554
Housing Authorities/ Affordable Senior Housing	848	574	0	1422	848
Community	2199	894	736	3829	2935
Business	70	0	131	201	201
Total	3622	1900	916	6438	4538

Worcester Senior Housing by Neighborhoods

Community Partner Site	Neighborhood	Doses
1060 Main St.	Webster Square	119
1050 Main St.	Webster Square	142
Elm Park Tower	Pleasant St./Park	120
Belmont Tower	Bell Hill	89
Pleasant Tower	Pleasant St./Park	74

Community Sites by Neighborhoods

Community Partner Site	Neighborhood	Doses
Journey Church	Bell Hill	38
Rock of Salvation	Main South	115
AME Zion Church	Main South	240
YMCA	Main South	1,017
YWCA	Downtown	308
Worcester Islamic Center	Great Brook Valley	295
New England Ghanaian SDA Church	Vernon Hill	197
Worcester Senior Center	Vernon Hill	291
WHA Great Brook Valley	Great Brook Valley	320
Angelica's Factory	Green Island	68
Table Talk Pies	Canal District	113
Gala Foods	Main South	20

% of Total Vaccine Administration, At Least 1 Dose By Demographics

State Vaccines: (4/1/21)	Worcester TOTAL Vaccines: (From WDPH 3/9/21)	Shelters Vaccines:(From intake data)	WHA Vaccines: (From intake data)	Community Vaccines: (From intake data 3.26)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percent Latinx: 6%• Percent Black: 5%• Percent Asian: 5%• Percent White: 72%• Percent Unknown: 11%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percent Latinx: 12%• Percent Black: 9%• Percent Asian: 6%• Percent White: 59%• Percent Unknown/Other: 12%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percent Latinx: 19.4%• Percent Black: 6.6%• Percent Asian: 1.2%• Percent White: 36.4%• Percent Unknown: 33.4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percent Latinx: 49%• Percent Black: 10%• Percent Asian: 6%• Percent White: 30%• Prefer not to answer: 1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percent Latinx: 30%• Percent Black: 24%• Percent Asian: 16%• Percent White: 22%• Percent Unknown: 6%

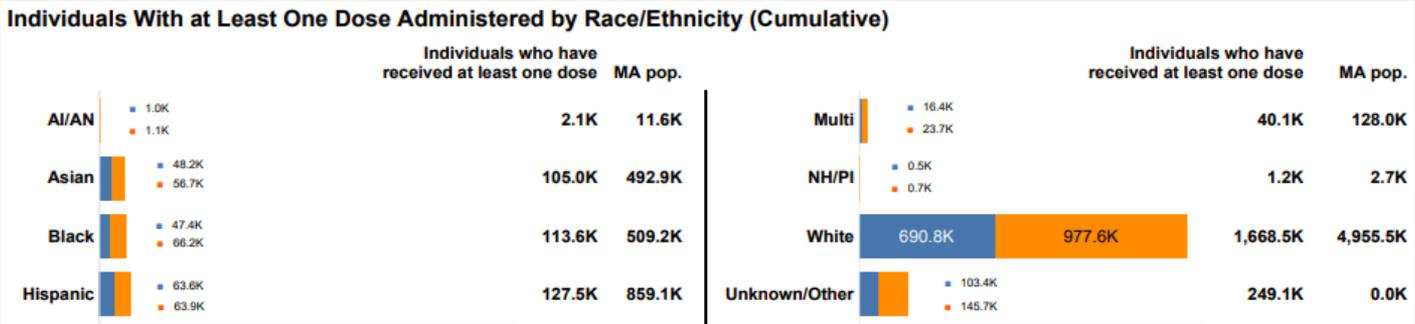
BIPOC Communities make up only **18%** of total vaccine doses administered in MA, in comparison to **72%** of doses that have been administered to White individuals

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, April 1, 2021

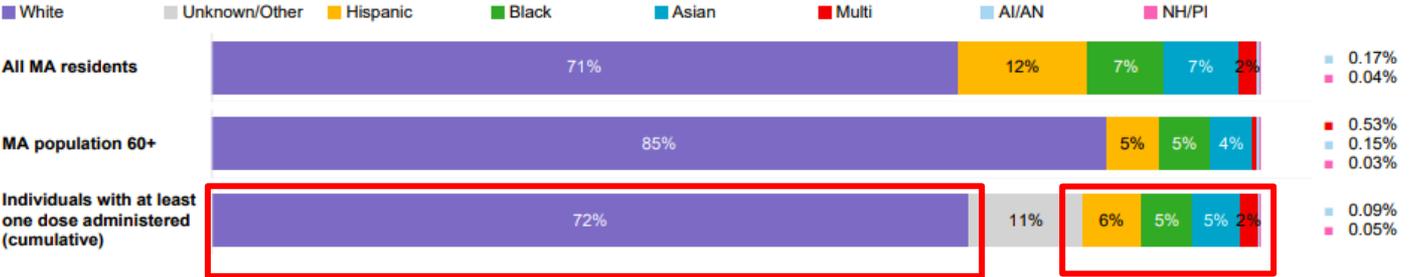
Cumulative Individuals With at Least One Vaccine Dose Administered by Race/Ethnicity

