

Urban Edge

# Community Assessment of Youth Programs, Services, and Opportunities – Summary Report

Prepared by: Health Resources in Action

Summer 2021

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On behalf of Urban Edge, we want to acknowledge and thank members of the Youth Action Committee and Advisory Group and for their critical insight and expertise throughout this process.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Background and Context

In Spring 2020, Urban Edge partnered with Health Resources in Action (HRiA) to conduct a community assessment of youth services, programs, and opportunities in Jamaica Plain- with a specific focus on Egleston, Hyde, and Jackson Squares. The purpose of the youth-centered community assessment was to:

- Explore the current landscape of youth-serving programs and services available in Urban Edge's service area and adjacent Boston neighborhoods;
- Provide a portrait of the youth service assets, gaps, and opportunities in Jackson Square, Egleston, and Hyde Squares
- Present findings and recommendations that are action-oriented to inform Urban Edge's future and shared initiatives; identify possibilities to leverage assets, address needs, and create opportunities for youth

The COVID-19 pandemic coincided with the activities of this assessment. As a result, all engagement and data collection activities shifted from in-person to virtual engagement. This report should be considered a snapshot of youth needs and strengths during an unprecedented time, and the findings can be built upon through future assessment and planning efforts.

### Methods

The youth-centered community assessment aimed to engage residents—especially young people ages 26 and under—and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive and timely portrait of the programs and services available to youth in the community. A mixed-method approach consisting of a review of secondary data, a services inventory, four focus groups, seven interviews, and a community survey was used to gather input. In total, over 300 residents were engaged in this process from June- December 2020.

### Findings

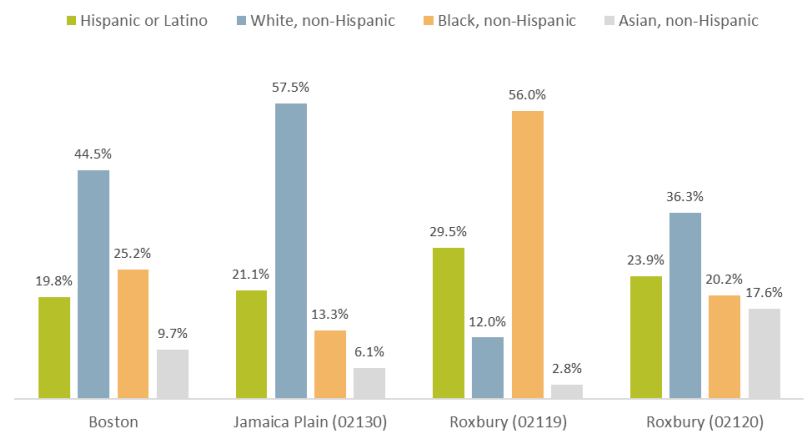
The following provides a brief overview of key findings that emerged from this assessment:

#### Population Characteristics- Who Lives in Jp and Roxbury?

- **Demographics:** Similar to the city of Boston overall, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury experienced population growth between 2010-2014 and 2015-2019. Yet, these areas saw declines in school-aged children, while many nearby suburbs by Boston experienced population gains. Between 2000 and 2017, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury lost more than 1,000 school-aged students between the ages of 5 and 17. However, this decline was not seen in all age groups. Between 2010-2014 and 2015-2019, the population of children under the age of 5 years grew by almost 32% in Jamaica Plain and children between 10-14 increased by 21% in Roxbury (02119).
- **Language Diversity:** Nearly 38% of Boston residents speak a language other than English at home, and that percentage is even higher in Roxbury (42%), where Spanish is the most common language. Language diversity is even more prevalent in the schools surrounding Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares. In 2020, nearly 40% of students in Jamaica Plain's English high school and Roxbury's Madison Park Technical Vocational high schools were English Language Learners, compared to 31% across Boston Public Schools overall. Roxbury (02119) had the highest proportion of residents under the age of 18 who were foreign born (14.9%), compared to 8.5% in Jamaica Plain. The majority of foreign-born residents in these neighborhoods were from Latin America (60%), followed by Africa (27%), Asia (8.7%), and Europe (3.6%).

- **Racial and Ethnic Diversity:** Residents engaged in the assessment described rich diversity in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, which is supported by secondary data, although diversity varies by zip code. Over half of Roxbury 02119 residents identified as Black (56%), compared to 44.5% across Boston overall. Both Roxbury and Jamaica Plain also have higher proportions of Latino residents compared to the rest of the city (29.5% and 21% respectively). Conversely, Jamaica Plain has the highest proportion of residents who identify as White (57.5%).

**Racial and Ethnic Distribution, by City and Neighborhood, 2015-2019**

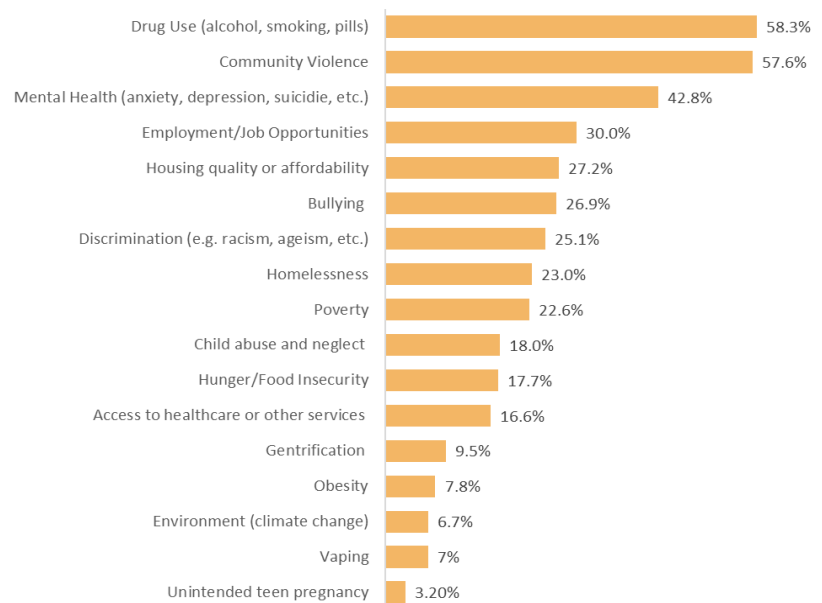


SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

### Youth and Community Concerns- What are the Issues?

- **Community Perceptions of Need:** Assessment participants were asked about a series of topics that affected young people most in their communities. The most common issues reported via qualitative discussions were income and financial security, followed by employment concerns and issues related to community violence and mental health. Community survey data support these findings. Residents were asked to select the top five concerns that affect young people the most. Over half of survey respondents identified drug use and violence as their primary concerns (58.3% and 57.6%, respectively).
- When analyzed by age group, community violence was the leading concern among youth ages 12-14 and 18- 20. Young people 21 and older prioritized concerns related to economic security including poverty, housing quality or affordability, and employment opportunities.

**Percent Urban Edge Youth Assessment Survey Participants Reporting Top Concerns that Impact Young People, All Ages, 2020 (N=283)**

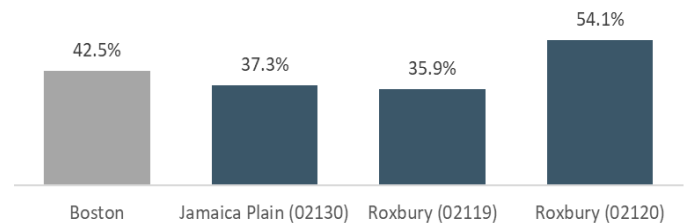


DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020

- **Income and Financial Security:** The median annual household income in Jamaica Plain was \$94,733. In comparison, Roxbury residents had a median household income of \$31,000 (02119), and \$38,300 (02120). About one in five families with children under 18 years old across the city of Boston lived below the poverty level in 2019; this proportion is lower in Jamaica Plain (14.5%), and higher in Roxbury (32%).

- Employment and Workforce:** Employment challenges were discussed at length throughout the assessment. Young people shared challenges finding employment options, and these challenges are reflected in survey responses, where one in every three participants identified Employment/Job Opportunities as a critical concern. Issues of employment were further explored in the community survey. Nearly two thirds (63%) of survey respondents indicated that that they were looking for a new job. Of the young people who reported looking for a new job, approximately 43% indicated ‘Higher Pay’ as the primary reason for looking, followed by ‘More opportunities for advancement’ (25.7%). Data between 2015-2019 show that about 43% of youth ages 16-19 are employed in some capacity. This rate was higher for teens from the 02120-zip code of Roxbury (54.1%). Jamaica Plain and Roxbury (02119), had lower rates of teens aged 16-19 who were employed compared to the city overall (42.5%).

**Labor Force Participation Rate, Ages 16-19, by Neighborhood, 2015-2019**



SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

- Mental Health:** Concerns related to mental health emerged across all focus groups and interviews. Assessment participants described added stressors in recent months due to the pandemic; however, participants noted these concerns have always been present, and now are exacerbated by the crisis. Social isolation, depression, and anxiety were the most frequently cited challenges among young people. These findings are similar to themes that emerged in the community survey, where respondents ranked mental health as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest concern in the community (43%). Several barriers to accessing mental health services were described, most common being limited access to mental health services. Residents cited the need for more informal support networks, mentorship opportunities, access to culturally sensitive therapy, and physical health opportunities.



**“In more affluent communities getting support for your mental health is like a badge of honor. What are ways we can put the same effort and beauty around mental health in our own communities?”**

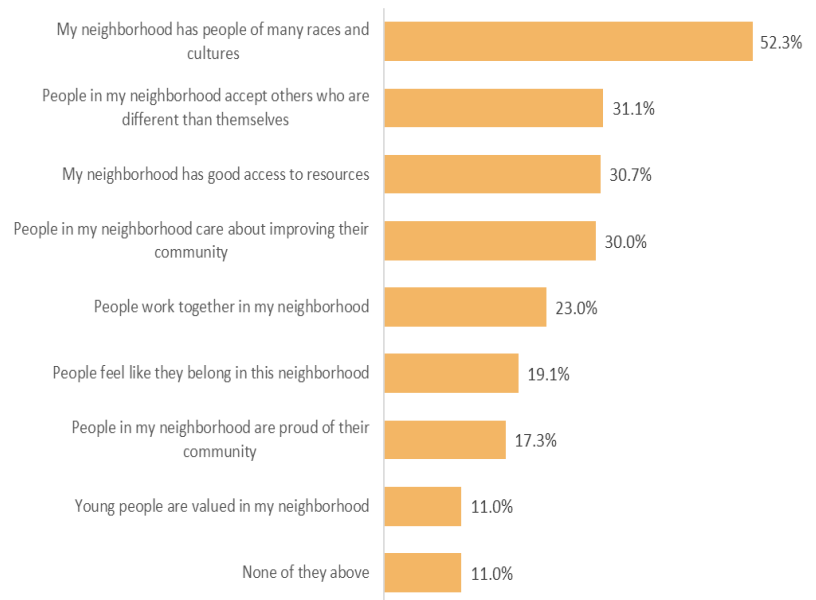
**-Parent Focus Group Participant**

- Safety/Community Violence:** Many youth focus group participants expressed concern about personal safety in their communities. Interviewees also described long-standing turf issues across neighborhoods, particularly around Hyde and Jackson Squares. Concerns related to violence are supported by community survey data. More than half of respondents from Egleston Square and Jackson Square disagreed that their neighborhoods were safe places to be. Safety concerns were also described as a barrier to program participation. Of the 284 respondents of the community survey, approximately 25% reported safety concerns as a barrier to program engagement and participation. Crime data show that similar to the city overall, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury experienced an increase in violence, including homicides, which some attributed to pent-up frustrations caused by the pandemic. Just during the course of this 6-month assessment, there were at least three homicides caused by gun violence in Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares reported by the Boston Police Department in 2020.

## Community Assets- What Resources Are Currently Available?

- **Community Assets:** The Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighborhoods have numerous strengths. Respondents of the community survey were asked about their perceptions of the strengths of their communities. More than half of survey respondents identified *'My neighborhood has people of many races and cultures'* as a community strength, followed by *'People in my neighborhood accept others who are different than themselves'* (31%). In focus groups and interviews, young people across JP and Roxbury were frequently described as resilient. One interviewee summarized *"Our young people have a strong collective resilience where they're able to support each other throughout their struggles."*

### **Percent of Community Survey Respondents Reporting Strengths of Their Community, 2020**



DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020

- Local nonprofit and youth-serving organizations in these neighborhoods were described as key assets to leverage in focus groups and interviews. Interviewees described committed organizations who are nimble and dedicated. According to the Inventory of Services, in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury there were seven BCYF community Centers, two Boys and Girls Clubs, 4 public libraries, two YMCA's, 4 pool or spray decks, and 1 skating rink as of 2017.
- **Services Inventory.** A scan of services was conducted using publicly available information on the internet. The purpose of the scan was to identify various youth-serving organizations in the target neighborhoods to assess service gaps. Services were found using a basic Google search to assume information a community member would be able to find on their own. The interactive Google map can be found at the following link: [Service Inventory- Egleston, Jackson, Hyde, and Surrounding](#) and the more detailed table version can be found in the appendix.
- Youth Action Committee members participated in a photovoice exercise to capture the strengths of their community. In them, they took photos of community murals, youth serving organizations like Hyde Square Task Force, social service agencies like Tree of Life, community gatherings and BBQs, and finally the Jackson Square T Stop where young people congregate.

### **YAC Members Photos of Community Strengths, 2020**



DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Action Committee, 2020



## Community's Vision For the Future

- Community Priorities:**

Focus group and interview participants were asked for their suggestions for addressing identified needs and their vision for their future. Among them, participants emphasized the importance of creating intentional opportunities for young people to thrive economically, more safe spaces, and mental health services. Community survey findings align with the key themes that arose from qualitative discussions. When asked what residents identified as their top priorities, youth jobs were identified by more than half of respondents (55%), followed by after school programs for teens 13 to 19 years old (46%), and Arts (43%).

**Survey Respondents Top Five Priorities for Youth Services or Programs, by Age, 2020**

	12-14 years old (n=26)	15-17 years old (n=65)	18-20 years old (n=13)	21-23 years old (n=14)	24-26 years old (n=23)
1	Youth Jobs	Youth Jobs	Youth Jobs	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)
2	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)
3	Community Beautification projects (like community clean-ups, etc.)	Job or Career Readiness Programs	Academic Health	Youth Jobs	After School Programs for Ages Under 13
4	Safe Spaces (like teen centers, outdoor spaces)	Safe Spaces (like teen centers, outdoor spaces)	Job or Career Readiness Programs	Job or Career Readiness Programs	Youth Jobs
5	Sports or Physical Activity Programs	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)	Community Beautification projects (like community clean-ups, etc.)	Academic Help	Job or Career Readiness Programs

DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020. Notes: Question read "What are the top 5 youth services or programs you would like to see more of in your community?"

## Community Recommendations

- More Coordinated Youth Services:** Interview participants described the need for more coordinated youth services across Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, which they described as siloed. Participants described the challenges of collaborating across groups due to limited staffing capacity and competing priorities. Suggestions were made to invest staff time for a coordinator who could assist in collaboration efforts among youth-serving organizations and serve as a liaison between groups. Participants also expressed the need for an updated repository of youth services, which according to interviewees, was currently lacking. One summarized, *"Right now there is no inventory of the nonprofit youth development ecosystem, and because of that, young people are slipping through the cracks."* There is also an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with the school system and the City—which assessment participants described as the "gatekeepers" of information.
- Capacity Building Support:** Interview participants also suggested that Urban Edge invest in capacity building support or serve as a convener for local youth-serving organizations. As an example, one key informant interview described the need for more resources dedicated to communication and outreach, sharing, *"It would be great if Urban Edge could support in communications, whether it be through creating flyers, translation, sending emails to reach their residents."* In addition, several interviewees discussed the need for support securing long-term funding and support for ancillary services post-pandemic. One summarized, *"What youth-serving groups need right now is being able to go beyond rapid response and think about longer-term solutions."* The need for physical space that is safe and accessible was also commonly discussed throughout the assessment. Youth described teen centers, Boys

**"Often our communities are rich in resources and poor in the coordination of those resources."**



and Girls Clubs, and outdoor gathering spaces that were affordable and open after hours and on weekends.

