

Violence Prevention : Role of Public Health in Boston

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, M.Ed

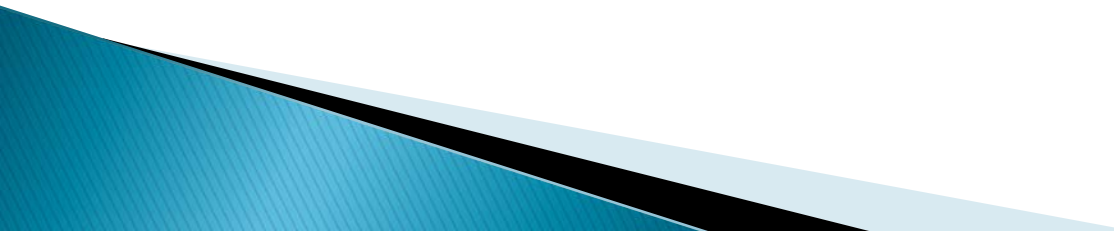
Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission

Catherine Fine, MPH

Director, Division of Violence Prevention



Goals for Today

- Health equity and violence prevention
 - Overview of Boston Public Health Commission programs
- 

Social Determinants of Health

Growing Communities: Social Determinants, Behavior and Health

Our environments cultivate our communities and our communities nurture our health.

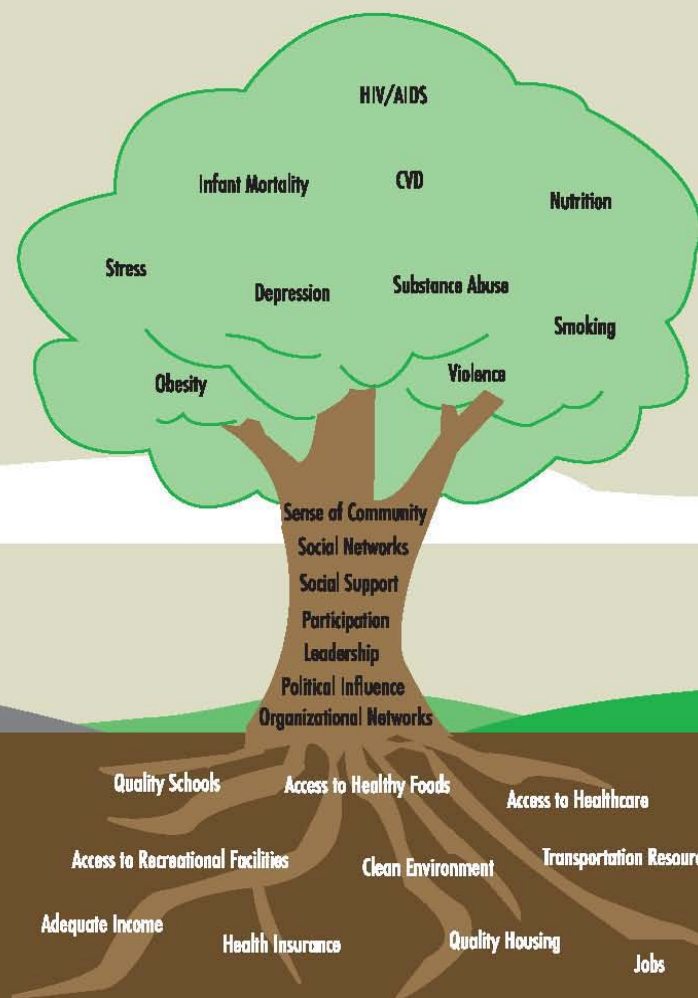
When inequities are high and community assets are low, health outcomes are worst.

Violence
Substance Abuse
Smoking
HIV/AIDS
Infant Mortality
Nutrition
Obesity
Depression
Stress
CVD

Fragmented Systems
Powerlessness
Disinvestment
Disconnected Members

Poverty
Adverse Living Conditions
Segregation
Income Inequality
Occupational Hazards
Marketing for Tobacco and Alcohol
Unemployment
Environmental Toxins
Institutional Racism
Discrimination

When inequities are low and community assets are high, health outcomes are better.