Data as of March 30, 2021

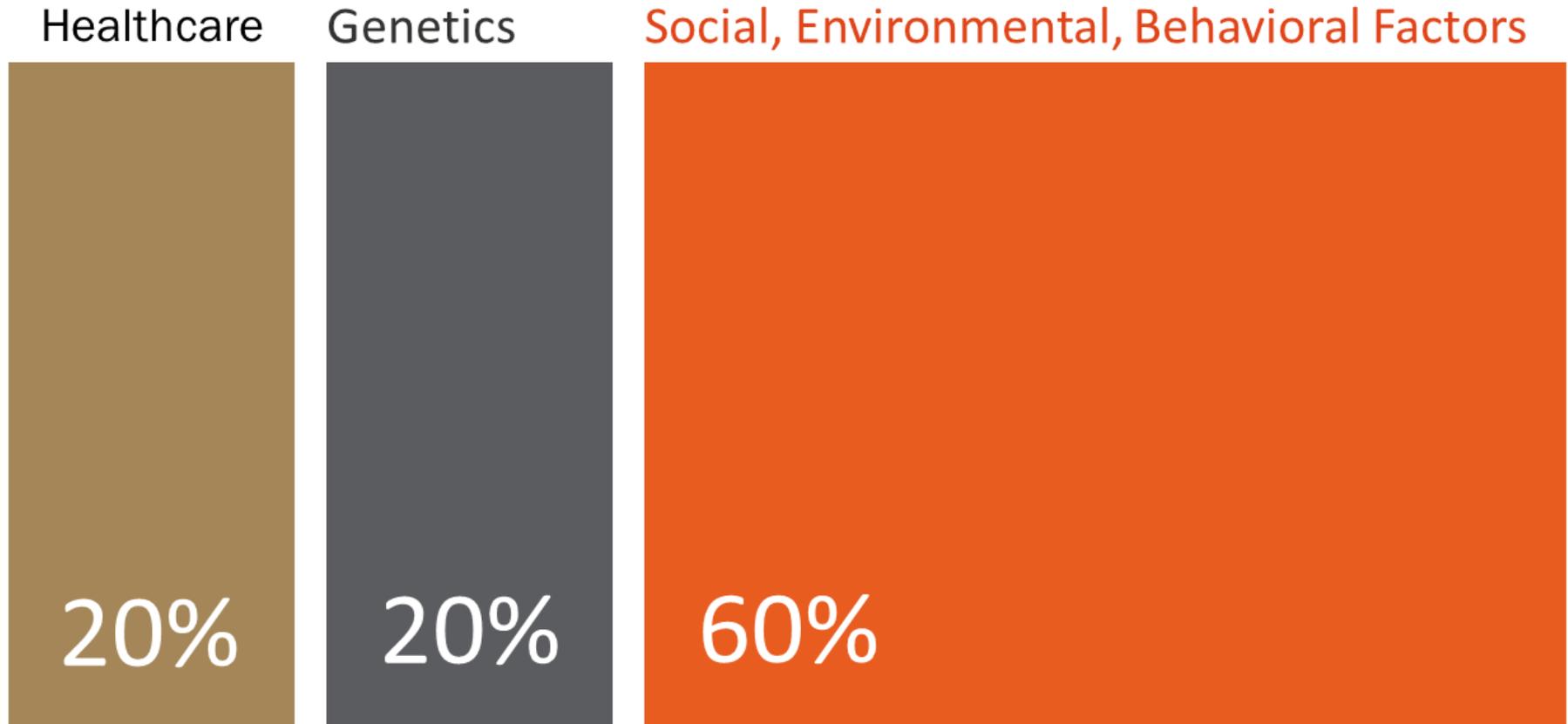
■ Individuals who are partially vaccinated
 ■ Individuals who are fully vaccinated



Distribution of Individuals by Race/Ethnicity, Comparing General Population to MA Population 60+ and Those With at Least One Dose



What makes us healthy?



HHS believes in Health Justice

We need to invest money into new housing

Provide thousands of employment opportunities that pay livable wages

Provide equitable funding for schools that meet the needs of youth in Black, Latino and immigrant communities

Invest in pathways that allows young people from the community to see themselves in high power and well-paid positions

We need equitable healthcare for all. We need appropriate and free public transportation

We need to invest in a public safety model that amplifies community voices, centers lived experience and promotes mental health and well-being



What does the cartoon say about GDP growth?

Source: <http://addisfortune.net/columns/human-development-must-top-economic-policy-agendas/>