- **Economic and Employment Opportunities:** Several suggestions were made related to creating youth employment opportunities. For example, one participant suggested that Urban Edge require that development projects managed by the organization employ a proportion of young people from the community. Other suggestions were made to advocate for the expansion of youth employment opportunities through programs like Success Link Boston. Suggestions were made to avoid starting new initiatives, and instead to strengthen already-established programs with deep roots in the community. When discussing this concept of clarity and mission fit, one interviewee shared, *“If Urban Edge wants to tackle employment, they need to answer the question, ‘How does youth employment support Urban Edge’s mission? It has to tie into the work of their mission or else it’s not sustainable. It should be less about what the needs are, and more about how the work will directly tie back to the mission of the organization.’”*
- **Access to Mental Health Services:** Increasing access to mental health services was overwhelmingly identified by focus group participants as a top issue to address in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. Assessment participants envisioned a community where mental health services were readily available despite zip code or socioeconomic status. Investments would be made in more mental health supports related to technological wellness, as well as coping with depression, anxiety, and social isolation. In terms of community safety, suggestions were made to invest in restorative practices and community accountability.



**“I would love to see young people being able to engage in community safety that feels comfortable to them and in strategies that are not grounded in policing and control.”**

**- Key Informant Interview**

## Key Themes and Conclusions

This assessment report examines the current landscape of youth programs while exploring the strengths and needs of youth services in Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares. The assessment was conducted during an unprecedented time given the COVID-19 pandemic and the national movement for racial justice. Several overarching themes emerged from this synthesis:

- **Jamaica Plain and Roxbury are culturally rich areas with resilient young people who are invested in their neighborhoods.** The population of these two neighborhoods have fluctuated in recent years; Between 2000 and 2017, JP and Roxbury lost more than 1,000 students aged 5-17 between (19% and 11% respectively).
- **Economic opportunities including jobs and ending cycles of poverty are longstanding issues that have been exacerbated in light of the global pandemic.** Access to meaningful employment for young people was identified as a critical gap to address. Of the young people who reported looking for a new job on the community survey, approximately 43% indicated ‘Higher Pay’ as the primary reason for looking, followed by ‘More opportunities for advancement’ (25.7%).

- **Issues related to community violence are top of mind for many young people, particularly for those between 12-14 years old and 18-20 years old.** Gun violence was reported as an increasing concern for younger residents, especially in light of the recent uptick in violence across the city since the pandemic. Closely linked was the need for more mental health supports for social isolation, depression, and anxiety. Suggestions were made to invest in restorative practices and community accountability to address community safety. Young people suggested investments in the arts—like music, dance, theater, community murals, or spoken word.
- **Jamaica Plain and Roxbury have many social service assets that can be leveraged, but access to those services is a challenge for some residents.** Youth services are still largely siloed and have limited capacity to collaborate or coordinate across organizations. More support is needed from longer-term funding streams, a convener of groups, database management, and human resource activities. Offering physical space indoors and outdoors where nonprofit organizations can convene at affordable prices was described as a short-term strategy to alleviate financial constraints currently faced by youth-serving organizations.
- **In moving forward, it will be critical for Urban Edge to align its mission with sustainable initiatives to support young people.** Respondents indicated that there are ample services in the area, and the most effective approach to addressing youth needs is to strengthen what already exists versus developing new initiatives. Suggestions were made for Urban Edge to establish a clear strategy as they decide how to contribute to the youth movement in these neighborhoods. One interviewee summarized, *“Urban Edge should be able to define a strategy that defines what they want to do on behalf of young people in the community. For example, does Urban Edge want to do direct service, or are they looking to play a role in youth services and youth support? It should be very clear.”*

# 2020 Community Assessment of Youth Programs, Services, and Opportunities

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In Spring 2020, Urban Edge partnered with Health Resources in Action (HRiA) to conduct a community assessment of youth services, programs, and opportunities in Jamaica Plain- with a specific focus on Egleston, Hyde, and Jackson Squares. The purpose of the youth-centered community assessment was to:

- Explore the current landscape of youth-serving programs and services available in Urban Edge's service area and adjacent Boston neighborhoods;
- Provide a portrait of the youth service assets, gaps, and opportunities in Jackson Square, Egleston, and Hyde Squares
- Present findings and recommendations that are action-oriented to inform Urban Edge's future and shared initiatives; identify possibilities to leverage assets, address needs, and create opportunities for youth

The COVID-19 pandemic coincided with the activities of this assessment. As a result, all engagement and data collection activities shifted from in-person to virtual engagement. This report should be considered a snapshot of youth needs and strengths during an unprecedented time, and the findings can be built upon through future assessment and planning efforts.

### Geographic Focus

The 2020 community assessment focused on the geographic areas of Jamaica Plain and Roxbury with a focus on Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares (

**Figure 1).** Since Census data are not reported at the neighborhood square level, the secondary data presented in this assessment are presented for Jamaica Plain (02130), and Roxbury (02119, 02120), which include Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares.

**Figure 1. Map of Boston Neighborhoods of Focus, 2020**



## METHODS

The youth-centered community assessment aimed to engage residents and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive and timely portrait of the programs and services available to youth in the community. For the purposes of this assessment, individuals below 26 years old are defined as a “young person”. Below is a description of the overarching methods used for this assessment. A mixed-method approach consisting of a review of secondary data, a services inventory, four focus groups, seven interviews, and a community survey was used to gather input. In total, over 300 residents were engaged in this process from June-December 2020. The following provides more detail on each of these methods.

### Engagement Process

An Advisory Group and Youth Action Committee were engaged to guide this assessment. Members of these groups consisted of representatives from nearby youth-serving organizations, and a Youth Action Committee comprised of young people from the surrounding Jamaica Plain and Roxbury community.

#### Advisory Group

The purpose of the Advisory Group was to lead the overall strategy of the assessment including providing input and guidance throughout the duration of the project to make sure deliverables were as helpful as possible. The Advisory Group met monthly and represented youth-serving organizations with strong roots in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighborhoods, including Hyde Square Task Force, The Possible Project, Egleston YMCA, Mildred Hailey, and Urban Edge.

#### Youth Action Committee

The Youth Action Committee (YAC) included seven teens between the ages of 14-17 who represented Egleston, Hyde, and Jackson Squares. HRiA met with the YAC bi-weekly for approximately 5 months. Youth Action Committee members were critical in identifying topics to explore through the assessment and in engaging community residents in data collection. Students also participated in various activities to build their capacity as youth researchers including asset mapping, data interpretation practice, focus group question development, and communication activities. Youth were engaged for approximately 10 hours throughout the course of five months and were compensated \$20 per hour.

### Secondary or Existing Data

Secondary data are data that have already been collected for another purpose. Examining secondary data helps us to understand trends and identify differences by sub-groups. Secondary data for this assessment were from a variety of sources, including the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), U.S Census American Community Survey (ACS), Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Health Commission, and a number of other agencies and organizations. In addition, an inventory of services was compiled to identify various youth-serving organizations in Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares. Services were found using a basic Google search to assume information a community member would be able to find on their own. The interactive Google map can be found at the following link: [Service Inventory- Egleston, Jackson, Hyde, and Surrounding](#) and the more detailed table version can be found in the appendix.

### Primary or New Data

Primary data are data collected directly from main sources through interviews, photovoice activities, focus groups, and surveys. For this assessment, a total of four focus groups, seven key informant interviews and a community survey were conducted. Additionally, Youth Action Committee members participated in a photovoice activity to further document the strengths in their community. Below is a brief description of each of these methods.

### Focus Groups

Three focus groups were conducted with young people and one group was conducted with parents to explore the strengths and needs of youth services in the area. The majority of participants resided in Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares. Discussions were 60-minute semi structured conversations with 4-7 participants per group. A total of 21 residents were engaged in focus groups.

### Key Informant Interviews

In addition to group discussions, a total of seven key informant interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in the community. Interviewees represented the following organizations: The City School, Friends of the Kelly Rink, Youth Enrichment Services (YES), the City of Boston, The Possible Project, and Hyde Square Task Force.

### Community Survey

A community survey that focused on a range of issues related to young people was developed in collaboration with Urban Edge, the Youth Action Committee, and the Advisory Group, who provided input on the content and flow of the survey in November 2020. The Youth Action Committee then piloted the survey before administering it online over the course of four weeks. The final sample of the community survey comprised of 283 residents from the surrounding Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighborhoods. Over half of survey respondents were from the target neighborhoods of Egleston, Hyde, and Jackson squares and were below the age of 26 years old (53% and 51%, respectively). The majority of survey respondents identified as Hispanic or Latinx (59%), followed by Black or African American (34%). As is the case with many community surveys, the overwhelming majority of participants identified as female (73%).

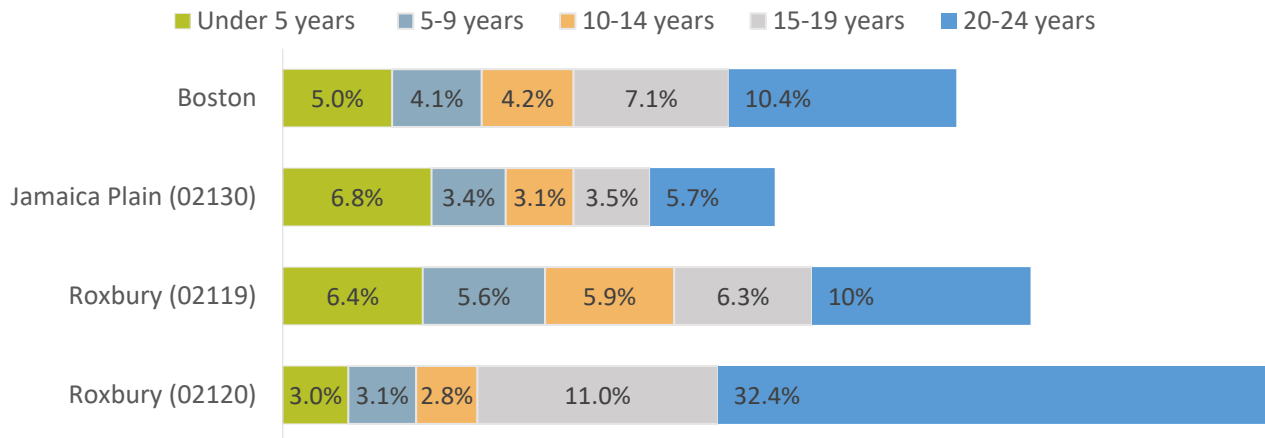
### Limitations

As with all data collection efforts, there are several limitations that should be acknowledged for each respective method. For example, some Census and state data are not available by specific population groups (e.g., race/ethnicity) or at a more granular geographic level (by neighborhood square) due to small sub-sample sizes. There may also be a time lag for many data sources from the time of data collection to data availability. Additionally, the primary data collection activities used a convenience sample. Since a convenience sample is a type of non-probability sampling, there is potential selection bias in who participated. Due to COVID-19, focus groups and interviews were also conducted virtually, and therefore, while both video and phone options were offered, some residents who lack reliable access to internet and/or cell phones may have experienced difficulty participating.

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS- Who Lives in JP and Roxbury?

Similar to the city of Boston overall, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury experienced population growth between 2010-2014 and 2015-2019 (8% growth in JP and Roxbury). There is a range of age groups represented in JP and Roxbury, but the distribution varies across zip codes. For example, Roxbury (02119) zip code has the largest proportion of children under 19 (34%). Conversely, the highest proportion of young people ages 20-24 was in the 02120 area of Roxbury (32%), presumably because of the high concentration of institutions of higher learning in this area. (Figure 2)

**Figure 2. Age Distribution, by Boston and Neighborhood of Focus, 2015-2019**

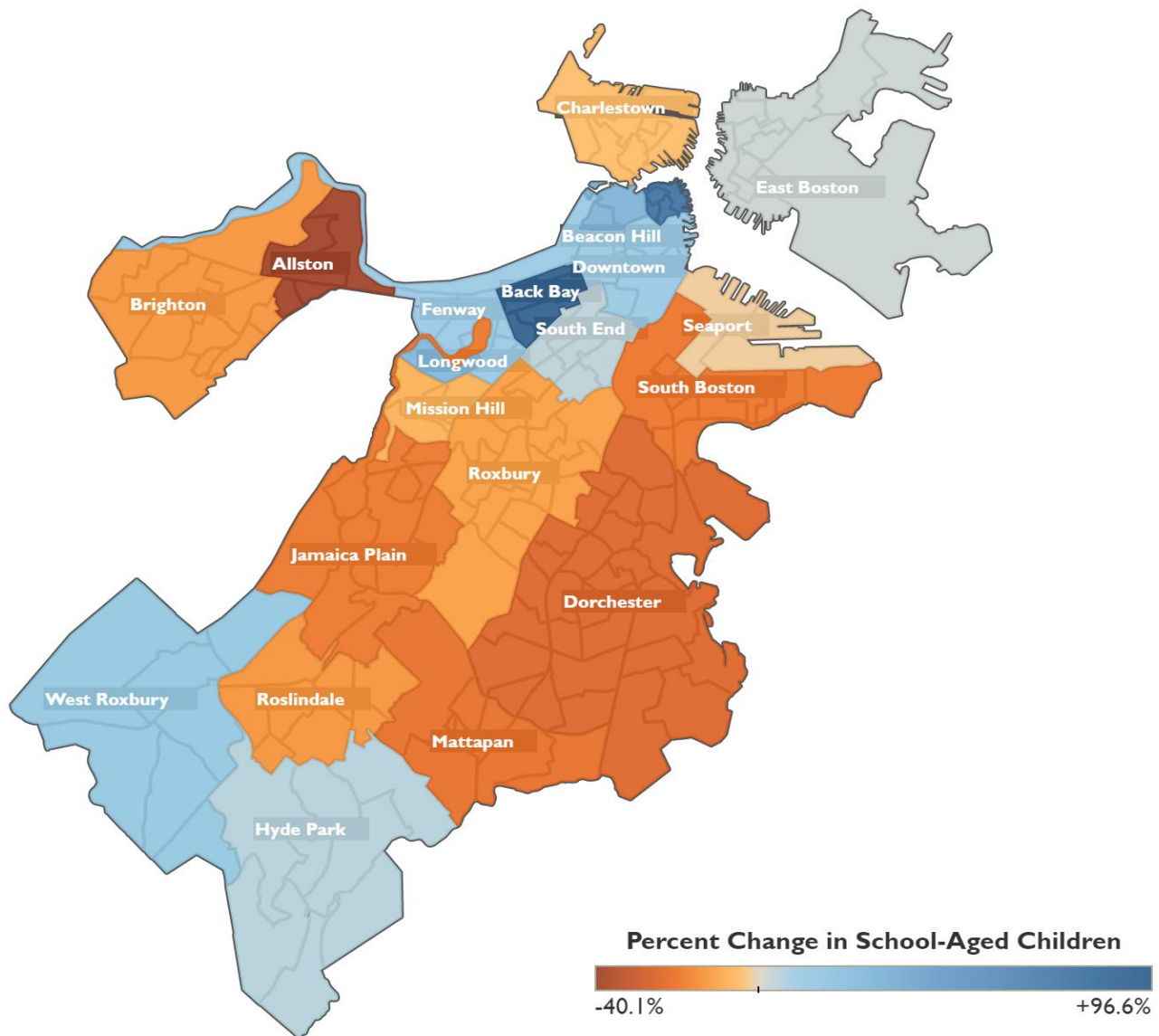


DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2010-2014, 2015-2019; NOTE: Percentages are only shown for youth ages 24 and under, therefore % will not equal 100%.

While the population continues to increase in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, these increases do not reflect the changing demographic of young people in the area. Similar to Boston overall, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury saw declines in school-aged children, while many suburbs west of Boston experienced population gains (data not shown). The map below shows that between 2000 and 2017, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury lost more than 1,000 school-aged students between the ages of 5 and 17. (19% and 11% respectively) (**Figure 3**). Residents attributed to these shifts in the changing housing landscape, particularly the rise of gentrification in Jamaica Plain and more recently Roxbury.

However, this decline was not seen in all age groups. Between 2010-2014 and 2015-2019, the population of children under the age of 5 years grew by almost 32% in Jamaica Plain and children between 10-14 increased by 21% in Roxbury (02119). (**Table 1**) Additional secondary data related to population counts can be found in Appendix A: Additional Secondary Data.