Health Outcomes by Neighborhood

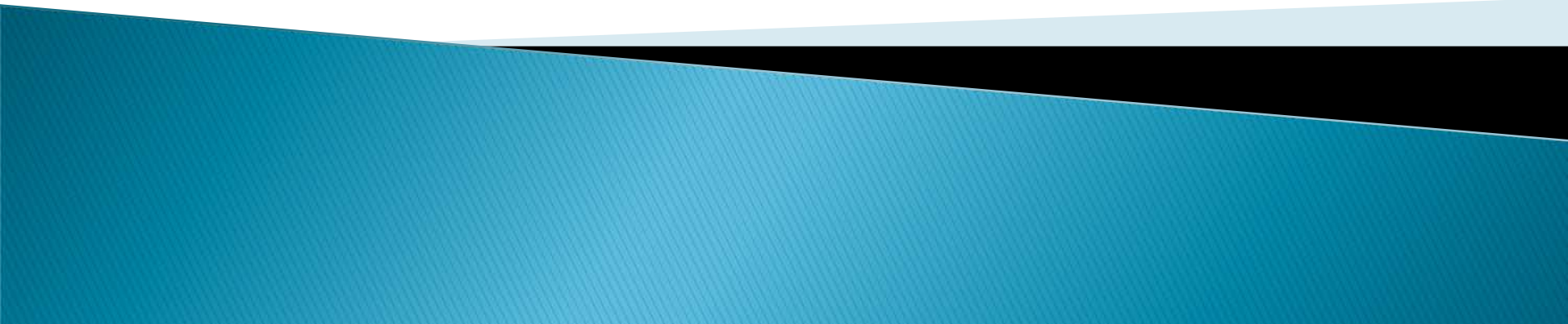


Figure 30.21 Heart Disease Hospitalization,
2007, 2008 and 2009 Combined

DRAFT