**Figure 3. Percent Change in Youth Aged 5-17 (School-Aged) in Boston, by Neighborhoods, 2000 to 2017**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017, as analyzed in The Boston Foundation, Boston Indicators Project, Kids Today Report, 2020



**Table 1. Percent Change by Age and Neighborhood, 2010-2014, 2015-2019**

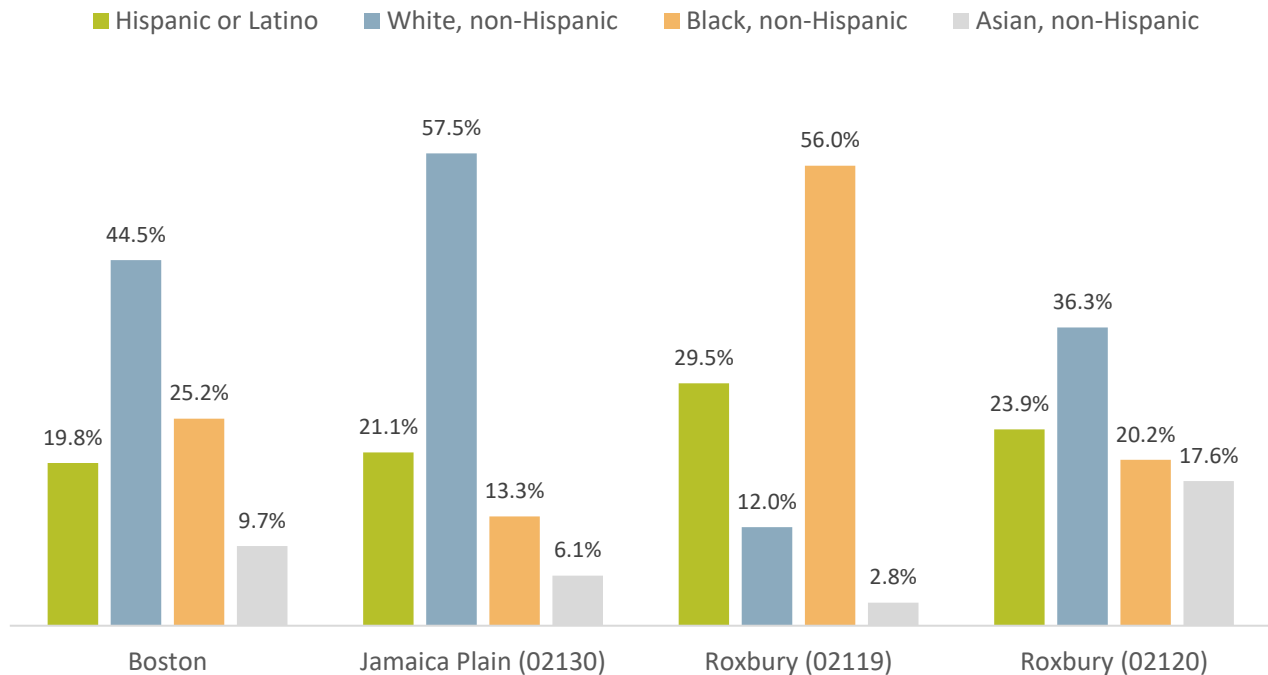
% Population Change Between 2010-2014 and 2015-2019				
	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 19 years
Boston	+1.73%	+0.6%	+6.5%	-3.0%
Jamaica Plain (02130)	+31.7%	-8.4%	-8.7%	+5.8%
Roxbury (02119)	+4.47%	-4.2%	+20.5%	-15.5%
Roxbury (02120)	-16.9%	-24.9%	-28.6%	-22.7%

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2010-2014, 2015-2019

### Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Residents engaged in the assessment described rich diversity in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, which is supported by secondary data, although diversity varies by zip code. Over half of Roxbury 02119 residents identified as Black (56%), compared to 44.5% across Boston overall. Both Roxbury and Jamaica Plain also have higher proportions of Latino residents compared to the rest of the city (29.5% and 21% respectively). Conversely, Jamaica Plain has the highest proportion of residents who identify as White (57.5%) (**Figure 4**)

**Figure 4. Racial and Ethnic Distribution, by City and Neighborhood, 2015-2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

## Language and Foreign-Born Population

Boston is also a city rich in language diversity. Nearly 38% of residents speak a language other than English at home, and that percentage is even higher in Roxbury (42%), where Spanish is the most common language (data not shown). Language diversity is even more prevalent in the schools surrounding Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares. In 2020, nearly 40% of students in Jamaica Plain’s English high school and Roxbury’s Madison Park Technical Vocational high schools were English Language Learners, compared to 31% across Boston Public Schools overall (**Table 2**).

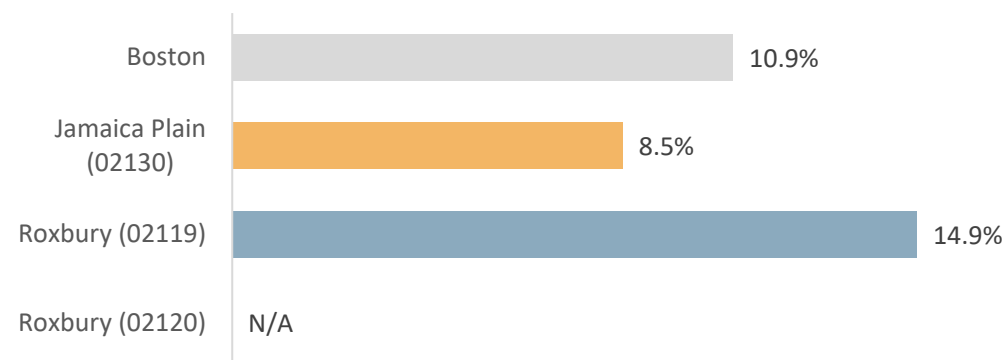
**Table 2. Percent of English Language Learners, Schools Near Geographic Focus, 2020-2021**

	LEP English Language Learners
Boston Public Schools Overall	31%
City on a Hill Charter Public School	14.5%
English High School	39.9%
Madison Park Technical Vocational High School	38.9%

DATA SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School and District Profiles, 2020-2021

The foreign-born population also varied by zip code. Roxbury (02119) had the highest proportion of residents under the age of 18 who were foreign born (14.9%), compared to 8.5% in Jamaica Plain. The majority of foreign-born residents in these neighborhoods were from Latin America (60%), followed by Africa (27%), Asia (8.7%), and Europe (3.6%). More than half reported speaking English less than “very well” (54.3%) (data not shown).

**Figure 5. Percent Population of Foreign-Born Residents, Under 18 Years Old, 2019**

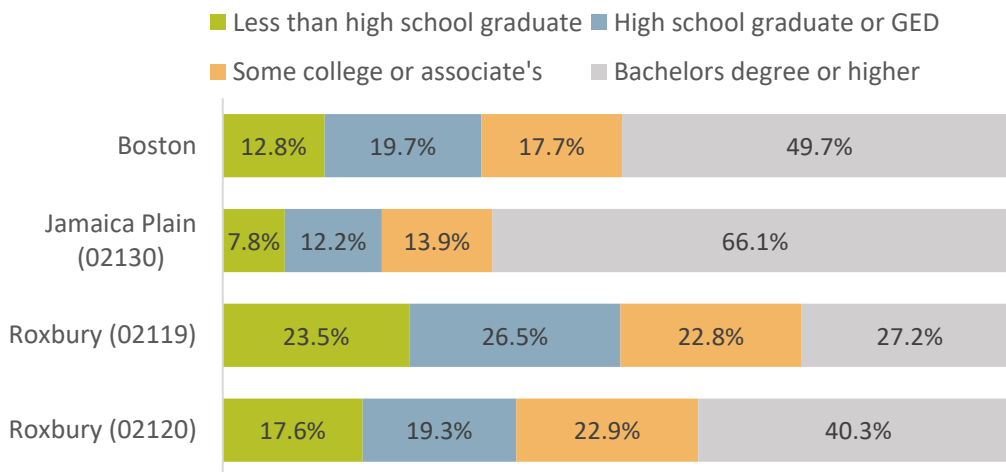


DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019; NOTE: Data were not available for Roxbury 02120 due to small sample sizes

## Education

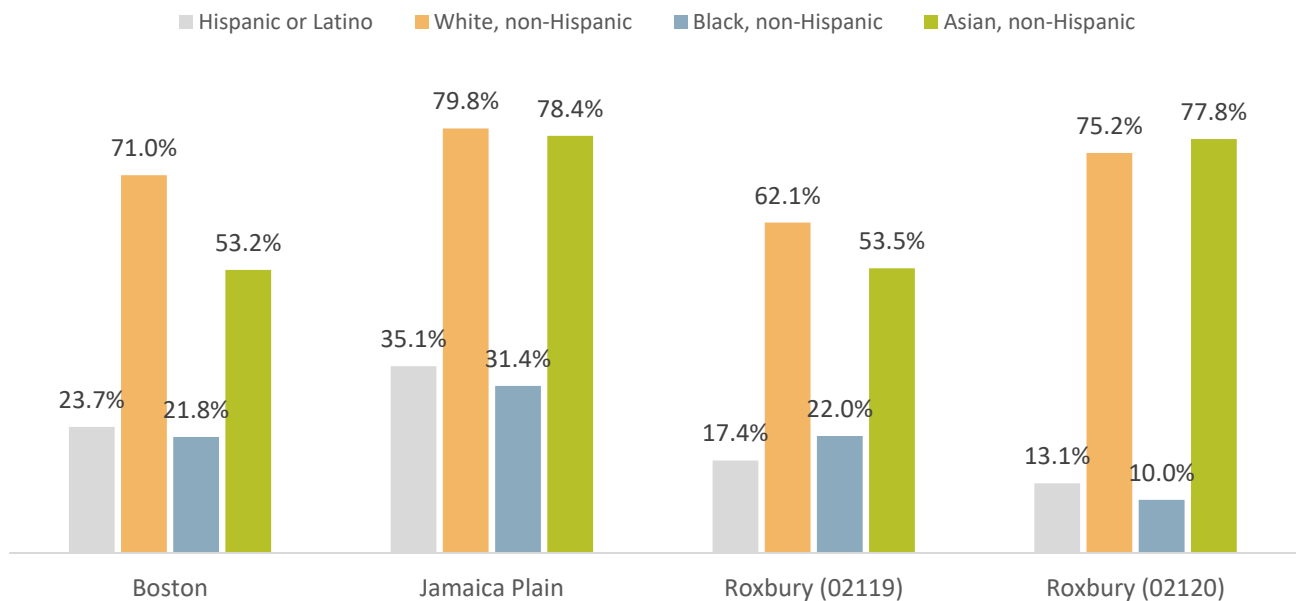
Boston is a city with relatively high-levels of educational attainment, with nearly half of adults having a college degree or higher (49.7%). Yet there are substantial differences across zip code and racial and ethnic groups. Over half of Roxbury residents have less than a college degree (73% (02119), and 60% (02120)). In contrast, more than 66% of Jamaica Plain residents have a bachelors degree or higher **Figure 6**. In terms of racial and ethnic differences, nearly seven in ten White residents across these neighborhoods hold a college degree, while less than three in ten Black residents hold a college degree (**Figure 6****Figure 7**).

**Figure 6. Educational Attainment for Population 25 years and over, 2015-2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

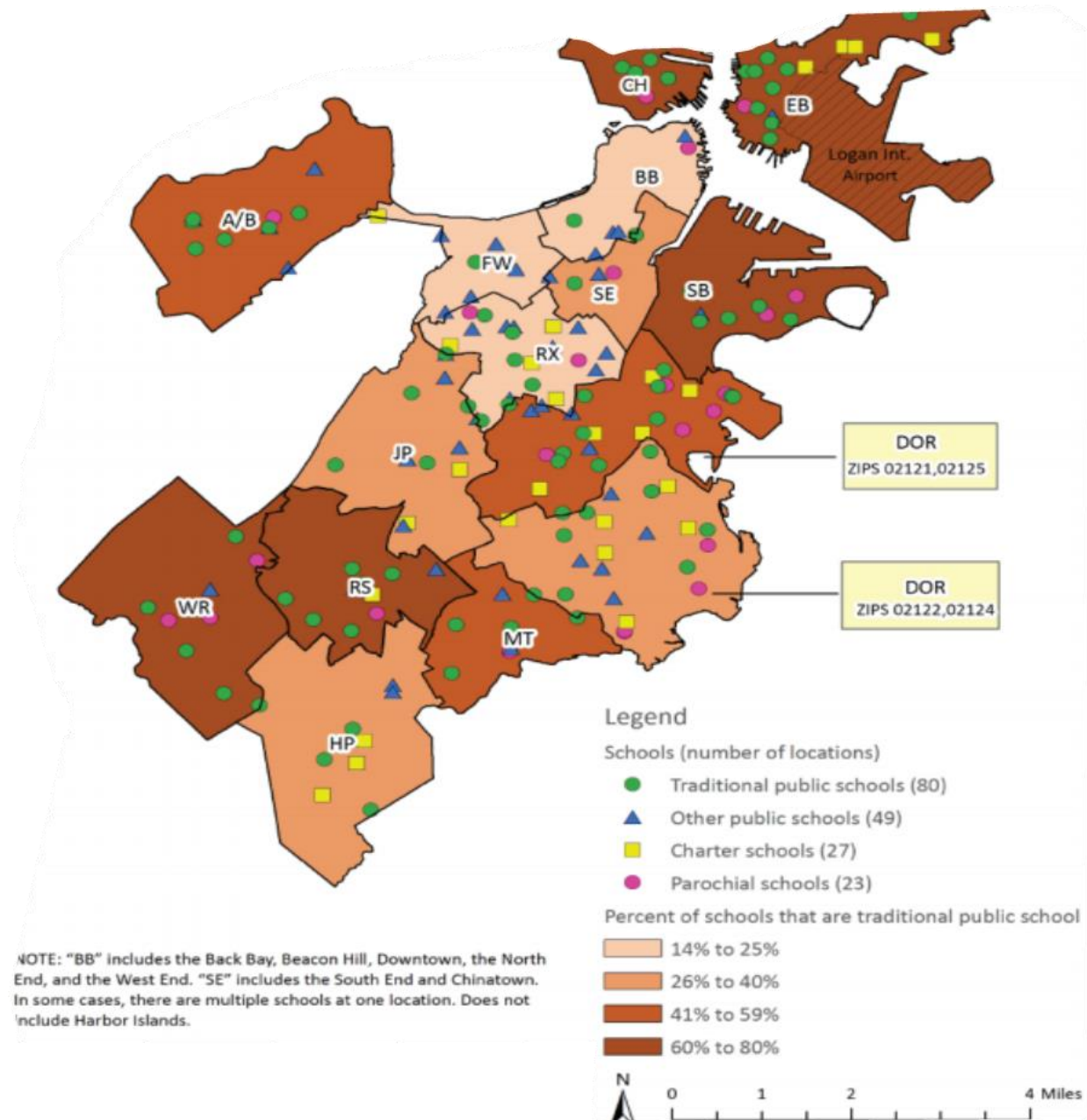
**Figure 7. Percent of Population 25 years and over with Bachelor's Degree or Higher 2015-2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

The map below details the locations of public, charter, and parochial Schools by Boston Neighborhood. In 2017, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury had 11 traditional public schools, 10 other-types of BPS operated public schools including alternative and exam schools, 6 charter schools, and 2 parochial schools in 2016.

**Figure 8. Map of Public Schools, Charter Schools, and Parochial Schools as Reported by Boston Public Health Commission, 2016**



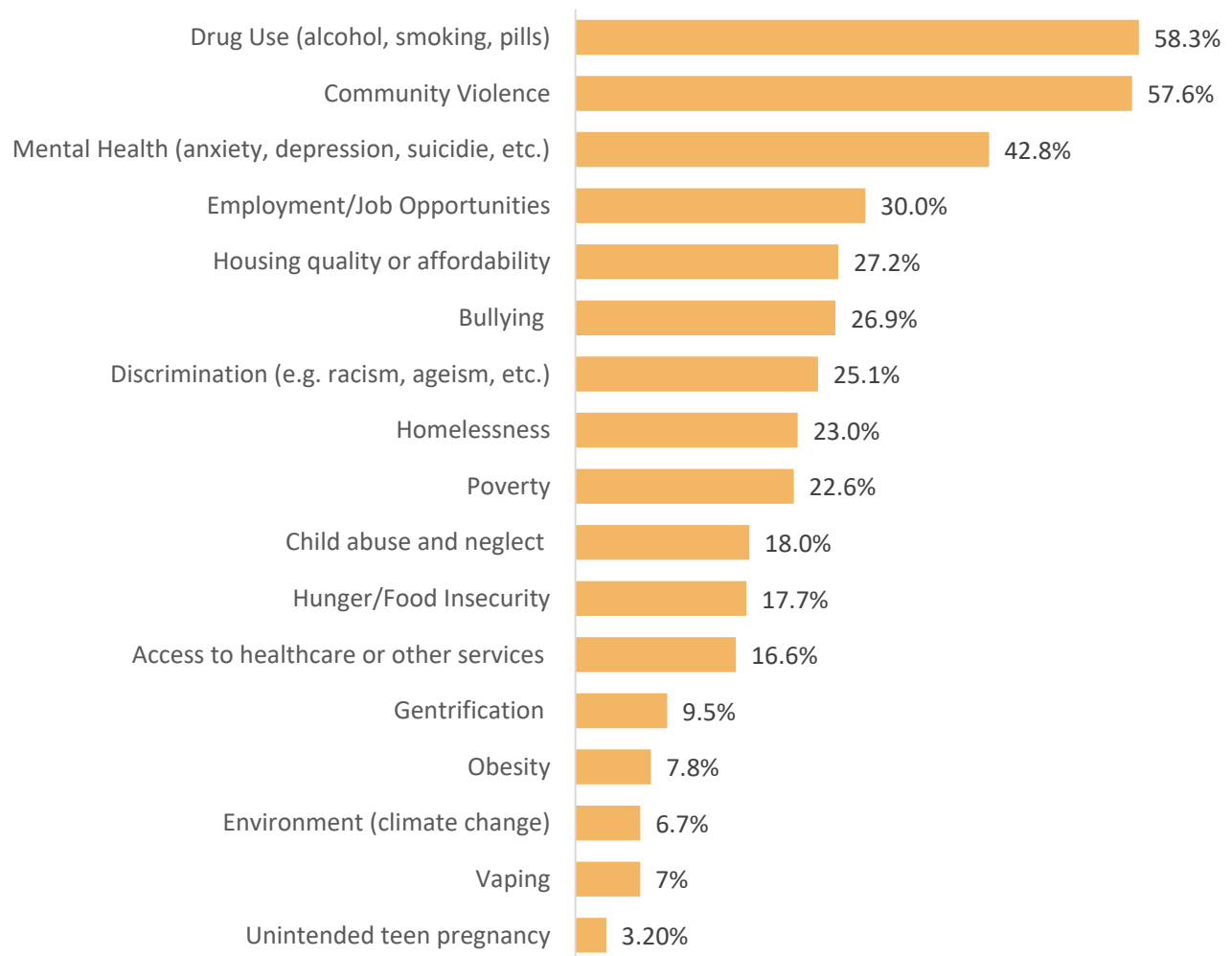
DATA SOURCE: School Directory List, Boston Public Schools; Boston Charter Schools, Massachusetts Charter Public School Association; and Boston Catholic Directory, Archdiocese of Boston. As reported and analyzed in the Boston Public Health Commission's Health of Boston Report, 2017

## YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS- What Are the Issues?

Concerns related to young people were explored in focus groups, interviews, and the community survey. Assessment participants were asked about a series of topics that affected young people most in their communities. The most common issues reported via qualitative discussions were income and financial security, followed by employment concerns and issues related to community violence and mental health.

Community survey data support these findings. Residents were asked to select the top five concerns that affect young people the most. Over half of survey respondents identified drug use and violence as their primary concerns (58.3% and 57.6%, respectively). Additional priorities that were ranked among the highest include: Mental Health (42.8%), Employment/job opportunities (30%), and Housing quality or affordability (27.2%). Approximately one-quarter of respondents cited discrimination (25%) and bullying (26.9%) as among leading concerns (**Figure 9**). Interestingly, drug use—which was rated as the highest concern in the community survey—was not a key theme that emerged in focus groups and interviews.

**Figure 9. Percent Urban Edge Youth Assessment Survey Participants Reporting Top Concerns that Impact Young People, All Ages, 2020 (N=283)**



DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020 Notes: Question read “What are the top 5 most important concerns in your neighborhood that affect young people?”

Presented in **Table 3** are priority youth concerns that emerged across age groups. Community violence was the leading concern among youth ages 12-14 and 18- 20; drug use was the top ranked concern for those between the ages of 15-17. Young people 21 and older prioritized concerns related to economic security including poverty, housing quality or affordably, and employment opportunities. (**Table 3**)

**Table 3. Top Five Most Important Concerns in Community That Affect Young People, by Age, 2020**

	12-14 years old (n=26)	15-17 years old (n=65)	18-20 years old (n=13)	21-23 years old (n=14)	24-26 years old (n=23)
1	Community Violence	Drug Use (like alcohol, smoking, pills)	Community Violence	Poverty	Housing Quality or Affordability
2	Drug Use (like alcohol, smoking, pills)	Mental Health	Drug Use (like alcohol, smoking, pills)	Employment/Job Opportunities	Employment/Job Opportunities
3	Mental Health	Community Violence	Employment/Job Opportunities	Homelessness	Hunger/Food Insecurity
4	Poverty	Employment/Job Opportunities	Housing Quality or affordability	Housing Quality or affordability	Homelessness
5	Discrimination (like racism, ageism, etc.)	Discrimination (like racism, ageism, etc.)	Hunger/Food Insecurity	Gentrification	Poverty

DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Survey, 2020. Notes: Question read “What are the top 5 most important concerns in your neighborhood that affect young people?”

## Income and Financial Security

Income and financial security were reported as a priority concern among the majority of focus groups and interviews, with participants indicating that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated long-standing issues across the community. Participants shared experiences of struggling to make ends meet and about the added pressures of youth needing to contribute financially to their household. One interviewee summarized, *“Youth have taken on more adult responsibilities in the household including teaching of younger siblings for remote learning and taking on jobs to help support their families.”* Students also described instances of increased familial obligations, with one saying, *“I babysit my little sister all day and have to go to work at night. I’m trying to help my mom because it’s tough right now.”*



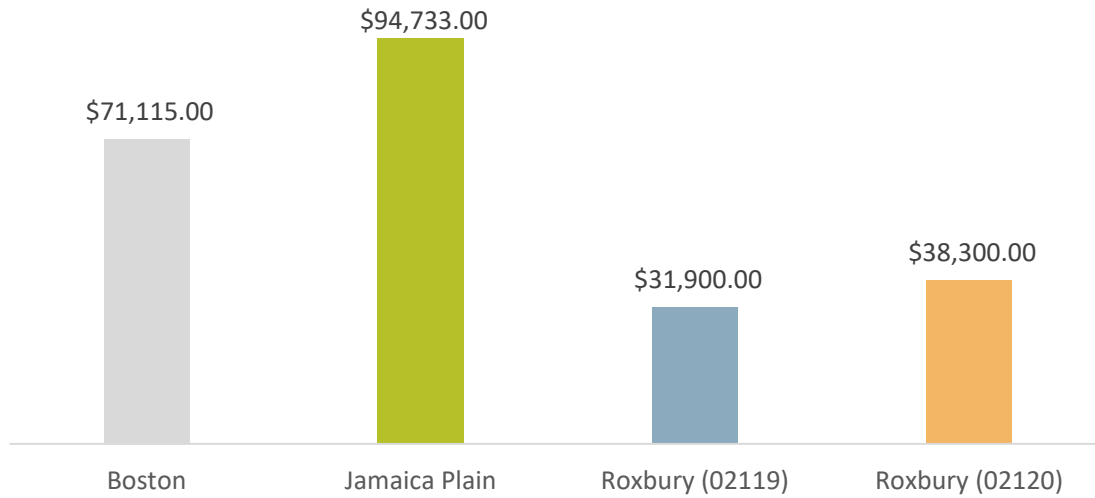
**“I babysit my little sister all day and have to go to work at night. I’m trying to help my mom because it’s tough right now.”**

**-Youth Focus Group Participant**

In JP and Roxbury, socioeconomic factors vary widely. The median annual household income in Jamaica Plain was \$94,733, more than the city average of \$71,115. In comparison, Roxbury residents had a median household income of \$31,000 (02119), and \$38,300 (02120). (**Figure 10**)

About one in five families with children under 18 years old across the city of Boston lived below the poverty level in 2019; this proportion is lower in Jamaica Plain (14.5%), and higher in Roxbury (32%). **Figure 11.** Over a quarter of Hispanic or Latino families with children under 18 reported living below the poverty line (28%) compared less than 19% of Asian and Black families.

**Figure 10. Median Household Income, Boston and by Neighborhood, 2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

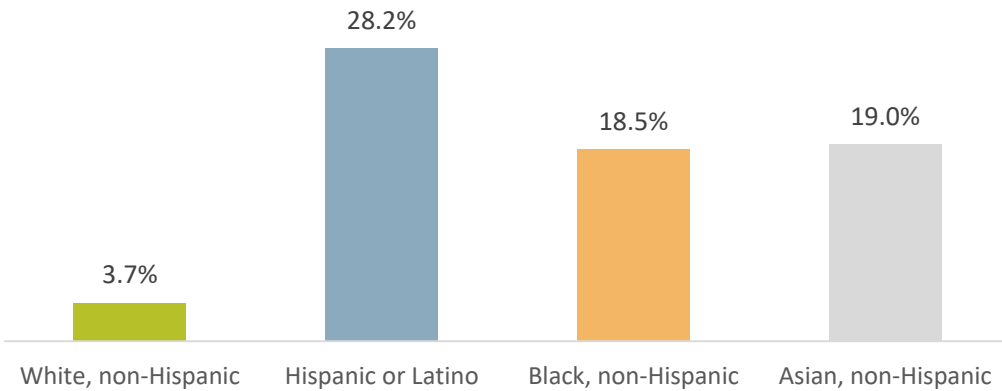
**Figure 11 Percent Families with Children Under 18 Years Living Below Poverty Level, by Boston and Neighborhood, 2015-2019**

	Children Under 18 Living Below Poverty Level
Boston	23.1%
Jamaica Plain	14.5%
Roxbury (02119)	32.7%
Roxbury (02120)	32%

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019



**Figure 12. Percent Families with Children Under 18 Years Living Below Poverty Level, by Race and Ethnicity, Boston, 2015-2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

These figures are similar for Boston Public School students. Schools surrounding Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares experience higher proportions of children who are economically disadvantaged compared to the city overall. For example, almost 75% of students at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School were economically disadvantaged, compared to 68.8% across Boston overall (**Table 4**).

**Table 4. Student Characteristics in Schools in Proximity to Geographic Focus, 2020-2021**

	Economically disadvantaged
Boston Public Schools Overall	68.8%
City on a Hill Charter Public School	53.1%
English High School	69.6%
Madison Park Technical Vocational High School	74.1%

DATA SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School and District Profiles, 2020-2021.

NOTES: Economically disadvantaged is determined based on a student's participation in one or more of the following state-administered programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC), the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) foster care program, and MassHealth (Medicaid);

## Employment and Workforce

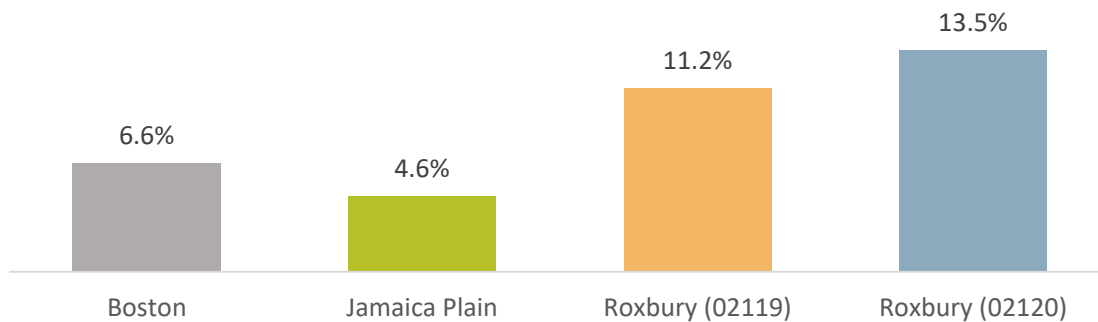
Employment challenges were discussed at length in focus groups and interviews. Young people shared challenges finding employment options that were in close proximity to their homes, sharing, *“I don’t know where to look [for jobs]. The things I’ve found online are really far away.”* These challenges are also reflected in survey responses, where one in every three participants identified Employment/Job Opportunities as a critical concern. Students who did have jobs most often reported being engaged by guidance counselors at their schools and local nonprofits such as ABCD Jamaica Plain.

Quantitative data show that the unemployment rate ranges in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. Jamaica Plain had an unemployment rate of 4.6% in 2019, lower than the city average at 6.6%. Yet the unemployment rate in Roxbury was at least double that of the city of Boston overall (13.5% (02120), 11.2% (02119) (**Figure 13**). Across these neighborhoods, residents of color are more likely to be unemployed compared to their White counterparts (**Figure 14**).

**“It’s hard for teenagers to get jobs. When people are struggling, they have the urge to make money. But there’s not enough resources to get an actual job so they resort to other situations.”**

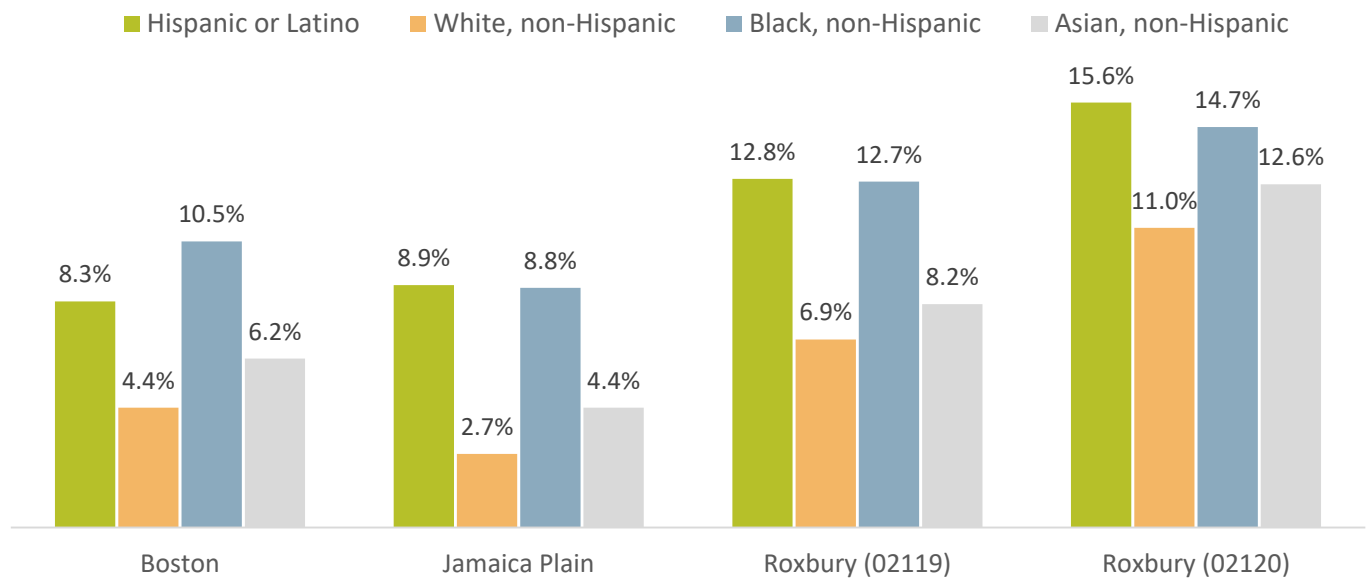
**-Youth Focus Group Participant**

**Figure 13. Population 16 and Older Who Are Unemployed, by Boston and Neighborhood, 2015-2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

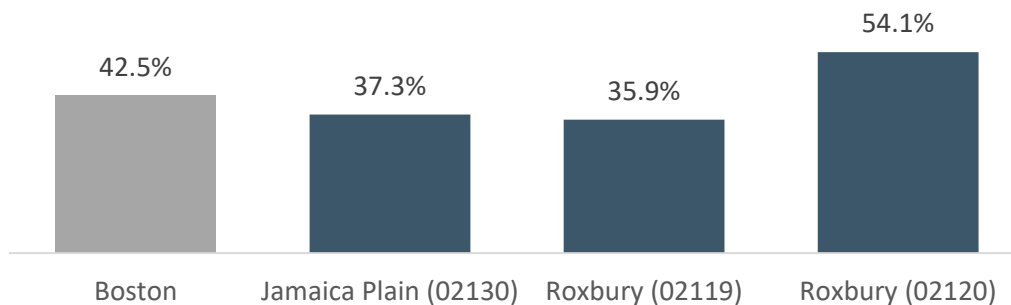
**Figure 14. Population 16 and Older Who Are Unemployed, by Race and Ethnicity, Boston, 2015-2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

Lack of employment opportunities was described as especially difficult for young people, and in multiple conversations, access to meaningful employment for young people was identified as a critical gap to address. Data between 2015-2019 show that about 43% of youth ages 16-19 are employed in some capacity. This rate was higher for teens from the 02120-zip code of Roxbury (54.1%). Jamaica Plain and Roxbury (02119), had lower rates of teens aged 16-19 who were employed compared to the city overall (42.5%).