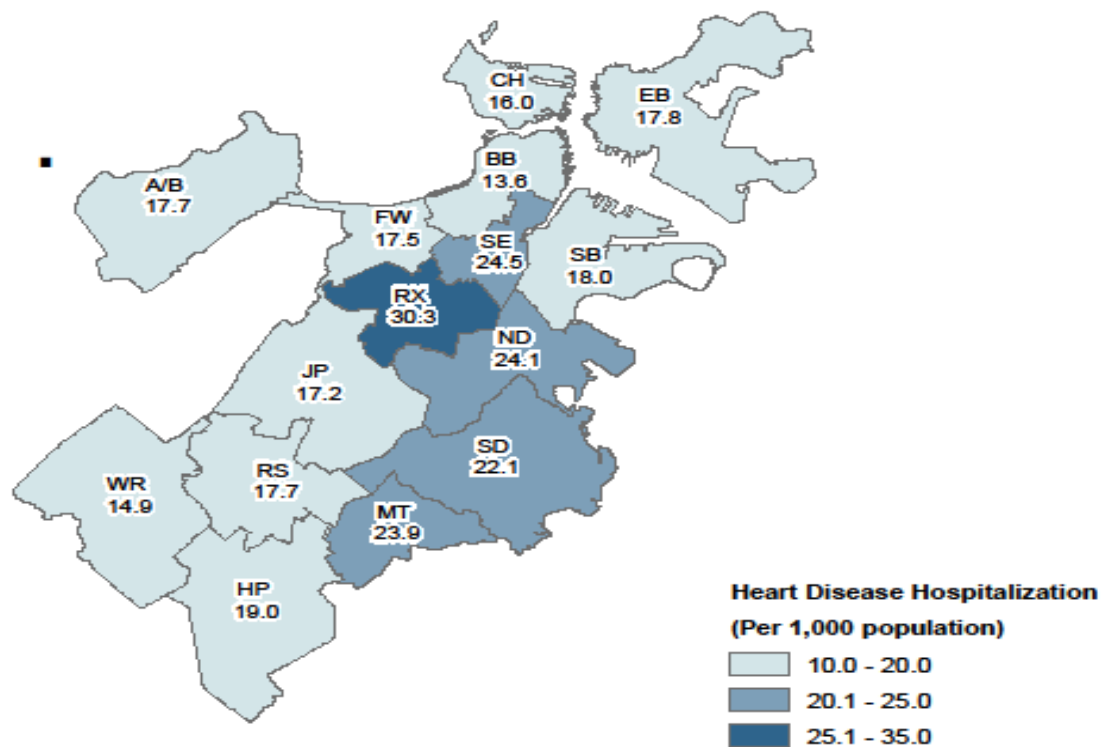


Figure 30.6 Infant Mortality, 2006-2008

DRAFT

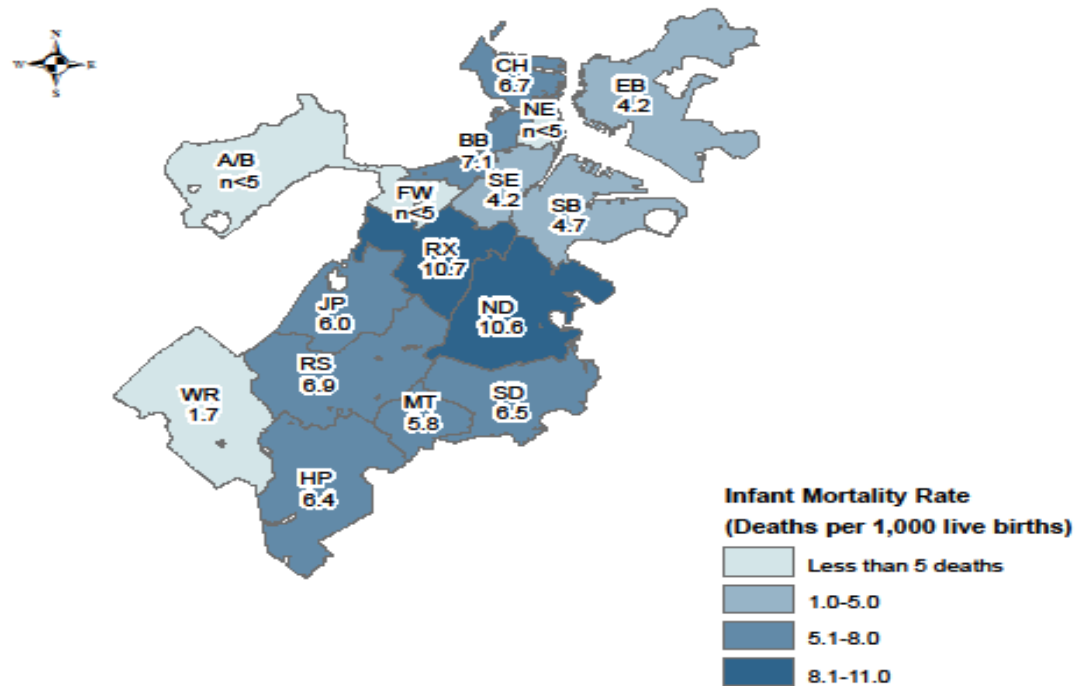


Figure 30.15b Obese Adult Residents,
2006 and 2008 Combined

DRAFT

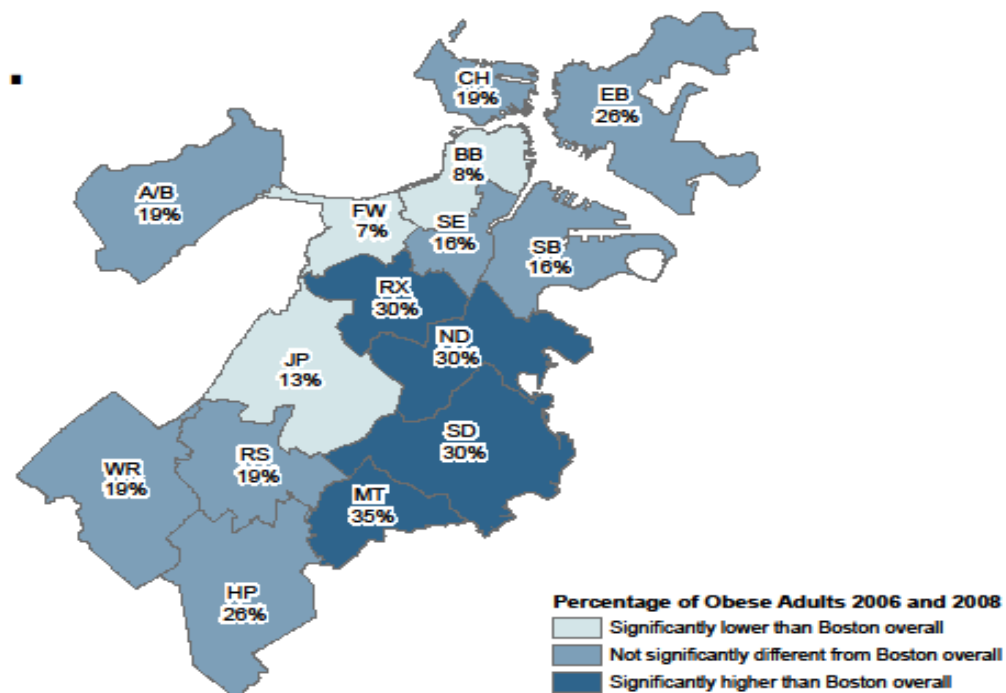


Figure 30.12 Adults Who Think Their Neighborhood is Safe, 2008

DRAFT