**Figure 15. Labor Force Participation Rate, Ages 16-19, by Neighborhood, 2015-2019**

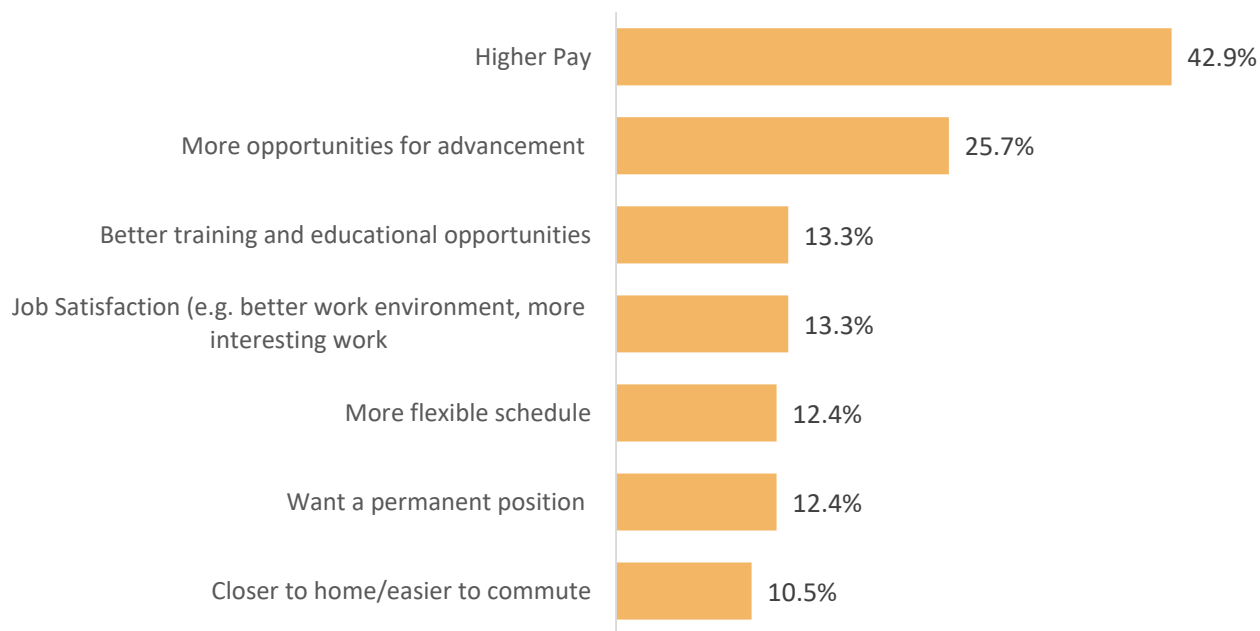


DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

Interviewees also described challenges employing young people from an organizational perspective. For example, one interviewee described that there are strict guidelines to larger employment programs throughout the city of Boston that make accessing youth employment opportunities challenging. They shared, *“We can only employ folks that live in the city of Boston, that can provide report cards, and that have stable housing, and sometimes that’s just not an option, especially as families are forced to move out of the city [because of housing prices].”* Another interviewee added, *“There are discrepancies in how we’re able to support and the number of young people we’re able to fit in certain boxes for larger employment programs.”*

Issues of employment were further explored in the community survey. Nearly two thirds (63%) of survey respondents indicated that they were looking for a new job. Of the young people who reported looking for a new job, approximately 43% indicated ‘Higher Pay’ as the primary reason for looking, followed by ‘More opportunities for advancement’ (25.7%). (Figure 16)

**Figure 16. Percent Youth Assessment Survey Participants Looking for New Job Reporting Primary Reason for Looking for New Job (N= 167)**

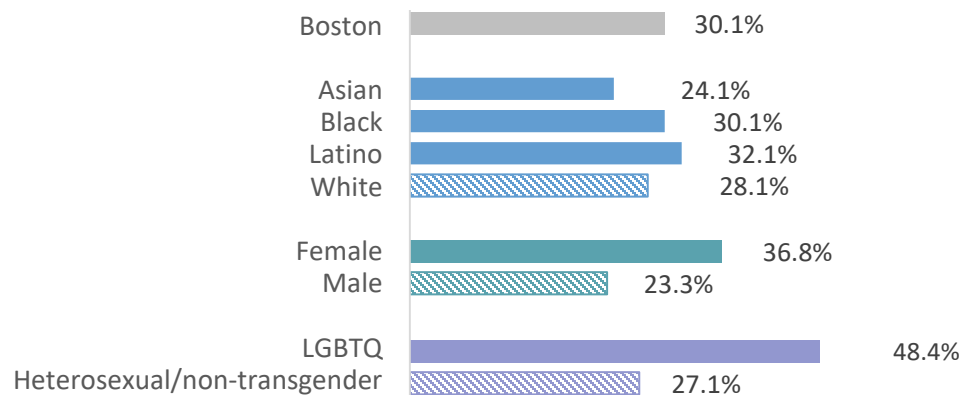


DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020; Notes: Question read “If you are looking for a new job, what is the primary reason why?”

## Access to Mental Health Services

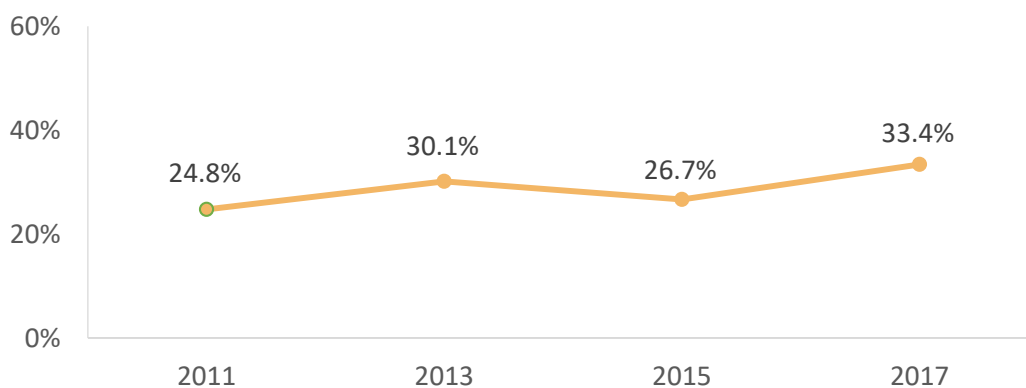
Concerns related to mental health emerged across all focus groups and interviews. Assessment participants described added stressors in recent months due to the pandemic; however, participants noted these concerns have always been present, and now are exacerbated by the crisis. Social isolation, depression, and anxiety were the most frequently cited challenges among young people. These findings are similar to themes that emerged in the community survey, where respondents ranked mental health as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest concern in the community (43%). This trend is not unique to JP and Roxbury; about one-third of Boston public high school students reported feeling persistent sadness in 2017 and this has grown substantially over the past few years. BPS data show that female students and students who identify as LGBTQ indicated feeling persistent sadness at higher proportions than other students (36.8%, and 48.4%, respectively). (Figure 17).

**Figure 17. Percent Boston Public High School Students Reporting Persistent Sadness, by Boston and Selected Indicators, 2013, 2015, and 2017 Combined**



DATA SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Boston Public Schools, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013, 2015, and 2017 combined DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office, as Reported in the Boston CHNA Report, 2019.

**Figure 18. Percent Boston Public High School Youth Reporting Persistent Sadness, by Boston and Over Time, 2011-2017**



DATA SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Boston Public Schools, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

## Addressing Mental Health


Young people described barriers to accessing mental health services, namely limited options, stigma, and lack of concern from adults. Each of these are follow described below.

### Limited Options

Young people described limited access to mental health services, citing the need for more informal support networks, mentorship opportunities, access to culturally sensitive therapy, and physical health opportunities. As one student shared, *“There needs to be a place to process and begin to recognize the trauma we’re all dealing with in these times and healing that needs to take place because of it.”* The services inventory identified seven mental health providers in JP and Roxbury. Additionally, there were nine private practice mental health providers, though data were not available for type and access to these services (data not shown)

### Stigma

Stigma to seeking mental health services was also discussed as a common issue among these communities. Parents explained that seeking mental health resources is often more accepted in more affluent communities, with one parent summarizing, *“In more affluent communities getting support for your mental health is like a badge of honor. What are ways we can put the same effort and beauty around mental health in our own communities?”* Suggestions were made to bolster opportunities for intergenerational mentorship and informal support networks to address this stigma, especially for young men of color.



**“In more affluent communities getting support for your mental health is like a badge of honor. What are ways we can put the same effort and beauty around mental health in our own communities?”**

### Support from Adults

Lastly, multiple young people shared experiences of not feeling validated and heard by adults in their community, which they attributed to impacting their mental health. According to one focus group participant, *“I feel like adults don’t pay attention to kids; they just blow us off. They just think, ‘you’re a kid, you don’t have any struggles’ and push you away.”* To address the perception of being dismissed by adults, some young people suggested that a formal “adult representative” role be established to keep young people’s interest top of mind. *“I feel like we need an adult representative. As much as we can share our own voice, we need an adult who will listen and can talk to other adults about our issues. Someone who can advocate to take what we say seriously.”*

## Safety/Community Violence

Many youth focus group participants expressed concern about personal safety in their communities. Gun violence was the most common form of violence discussed, followed by gang violence. When asked about gang violence specifically, one young person shared, *“Most people join gangs because they want to be around people and feel like they have people who love them. There should be more groups in the neighborhoods that allow kids to interact and be in groups their age instead of joining gangs.”*

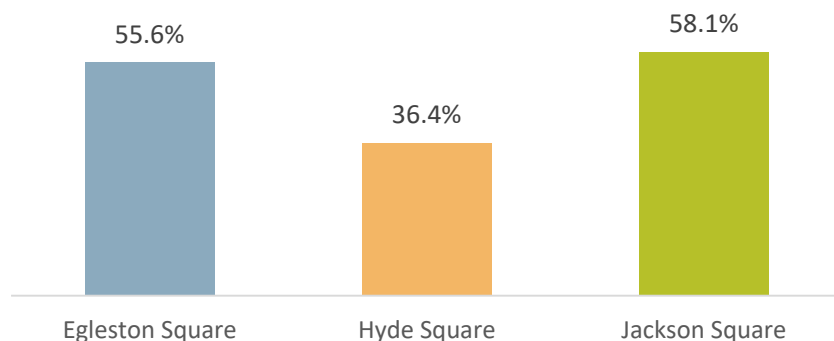
Interviewees also described long-standing turf issues across neighborhoods, particularly around Hyde and Jackson Squares. One shared, *“For decades, there’s been turf issues by Academy Homes, Mozart Park, and Mildred Hailey; there’s been a deep fear of young people walking up Centre Street past Jackson Square T stop.”* Young people also described similar turf issues, one sharing, *“There’s gang violence close to Heath Street and Close to Jackson Square by the train station. I would consider it a dangerous area.”*

These findings are supported by the community survey data that show that more than half of respondents from Egleston Square and Jackson Square disagreed that their neighborhoods were safe places to be—one

of the top five concerns. **(Figure 19)**. A greater proportion of youth ages 12-14 years described their communities this way compared to youth ages 18-20 years old **(Figure 20)**. Safety concerns were also described as a barrier to program participation. Of the 284 respondents of the community survey, approximately 25% reported safety concerns as a barrier to program engagement and participation (data not shown).

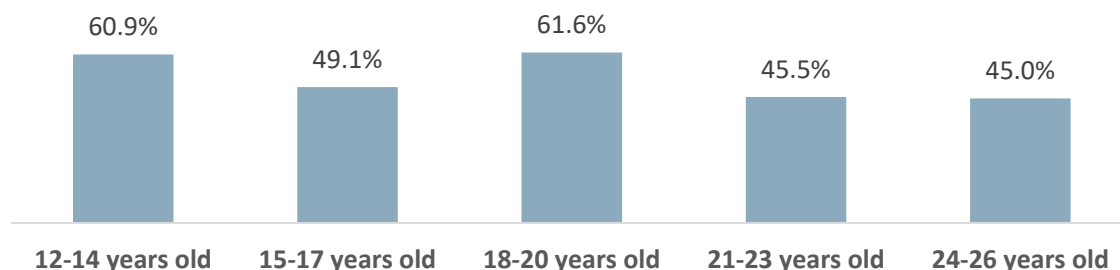
Crime data show that similar to the city overall, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury experienced an increase in violence, including homicides, which some attributed to pent-up frustrations caused by the pandemic. Just during the course of this 6-month assessment, there were at least three homicides caused by gun violence in Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares reported by the Boston Police Department in 2020 (data not shown).

**Figure 19 Percent Survey Respondents Disagreeing with Statement ‘My Neighborhood is a Safe Place to Be’, 2020**



DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020; Notes: Question read “How much do you agree or disagree with the statement: my neighborhood is a safe place to be.”

**Figure 20 Percent Survey Respondents Disagreeing with Statement ‘My Neighborhood is a Safe Place to Be’, by Age 2020**



DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020; Notes: Question read “How much do you agree or disagree with the statement: my neighborhood is a safe place to be.”



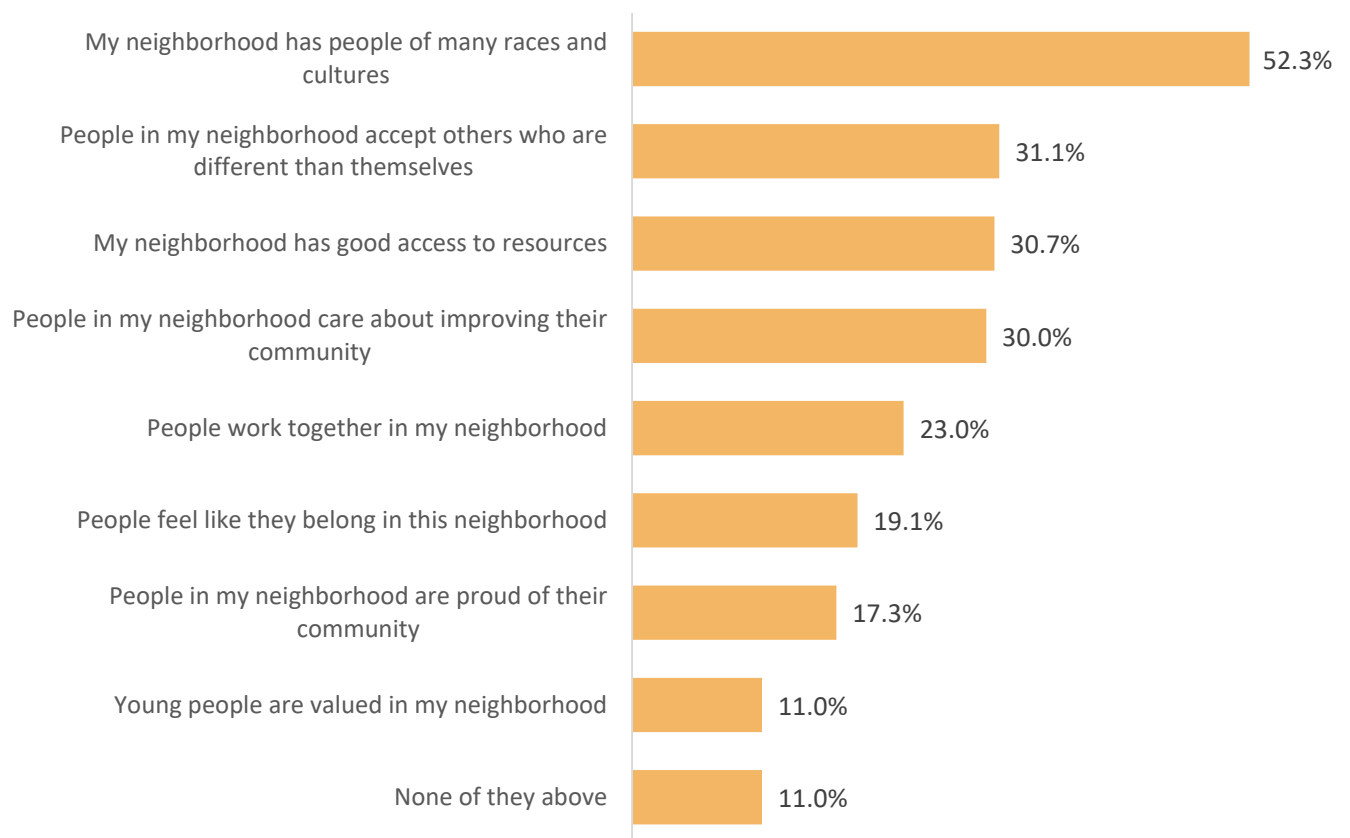
## COMMUNITY ASSETS- What Resources Are Currently Available?

The Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighborhoods have numerous strengths according to focus group and interview participants, as well as community survey respondents. Respondents of the community survey were asked about their perceptions of the strengths of their communities. More than half of survey respondents identified *'My neighborhood has people of many races and cultures'* as a community strength, followed by *'People in my neighborhood accept others who are different than themselves'* (31%). (**Figure 21**) Focus group participants echoed this sentiment, with one sharing, *"I like that we have people from all over in Egleston; you hear different languages and see different kinds of people and learn from them."*

About one in every three respondents reported that *'My neighborhood has good access to resources'*, and approximately a quarter of survey respondents indicated that people care about improve their community (23%). Focus group participants expanded on these findings, sharing that, *"Everyone helps each other out in Jackson Square...makes sure people have what they need. It's a mutual respect."*

Interestingly, only 11% of respondents indicated that *"Young People are Valued in My Neighborhood"*, as a community strength, which may be indicative of the earlier finding presented related to young people feeling dismissed by adults in their neighborhoods.