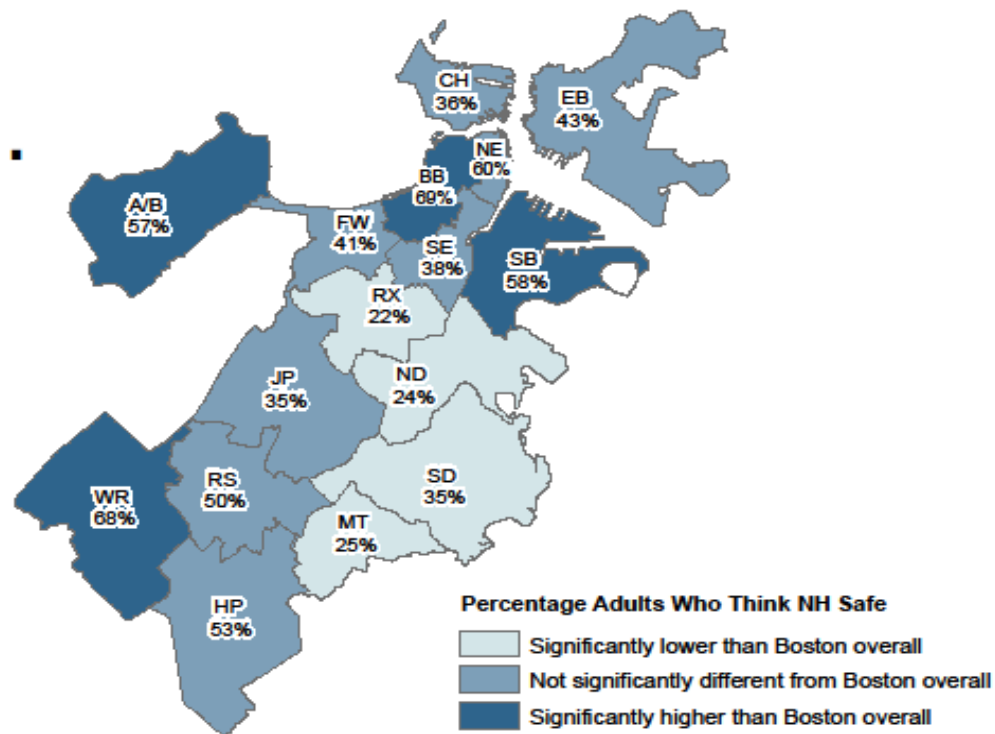


Figure 30.22 Homicides, 2006-2008 Combined

DRAFT

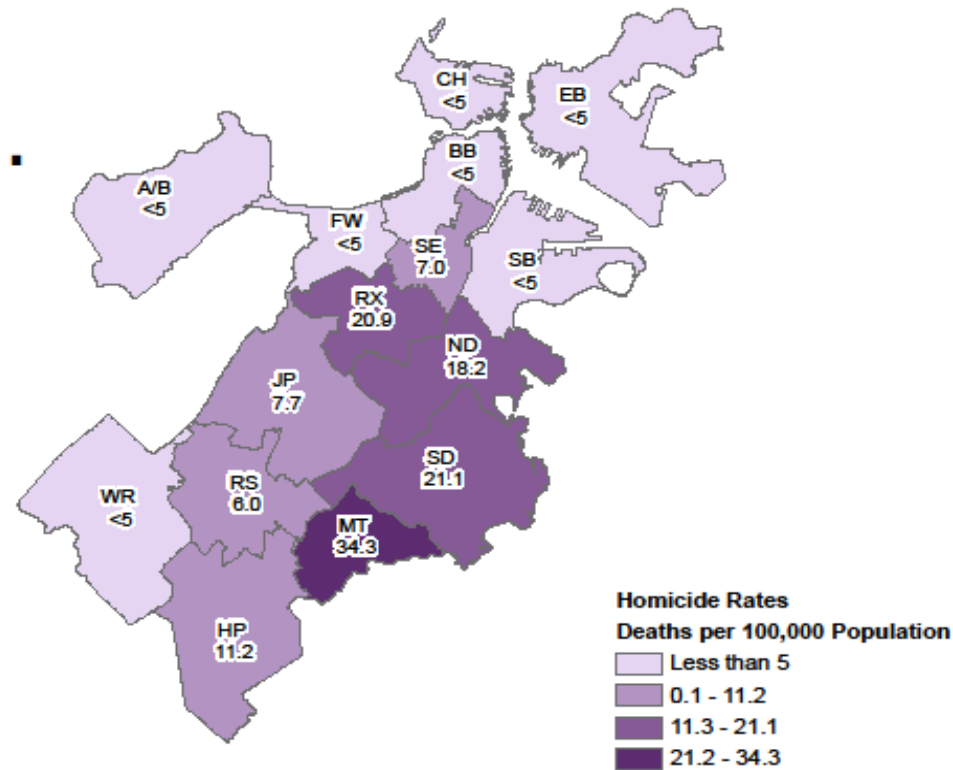
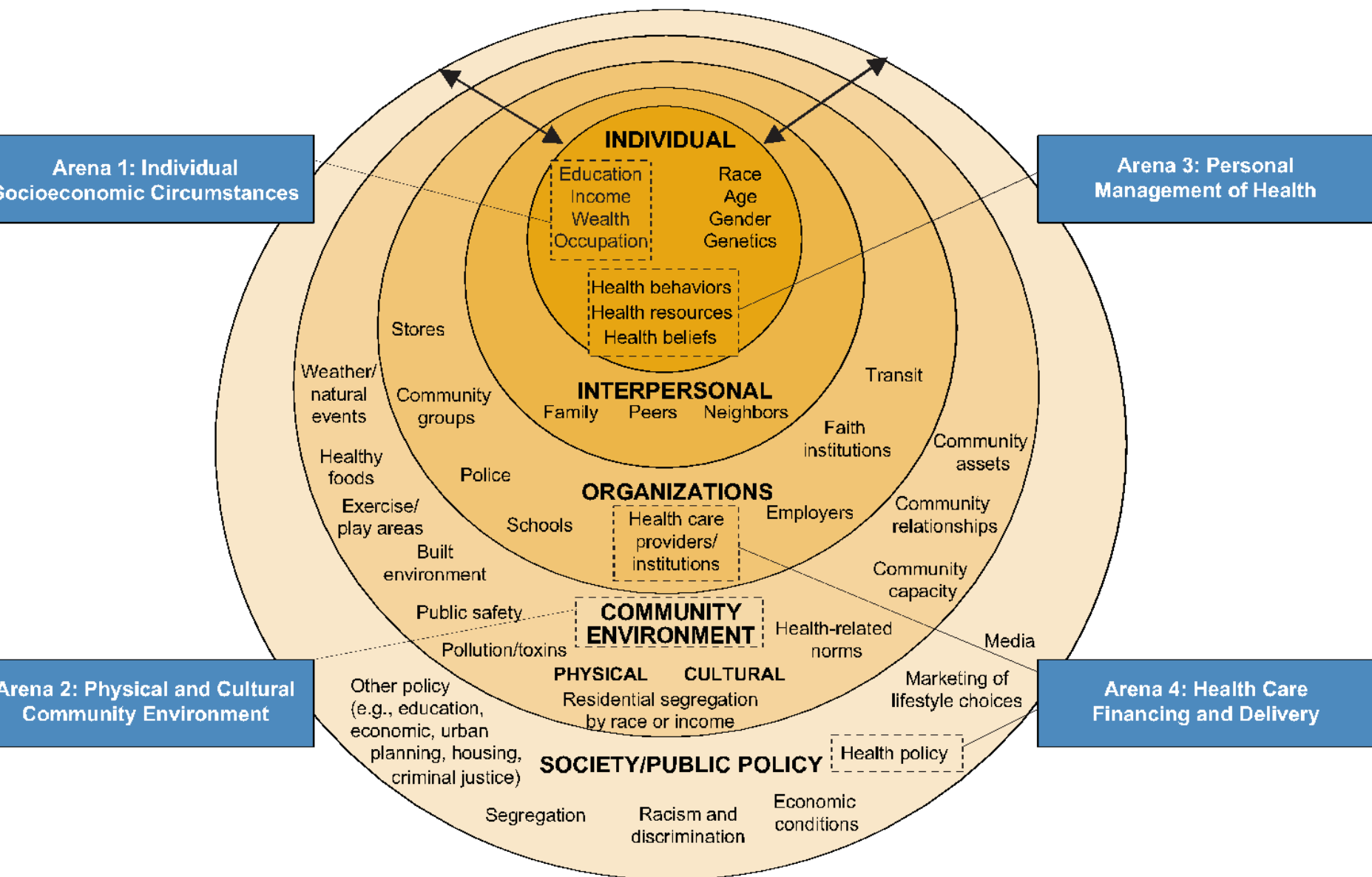