**Figure 21. Percent of Community Survey Respondents Reporting Strengths of Their Community, 2020**



DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020; Notes: Question read "How much do you agree or disagree with the statement: my neighborhood is a safe place to be."

Youth Action Committee members participated in a photovoice exercise to capture the strengths of their community. In them, they took photos of community murals, youth serving organizations like Hyde Square Task Force, social service agencies like Tree of Life, community gatherings and BBQs, and finally the Jackson Square T Stop where young people congregate. (Figure 22)

Local nonprofit and youth-serving organizations in these neighborhoods were described as key assets to leverage in focus groups and interviews. Interviewees described committed organizations who are nimble and dedicated, sharing, *“There’s an incredible amount of youth workers that have been trained really well in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. Over the last 10 years, the investment by partners in youth training certifications like the BEST initiative has helped our community have a variety of incredible youth workers. They have a strong perspective on justice and are ready to tackle the social and emotional pieces.”* Specific groups mentioned as assets were the YMCA, the Mildred Hailey community center, and Hyde Square Task Force.

**“Our young people have a strong collective resilience where they’re able to support each other throughout their struggles.”**

Lastly, young people across JP and Roxbury were frequently described as resilient. One interviewee summarized, *“The young people [in JP and Roxbury] are able to bounce back in ways that are phenomenal. Especially as the world continues to be in really hard places.”* Another agreed and added, *“I’m sure you’ll hear the word resilience a lot; our young people have a strong collective resilience where they’re able to support each other throughout their struggles.”*

**Figure 22. YAC Members Photos of Community Strengths, 2020**



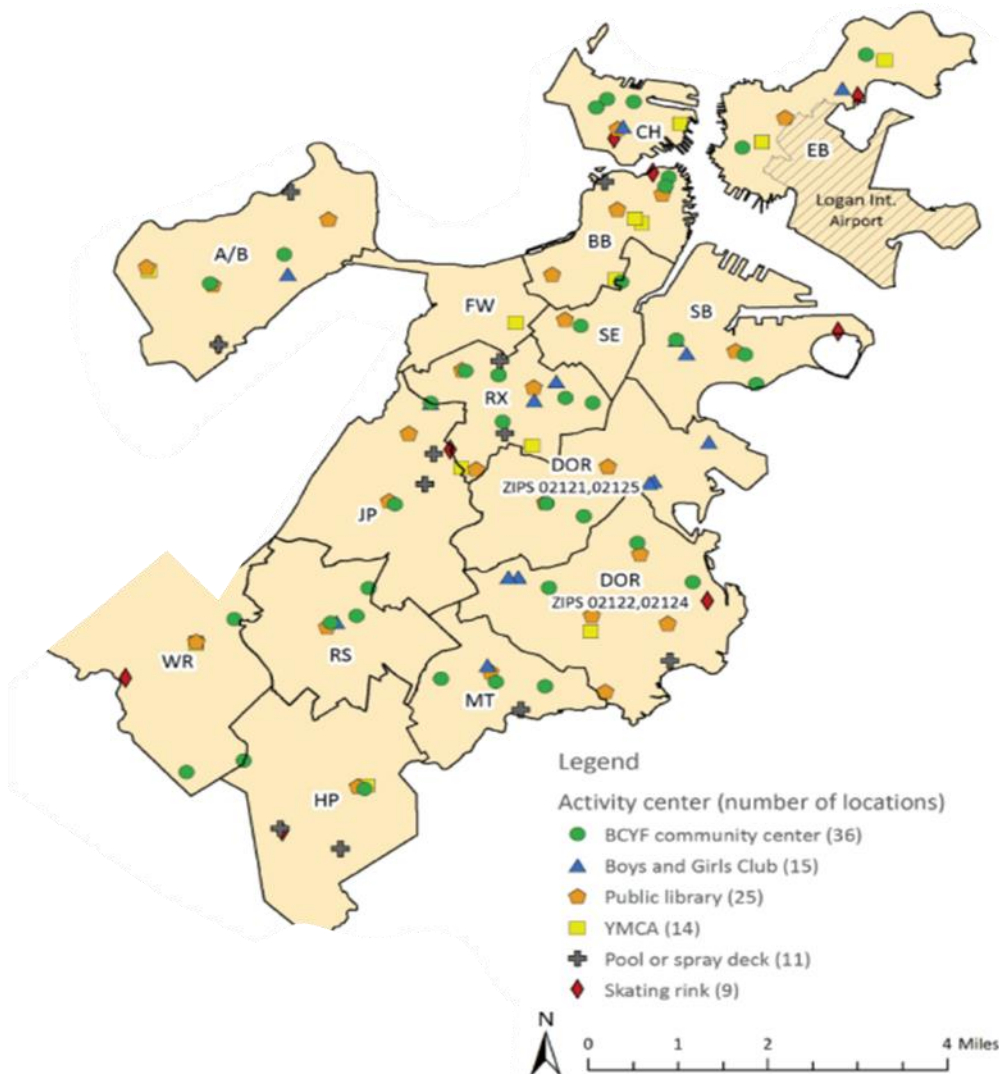
DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Action Committee, 2020

## Services Inventory

A scan of services was conducted using data collected by the City of Boston, Boston Public Health Commission, and publicly available information on the internet. The purpose of the scan was to identify various youth-serving organizations in Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares in order to assess service gaps in the future. Services were found using a basic Google search to assume information a community member would be able to find on their own. The interactive Google map can be found at the following link: [Service Inventory- Egleston, Jackson, Hyde, and Surrounding](#) and the table version can be found in the appendix.

The map below provides an overview of activity centers by neighborhood as of 2016. In Jamaica Plain and Roxbury there were seven BCYF community Centers, two Boys and Girls Clubs, 4 public libraries, two YMCA's, 4 pool or spray decks, and 1 skating rink. (Figure 23)

**Figure 23. Neighborhood Activity Centers as Reported by Boston Public Health Commission, 2016**

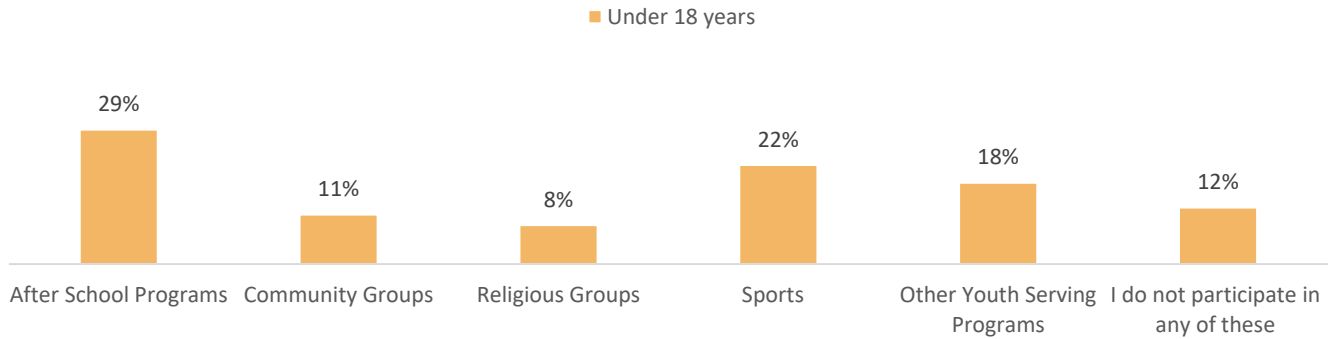


DATA SOURCE: Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF); YMCA of Greater Boston; Boys and Girls Club of America; Boston Public Library; Department of Conservation and Recreation. As reported and analyzed in the Boston Public Health Commission's Health of Boston Report, 2017

## Facilitators and Barriers to Participation

As seen in the graph below, survey respondents under reported participating in youth programs at various levels, with under 18 participating in after school programs most often, followed by sports (29% and 22%, respectively). Approximately 12% of survey respondents under 18 years old indicated that they do not participate in any youth programs or services. (Figure 24)

**Figure 24. Youth Participation, Under 18 Years Old, 2020 (N=78)**



Source: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020

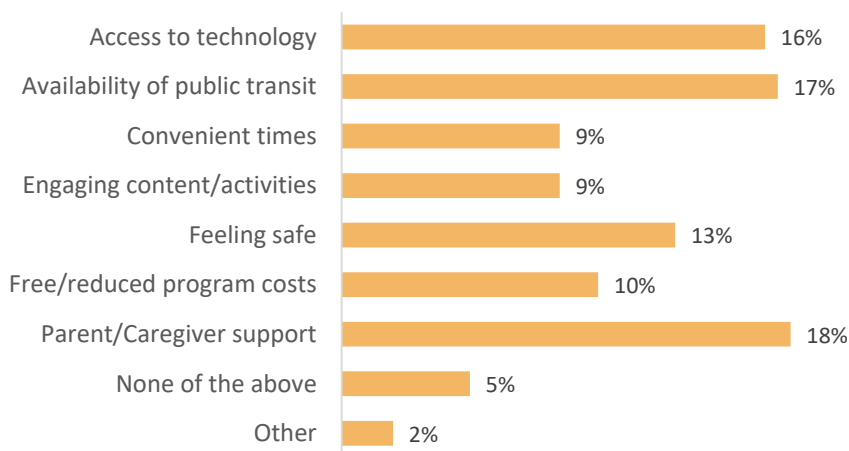
Question asked “In the past 12 months, which of the following have you actively participated in?”

Note: data shown for three age groups – Under 18 years (N=78); 18-26 years old (N=47); 27 years or older (N=125)

Note: the question allowed respondents to select more than one response. Totals may be larger than the N represented.

Youth were asked what helped to participate in youth programs and services. Quantitative survey data show that parent/caregiver support (18%), availability of public transit (17%), and access to technology (16%) were among the highest reported facilitators to participation, which were validate themes that arose in resident focus groups.

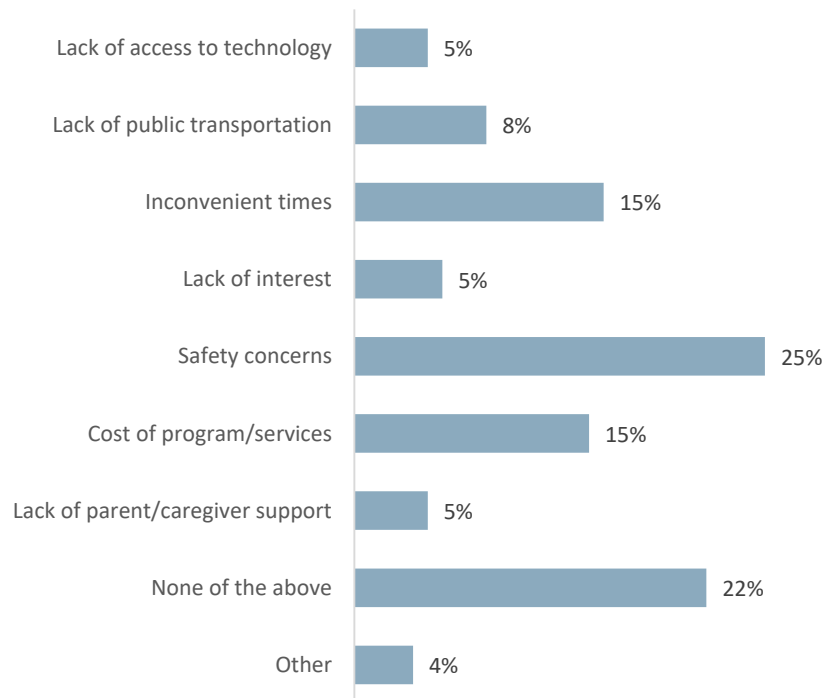
**Figure 25. Facilitators to Participating in Youth Programs or Services, under 18 years (n=94)**



Source: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020; Question asked “In the past 12 months, have any of the following made it easier for you to participate in youth programs” Note: data shown for three age groups – Under 18 years (N=94); 18-26 years old (N=50); 27 years or older (N=126) Note: the question allowed respondents to select more than one response. Totals may be larger than the N represented.

Participants were also asked what made it harder to participate in youth programming and services. Focus group participants most often described limited time/competing priorities, distance, and lack of compensation as issues that hinder participation. The survey data presented below show that safety concerns were the most common barrier to participating reported by survey respondents who were under 18 (25%), followed by inconvenient times (15%), and cost of programs/services (15%).

**Figure 26. Respondents’ Barriers to Participation in Youth Programs or Services, under 18 years (N=94)**



Source: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020; Question asked “In the past 12 months, have any of the following made it harder you to participate in youth programs” Note: the question allowed respondents to select more than one response. Totals may be larger than the N represented.

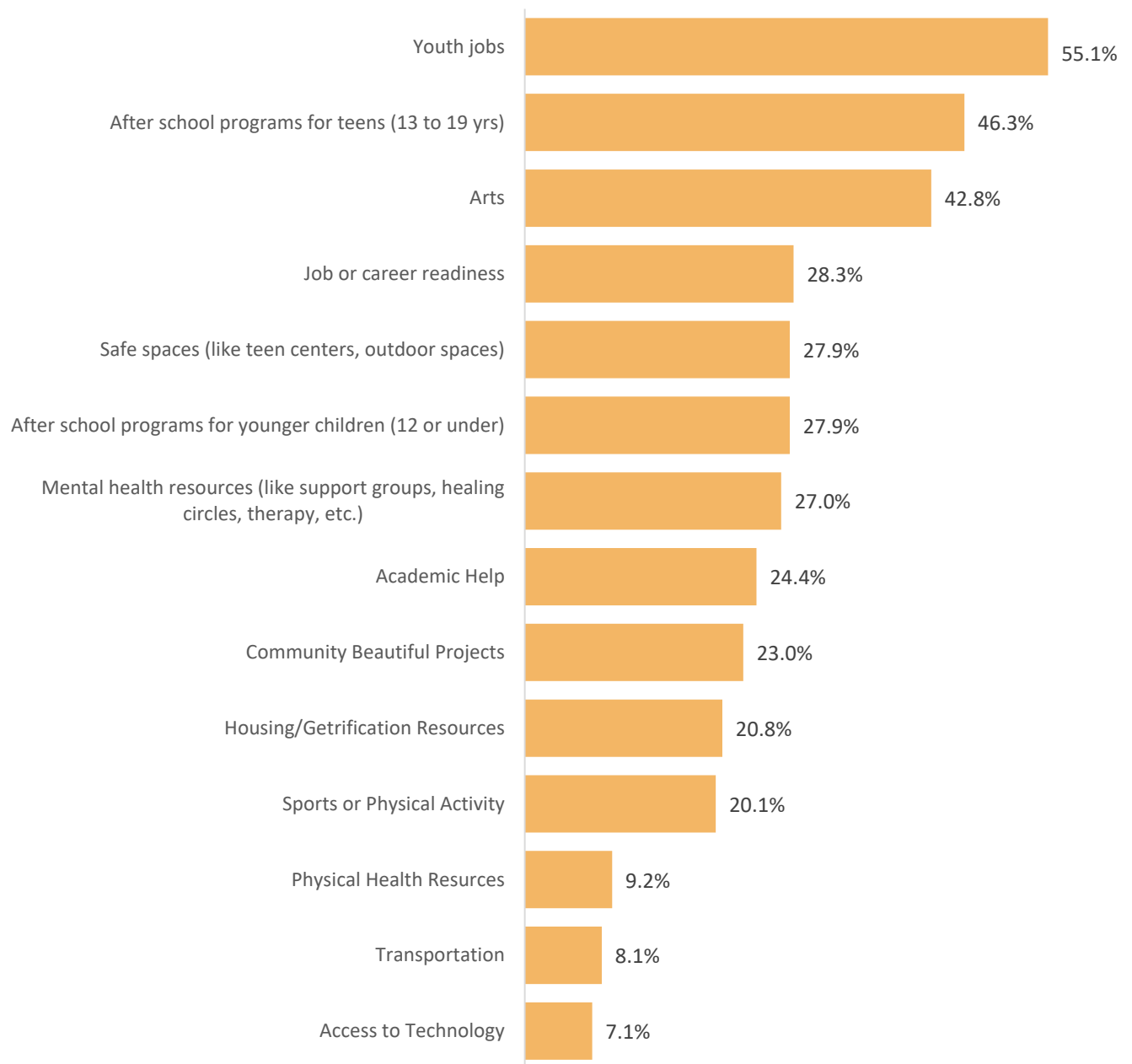
## COMMUNITY’S VISION FOR THE FUTURE

### Community Priorities

Focus group and interview participants were asked for their suggestions for addressing identified needs and their vision for their future. Among them, participants emphasized the importance of creating intentional opportunities for young people to thrive economically, more safe spaces, and access to mental health services.