Figure 1: Landscape of Influences on Health Disparities and Arenas for Policy Action



Community Mobilization and Violence Prevention...



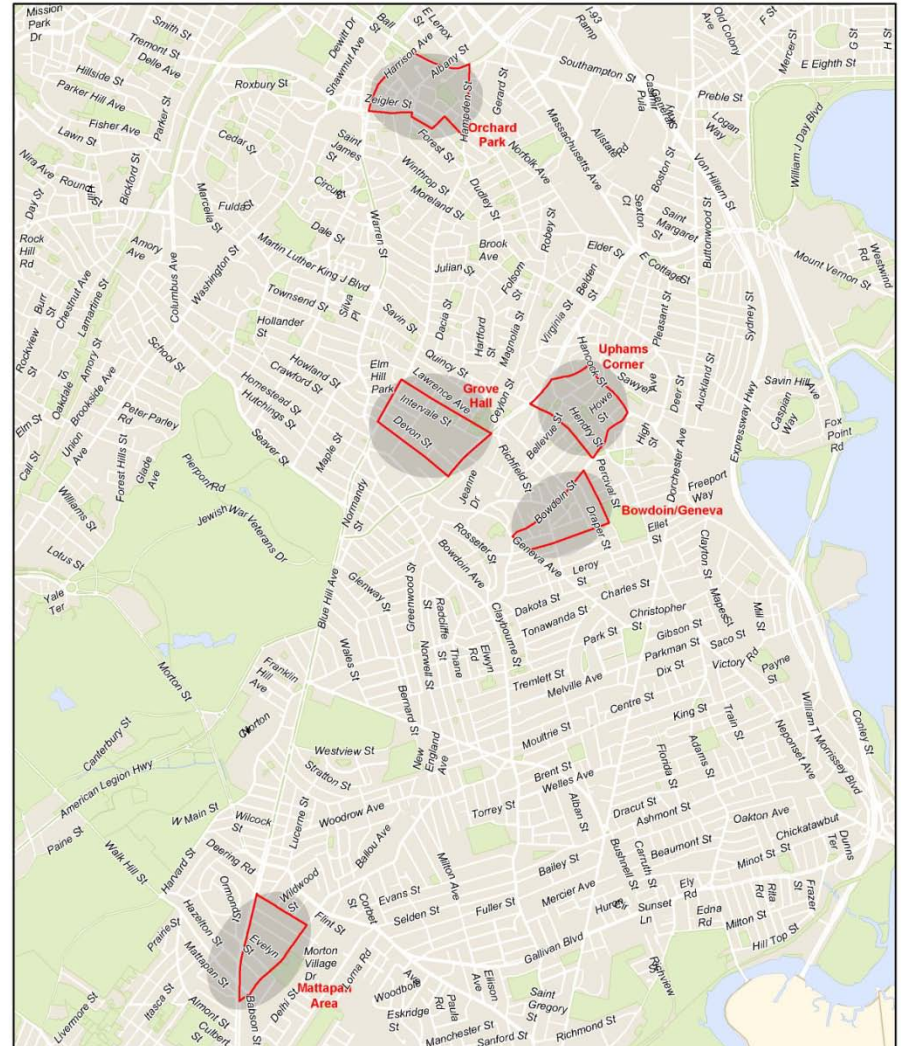
Strategic connection between health equity and violence prevention

- An organized constituency = organized city
- Residents are a community's primary asset
- Ensure residents have the power to control their lives and decide what is best for their community
- Community mobilization can enhance social cohesion and efficacy



The VIP Initiative

- Community mobilization
- 5 micro-neighborhoods of Boston
- Prevention strategy





5 Goals of VIP

- Community mobilization/resident engagement
- Promote positive out of school activities and employment options for middle school and high school youth
- Improve built environment
- Connect to health services
- Support community responses to violence

-
- **Hospital based services for gunshot victims**
 - **High risk offender service coordination**
 - **Family crisis response services (funeral support)**
 - **Trauma Response Services**
 - **Family Justice Center**

Tertiary

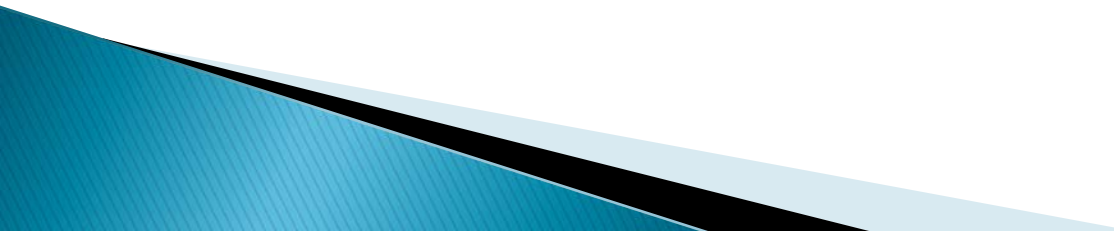
- **Health sector professional development for high risk young men**
- **School based truancy intervention**
- **School based absenteeism intervention**
- **DV Training and TA**

Secondary*

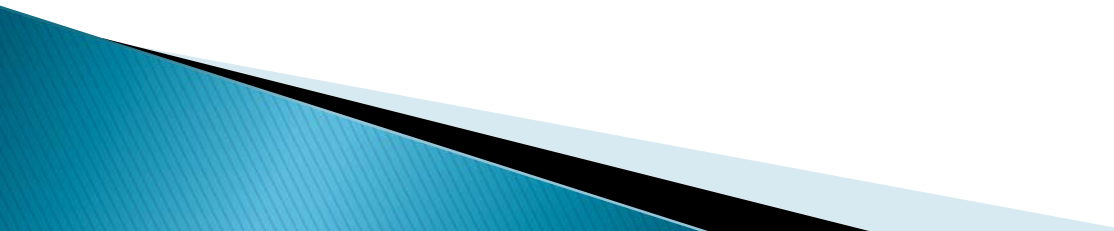
- **Community Mobilization**
- **Surveillance**
- **Youth Media Campaigns**
- **Healthy Relationship Peer leadership**

Primary

Critical Partners

- ▶ Residents, especially youth
 - ▶ Neighborhood specific/grassroots – community based organizations
 - ▶ Violence prevention community based organizations (child abuse, teen dating violence etc)
 - ▶ Hospitals/ Health Sector
 - ▶ Law enforcement
 - ▶ Schools
- 

Challenges

- ▶ Multi-disciplinary partnerships
 - ▶ Resident engagement
 - ▶ Investments in prevention and addressing root causes of violence
 - ▶ ‘Changing’ social norms
- 

Contact Information

Catherine Fine

Director, Division of Violence Prevention

Boston Public Health Commission

1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston MA 02118

p: 617-534-2843

E: cfine@bphc.org