Community survey findings align with the key themes that arose from qualitative discussions. When asked what residents identified as their top priorities, youth jobs were identified by more than half of respondents (55%), followed by after school programs for teens 13 to 19 years old (46%), and Arts (43%). After school programs was ranked second place overall, yet young people ages 26 and under were less likely to rate that as a priority compared to the sample overall, suggesting that this is a larger concern for adults.

**Figure 247. Top Services or Programs Community Survey Participants Would Like to See More Of, 2020 (N=283)**



DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Community Survey, 2020 Notes: Question read “What are the top 5 youth services or programs you would like to see more of in your community?”



**Table 5. Survey Respondents Top Five Priorities for Youth Services or Programs, by Age, 2020**

	12 -14 years old (n=26)	15-17 years old (n=65)	18-20 years old (n=13)	21-23 years old (n=14)	24-26 years old (n=23)
1	Youth Jobs	Youth Jobs	Youth Jobs	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)
2	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)
3	Community Beautification projects (like community clean-ups, etc.)	Job or Career Readiness Programs	Academic Health	Youth Jobs	After School Programs for Ages Under 13
4	Safe Spaces (like teen centers, outdoor spaces)	Safe Spaces (like teen centers, outdoor spaces)	Job or Career Readiness Programs	Job or Career Readiness Programs	Youth Jobs
5	Sports or Physical Activity Programs	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)	Community Beautification projects (like community clean-ups, etc.)	Academic Help	Job or Career Readiness Programs

DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Survey, 2020. Notes: Question read “What are the top 5 youth services or programs you would like to see more of in your community?”

**Table 6. Survey Respondents Top Five Priorities for Youth Services or Programs, by Geographic Location, 2020**

	Egleston Square (n=62)	Hyde Square (n=15)	Jackson Square (n=71)	Other Neighborhood (n=136)
1	Youth Jobs	Youth Jobs	Youth Jobs	Youth Jobs
2	After school program for teens (13-19)	Safe Spaces (like teen centers, outdoor spaces)	After school program for teens (13-19)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)
3	Housing/Gentrification resources	After school program for teens (13-19)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	After school program for teens (13-19)
4	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)	Safe Spaces (like teen centers, outdoor spaces)	Mental Health resources (like support groups, therapy, etc.)
5	After school program for teens (13-19)	Arts (like music, dance, visual art, theater, spoken word)	Job or Career Readiness Programs	Job or Career Readiness Programs

DATA SOURCE: Urban Edge Youth Assessment Survey, 2020. Notes: Question read “What are the top 5 youth services or programs you would like to see more of in your community?”




## Community Recommendations

Community residents were also asked about their vision for the next 3-5 years during interviews and focus groups, including suggestions for future programs and services. Several suggestions emerged, though most frequently discussed were suggestions related to more coordinated youth services, capacity support for local youth-serving organizations, providing young people with economic opportunities, increasing access to mental health, and expanding opportunities for the arts, among others.

### More Coordinated Youth Services

Interview participants described the need for more coordinated youth services across Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, which they described as siloed. One interviewee explained, *“Often our communities are rich in resources and poor in the coordination of those resources.”* Participants described the challenges of collaborating across groups due to limited staffing capacity and competing priorities. Suggestions were made to invest staff time for a coordinator who could assist in collaboration efforts among youth-serving organizations and serve as a liaison between groups. One person shared, *“It would be great if a [youth] group was hosting a community even that Urban Edge’s staff would work alongside ours or be a liaison to the larger community”*



**“Often our communities are rich in resources and poor in the coordination of those resources.”**

**-Key Informant Interview**

Participants also expressed the need for an updated repository of youth services, which according to interviewees, was currently lacking. One summarized, *“Right now there is no inventory of the nonprofit youth development ecosystem, and because of that, young people are slipping through the cracks.”* Others added, *“We have a gap in connection to services and getting the young people to the right program. The problems young people are dealing with are often dealt with in silos and for us as a community. When our connections are stronger, the better we’ll be able to serve all young people.”* There is also an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with the school system and the City—which assessment participants described as the “gatekeepers” of information.

### Capacity Building Support

Interview participants also suggested that Urban Edge invest in capacity building support or serve as a convener for local youth-serving organizations. As an example, one key informant interview described the need for more resources dedicated to communication and outreach, sharing, *“It would be great if Urban Edge could support in communications, whether it be through creating flyers, translation, sending emails to reach their residents.”* In addition, several interviewees discussed the need for support securing long-term funding and support for ancillary services post-pandemic. One summarized, *“What youth-serving groups need right now is being able to go beyond rapid response and think about longer-term solutions.”*

Additional suggestions were for Urban Edge to provide infrastructure support to local youth-serving organizations, especially for human resource activities. One interviewee mentioned that support with benefits and insurance would be especially helpful to small nonprofits and youth workers. *“The challenge in the youth-worker world is that we have high turnover and there’s incredible levels of burnout. One thing that creates sustainability is that folks have access to good behavioral health benefits from their employer. It’d be great to have support for the HR function for grassroots groups and nonprofits.”*

The need for physical space that is safe and accessible was also commonly discussed throughout the assessment. One interviewee explained, *“It would be great if Urban Edge would provide space for events*

and give youth organizations permission to go there, to be in partner with.” Another participant agreed and added, “The Boston arts community has very limited amount of rehearsal and performance space, and what they do have is expensive. It’s my understanding that the same issue is happening with local sports teams, too.” Youth participants described the need for more affordable spaces that were open after hours and on weekends. One student shared, “A lot of kids stay home at night by themselves. I don’t feel safe by myself. I wish we could have a space where I could go on the weekends instead of being home alone.”


### Economic and Employment Opportunities

As described throughout this assessment, youth and adults described the critical need to provide economic opportunities to the young people in the community. Several suggestions were made related to creating youth employment opportunities. For example, one participant suggested that Urban Edge require that development projects managed by the organization employ a proportion of young people from the community. Other suggestions were made to advocate for the expansion of youth employment opportunities through programs like Success Link Boston.

In addition, one key informant mentioned the critical importance of being able to clearly articulate Urban Edge’s intent in youth services and how it lines up with their mission. Suggestions were made to avoid starting new initiatives, and instead to strengthen already-established programs with deep roots in the community. When discussing this concept of clarity and mission fit, one interviewee shared, “If Urban Edge wants to tackle employment, they need to answer the question, ‘How does youth employment support Urban Edge’s mission? It has to tie into the work of their mission or else it’s not sustainable. It should be less about what the needs are, and more about how the work will directly tie back to the mission of the organization.”

### Access to Mental Health Services

Increasing access to mental health services was overwhelmingly identified by focus group participants as a top issue to address in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. One interviewee summarized, “We need to work on creating spaces where kids can say they are struggling with anxiety and depression and doing so without repercussion. It will be critical as we move forward in dismantle issues of mental health and safety.” Assessment participants envisioned a community where mental health services were readily available despite zip code or socioeconomic status. Investments would be made in more mental health supports related to technological wellness, as well as coping with depression, anxiety, and social isolation.



**“We need to work on creating spaces where kids can say they are struggling with anxiety and depression and doing so without repercussion.”**

**-Youth Focus Group Participant**

In terms of community safety, suggestions were made to invest in restorative practices and community accountability. One interviewee shared, “I would love to see young people being able to engage in community safety that feels comfortable to them. In strategies that are not grounded in policing and control. That way, when a community tragedy happens, a young person can respond with, ‘A harm has been done in this community. I’ve been holding restorative circles since I was 14, and now as a 21-year-old and I feel confident to hold a restorative circle to make sure my community is safe.”

## KEY THEMES AND CONCLUSIONS

Through a review of secondary data, an inventory of services, focus groups, interviews, and a community survey, this assessment report examines the current landscape of youth programs while exploring the strengths and needs of youth services in Egleston, Jackson, and Hyde Squares. The assessment was conducted during an unprecedented time given the COVID-19 pandemic and the national movement for racial justice. Several overarching themes emerged from this synthesis:

- With a currently population of over 40,000 residents in each neighborhood, **Jamaica Plain and Roxbury continue to experience population growth**. However, these neighborhoods have experienced a **decline in school aged- children** over the last few years. Between the years of 2000 and 2017, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury lost more than 1,000 students aged 5-17 between (19% and 11% respectively).
- **Jamaica Plain and Roxbury are culturally rich areas with resilient young people who are invested in their neighborhoods**. Nearly 38% of residents speak a language other than English at home, and that percentage is higher for Roxbury (42%), where Spanish is the most common language spoken other than English.
- **Economic opportunities including jobs and ending cycles of poverty are longstanding issues that have been exacerbated in light of the global pandemic**. Access to meaningful employment for young people was identified as a critical gap to address. Of the young people who reported looking for a new job on the community survey, approximately 43% indicated 'Higher Pay' as the primary reason for looking, followed by 'More opportunities for advancement' (25.7%).
- **Issues related to community violence are top of mind for many young people, particularly for those between 12-14 years old and 18-20 years old**. Gun violence was reported as an increasing concern for younger residents, especially in light of the recent uptick in violence across the city since the pandemic. Closely linked was the need for more mental health supports for social isolation, depression, and anxiety. Suggestions were made to invest in restorative practices and community accountability to address community safety. Young people suggested investments in the arts—like music, dance, theater, community murals, or spoken word.
- **Jamaica Plain and Roxbury have many social service assets that can be leveraged, but access to those services is a challenge for some residents**. Youth services are still largely siloed and have limited capacity to collaborate or coordinate across organizations. More support is needed from longer-term funding streams, a convener of groups, database management, and human resource activities. Offering physical space indoors and outdoors where nonprofit organizations can convene at affordable prices was described as a short-term strategy to alleviate financial constraints currently faced by youth-serving organizations.
- **In moving forward, it will be critical for Urban Edge to align its mission with sustainable initiatives to support young people**. Respondents indicated that there are ample services in the area, and the most effective approach to addressing youth needs is to strengthen what already exists versus developing new initiatives. Suggestions were made for Urban Edge to establish a clear strategy as they decide how to contribute to the youth movement in these neighborhoods. One interviewee summarized, *"Urban Edge should be able to define a strategy that defines what they want to do on behalf of young people in the community. For example, does Urban Edge want to do direct service, or are they looking to play a role in youth services and youth support? It should be very clear."*

## Appendix A: Additional Secondary Data

### POPULATION

#### Total Population, by City and Neighborhood, 2014 and 2019

	Under 5 years			5 to 9 years		
	2014	2019	% difference	2014	2019	% difference
Boston	33, 898	34, 485	1.73%	28,142	28,298	0.6%
Jamaica Plain (02130)	2,101	2,766	31.7%	1,528	1,399	-8.4%
Roxbury (02119)	1,699	1,775	4.47%	1,621	1,553	-4.2%
Roxbury (02120)	557	463	-16.9%	618	464	-24.9%

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2010-2014, 2015-2019

#### Total Population, by City and Neighborhood, 2014 and 2019

	10 to 14 years			15 to 19 years		
	2014	2019	% difference	2014	2019	% difference
Boston	26,862	28, 621	6.5%	49,888	48, 283	-3.0%
Jamaica Plain (02130)	1,375	1,256	-8.7%	1,337	1,415	5.8%
Roxbury (02119)	1,364	1,643	20.5%	2,059	1,740	-15.5%
Roxbury (02120)	588	420	-28.6%	2,155	1,665	-22.7%

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2010-2014, 2015-2019

#### Total Population, by Jamaica Plain (02130) and Race/Ethnicity, 2013 and 2018

	2013	2018	% difference
Hispanic or Latino	21.3%	22.2%	4.2%
White, non-Hispanic	57.7%	56.6%	-1.9%
Black, non-Hispanic	12.3%	11.0%	-10.6%
Asian, non-Hispanic	5.6%	6.2%	10.7%
Hispanic or Latino	21.3%	22.2%	4.2%

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2009-2013, 2014-2018

### Total Population, by Roxbury (02119) and Race/Ethnicity, 2013 and 2018

	2013	2018	% difference
Hispanic or Latino	27.6%	29.7%	7.6%
White, non-Hispanic	8.3%	12.0%	44.6%
Black, non-Hispanic	56.4%	55.6%	-1.4%
Asian, non-Hispanic	2.1%	3.5%	66.7%
Hispanic or Latino	27.6%	29.7%	7.6%

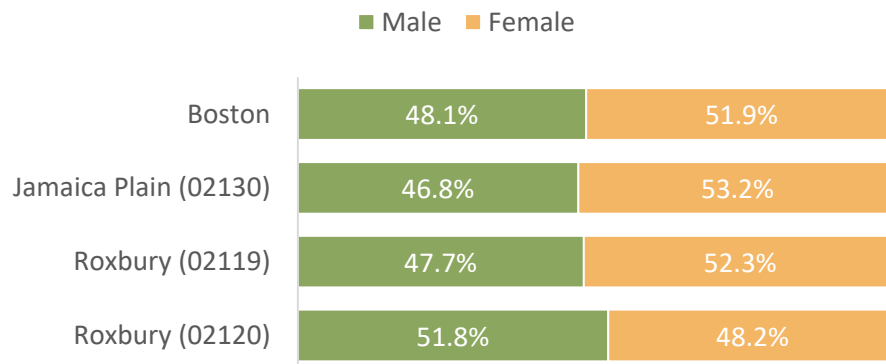
DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2009-2013, 2014-2018

### Total Population, by Roxbury (02120) and Race/Ethnicity, 2013 and 2018

	2013	2018	% difference
Hispanic or Latino	21.4%	23.9%	11.7%
White, non-Hispanic	42.8%	36.3%	-15.2%
Black, non-Hispanic	21.0%	20.2%	-3.8%
Asian, non-Hispanic	12.1%	17.6%	45.5%
Hispanic or Latino	21.4%	23.9%	11.7%

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2009-2013, 2014-2018

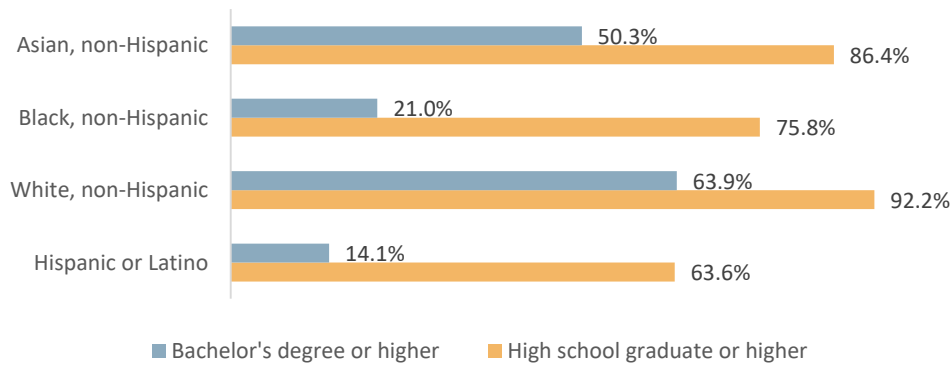
### Percent Population by Sex, by Boston and Neighborhood, 2015-2019



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

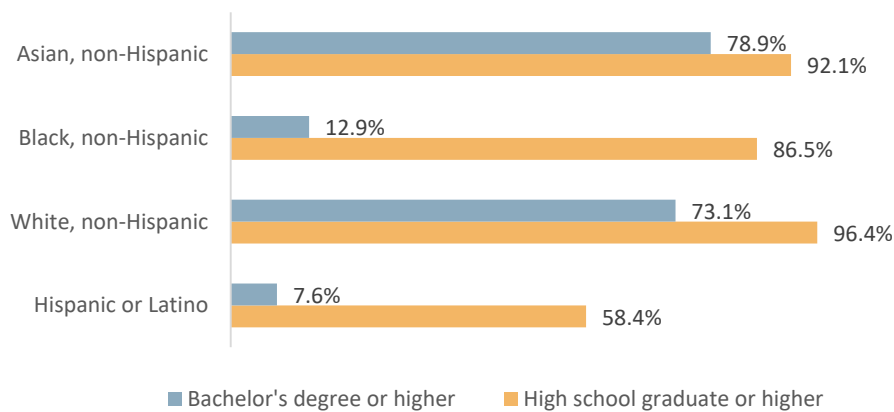
## EDUCATION

### **Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over, Roxbury (02119), 2018**



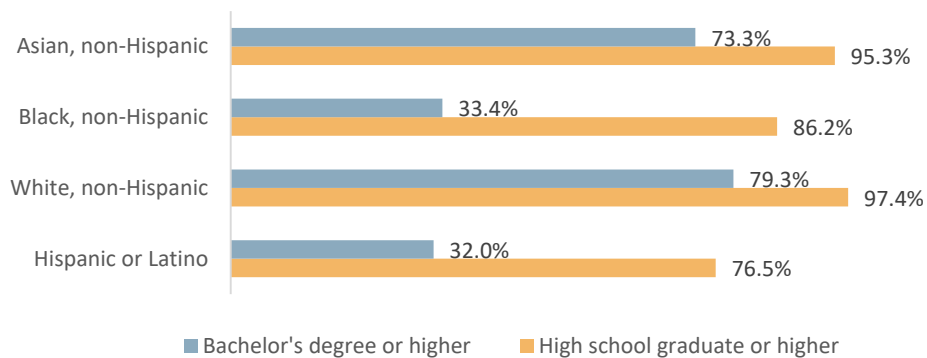
DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2014-2018

### **Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over, Roxbury (02120), 2018**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2014-2018

### **Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over, Roxbury (02130), 2018**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2014-2018

**Number of Boston Public School Enrolled Students, by Race/Ethnicity, 2014-2018**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	54,300	54,312	53,530	53,263	52,665
Black	18,747	18,225	17,353	16,945	16,567
Asian	4,690	4,643	4,638	4,687	4,728
Latino	21,953	22,232	22,192	22,285	22,059
White	7,368	7,512	7,596	7,589	7,501
Other	1,542	1,700	1,751	1,757	1,810

DATA SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School and District Profiles, Trends - DART, 2014-2018

**Number of Boston Public School Enrolled English Language Learner Students, 2014-2018**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	54,300	54,312	53,530	53,263	52,665
LEP English Language Learner	29.9%	29.8%	30.3%	31.2%	31.7%

DATA SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School and District Profiles, Trends - DART, 2014-2018 LEP English Language Learner indicates the percent of enrollment who are English learners, defined as "a student whose first language is a language other than English who is unable to perform ordinary classroom work in English;

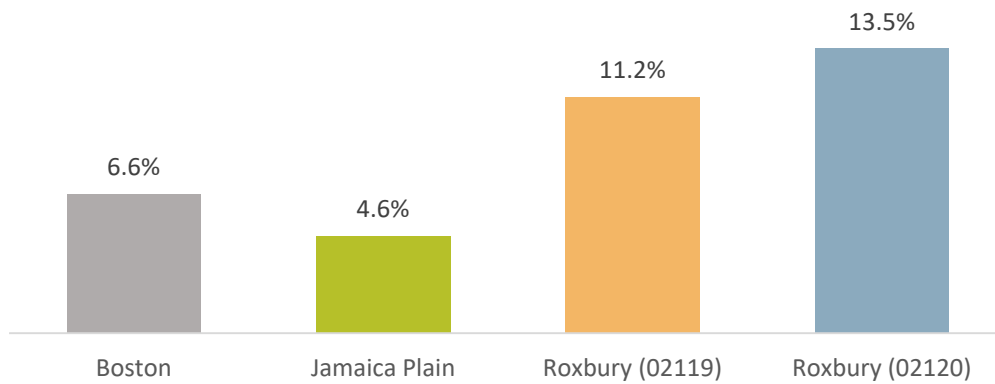
**Total and Percent Student Enrollment, by Race/Ethnicity, 2020-2021**

	African American/Black	Asian	Hispanic/Latinx	White	Other
City on a Hill Charter Public School	65.8%	0.0%	32.0%	1.3%	0.9%
English High School	36.4%	0.9%	58.1%	3.0%	1.6%
Fenway High School	30.6%	2.0%	60.6%	4.3%	2.5%
Madison Park Technical Vocational High School	38.6%	1.4%	54.9%	2.6%	2.4%

DATA SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School and District Profiles, 2020-2021

## EMPLOYMENT

### **POPULATION 16 AND OLDER WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED, BY BOSTON AND NEIGHBORHOOD, 2015-2019**



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

## INCOME AND FINANCIAL SECURITY

### **PERCENT FAMILIES LIVING BELOW 200% OF POVERTY LEVEL, BY BOSTON AND NEIGHBORHOOD, 2013-2017**

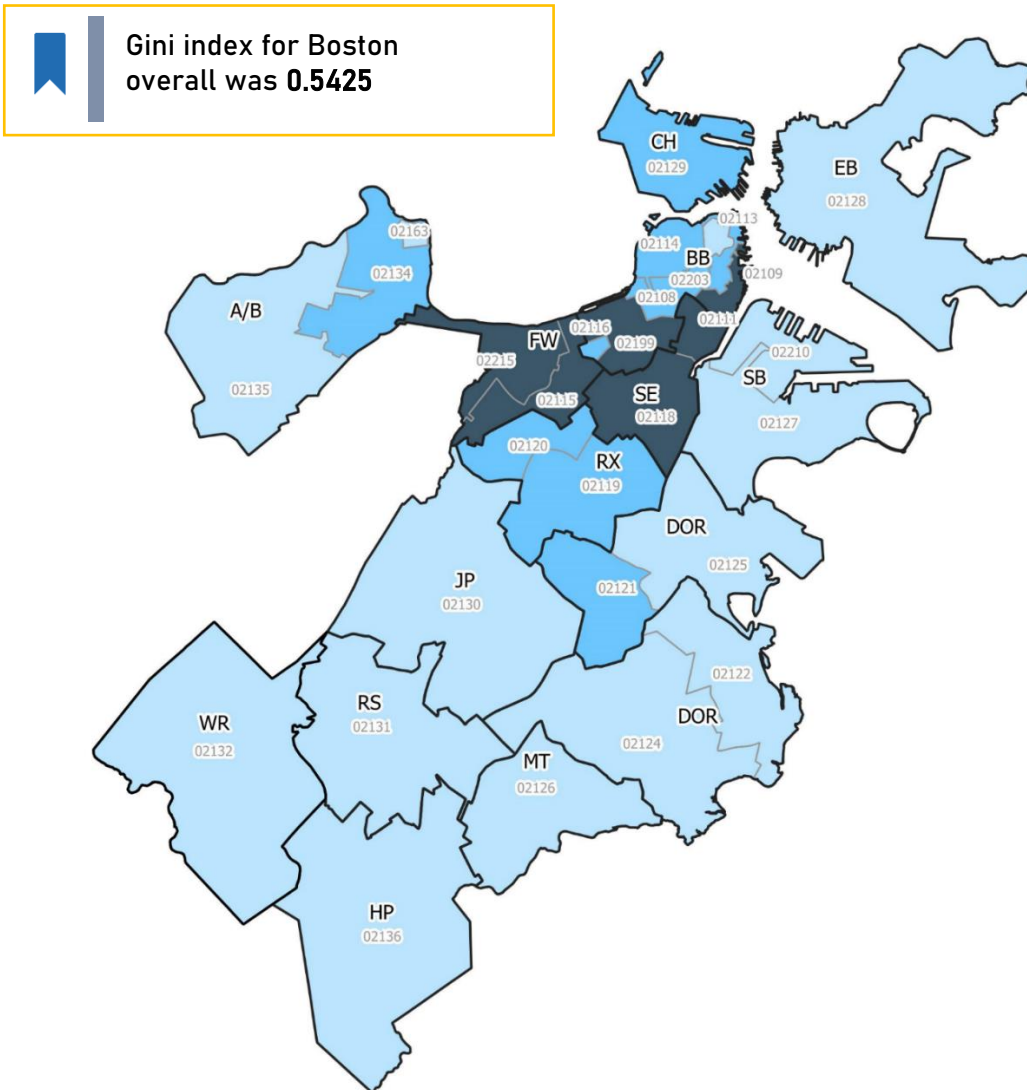
	Percent
Boston	31.9%
Jamaica Plain (02130)	19.7%
Roxbury (all)	52.8%

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017



### Gini Index, by Boston and Zip Code, 2013-2017

The Gini Index is a common measure used to identify the level of income inequality in a given population, ranging from 0 (generally reflecting income equality) to 1 (generally indicating highest levels of income inequality).

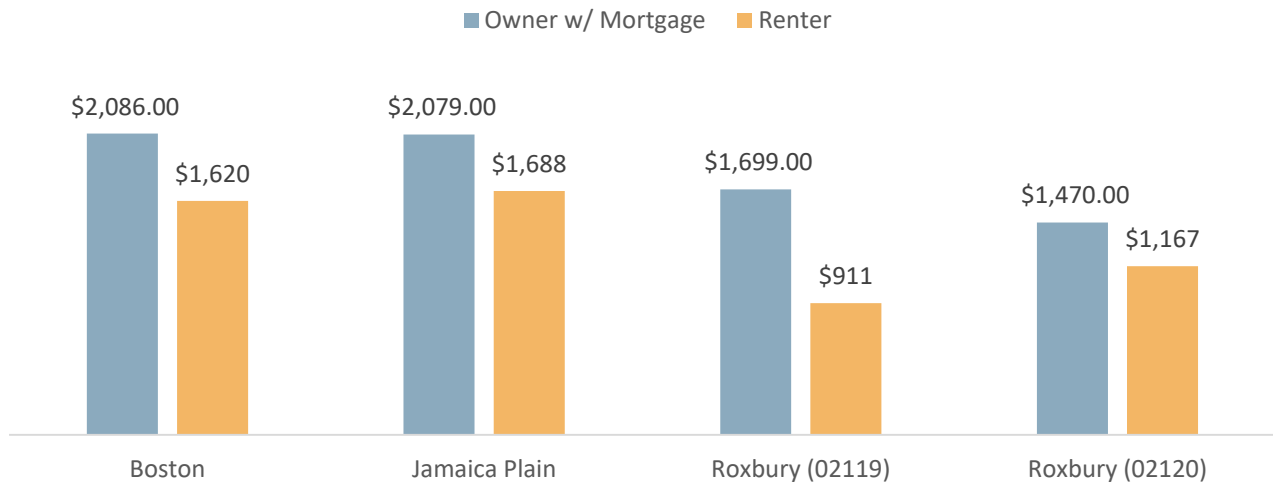


DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017

NOTE: The Gini Index is a summary measure of income inequality. The Gini coefficient incorporates the detailed shares data into a single statistic, which summarizes the dispersion of income across the entire income distribution. The Gini coefficient ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality (where everyone receives an equal share), to 1, perfect inequality (where only one recipient or group of recipients receives all the income). The Gini is based on the difference between the Lorenz curve (the observed cumulative income distribution) and the notion of a perfectly equal income distribution; "Lower than Boston overall" indicates the estimate is significantly lower than the Boston estimate; "Similar to Boston overall" indicates the estimate is statistically similar to the Boston estimate (i.e., no statistically significant difference); "Higher than Boston overall" indicates the estimate is significantly higher than the Boston estimate.

## HOUSING

### Median Monthly Housing Costs, by Neighborhood and 2015-2019

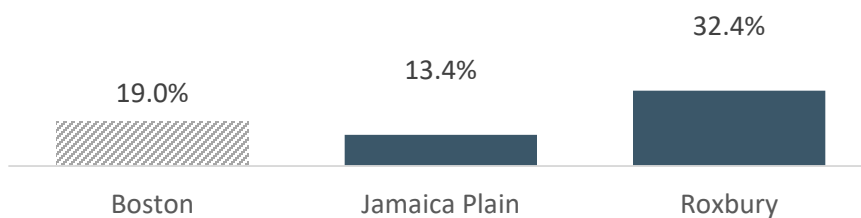


### Percent Housing Units Where 30% or More of Income Spent on Monthly Housing Costs, by Housing Tenure, by Boston and Race/Ethnicity, 2017

	Owner w/ Mortgage	Renter
Boston	31.8%	50.6%
Hispanic or Latino	41.2%	56.3%
White, non-Hispanic	25.4%	41.4%
Black, non-Hispanic	48.2%	58.6%
Asian, non-Hispanic	37.2%	58.1%

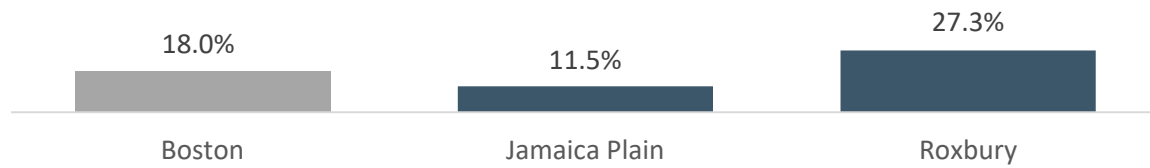
## FOOD

### Percent Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP Benefits, by Boston and Neighborhood, 2013-2017



DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2013-2017

**Percent Population Food Insecure, by Boston and Neighborhoods, 2016**



DATA SOURCE: Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2018: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2016. Feeding America, 2018. Courtesy of The Greater Boston Food Bank.

## Appendix B: Services Inventory

Topic/Category	Organization/Institution/Program Name	Address	Service Location	Services Provided	Link
<b>Alternative School</b>	Community Academy	25 Glen Road, Jamaica Plain	Jamaica Plain	Small alternative high school in Jamaica Plain with student ration of 15 students per teacher	<a href="https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/community-academy">https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/community-academy</a>
<b>Charter School</b>	City on a Hill Charter Public School	58 Circuit St, Roxbury, MA 02119	Roxbury	City on a Hill Charter Public School is a college preparatory high school located in the cities of Boston. City on a Hill is tuition-free and open to all students. CoaH does not have entrance exams; students are admitted by a random lottery with new students admitted in the ninth and tenth grades.	<a href="https://www.cityonahill.org/">https://www.cityonahill.org/</a>
<b>Coalition</b>	Tree of Life/ Arbol de Vida	295 Centre Street #31, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Egleston Square	The JPC: Tree of Life is the Community Connection Coalition for the Dept. of Children and Families, the Neighborhood Health Planning Committee for BPHC, convener of the BPD E-13 Youth/Police Relations Committee, and the co-convener of the Elder Care Network and a core member of the Campus of Care.	<a href="http://www.jpctreecare.com/">http://www.jpctreecare.com/</a>
<b>Community Center</b>	BCYF Hennigan	200 Heath Street, Boston, MA 02130	Hyde Square	BCYF Hennigan features include a computer lab, fitness center, indoor pool, and teen center.	<a href="https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families/bcyf-hennigan">https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families/bcyf-hennigan</a>
<b>Community Center</b>	BCYF Curtis Hall	20 South St. Boston, MA	Jamaica Plain	Jamaica Plain Community Centers (comprised of Curtis Hall and Hennigan) is a non-profit, community-based agency, dedicated to serving the residents of Jamaica Plain's neighborhoods.	<a href="https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families/bcyf-curtis-hall">https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-centers-youth-families/bcyf-curtis-hall</a>
<b>Exam School</b>	John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science	67 Alleghany St, Boston, MA 02120	Roxbury	The John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, formerly known as Boston Technical High School is a college preparatory public exam school along with Boston Latin School and Boston Latin Academy.	<a href="https://obryant.us/">https://obryant.us/</a>
<b>Health Center/Mental Health</b>	Dimock Health Center	55 Dimock Street, Roxbury, MA 02119	Egleston Square	The Dimock Center is a national model in delivering integrated comprehensive health and human services to Boston's	<a href="https://dimock.org/">https://dimock.org/</a>

				underserved neighborhoods, targeting particularly the African American and Latino residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Jamaica Plain. Services include preventive and primary care, women's health, HIV care, behavioral health and child and family services.	
<b>Health Center/Mental Health</b>	Martha Eliot Health Center	75 Bickford St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Hyde Square	The Adolescent Services Program (ASP) is a one-stop program which provides services to adolescents and teens and connects them with useful resources. We aim to provide programs and services that encourage the healthy development of youth and while helping them gain the necessary education, access to resources that build empowerment skills to manage and lead productive lives within the community.	<a href="https://www.childrenshospital.org/about-us/locations/boston-childrens-at-martha-eliot-health-center">https://www.childrenshospital.org/about-us/locations/boston-childrens-at-martha-eliot-health-center</a>
<b>Health Center/Mental Health</b>	Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center	640 Centre St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center is a community health center licensed by Brigham and Women's Hospital. Every year, more than 10,000 patients in Jamaica Plain and surrounding communities make 45,000 visits to SJPHC.	<a href="https://www.brighamandwomens.org/medicine/general-internal-medicine-and-primary-care/southern-jamaica-plain-health-center/overview">https://www.brighamandwomens.org/medicine/general-internal-medicine-and-primary-care/southern-jamaica-plain-health-center/overview</a>
<b>Library</b>	Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library	433 Centre St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	Branch of the Boston Public Library	<a href="https://www.bpl.org/locations/18/">https://www.bpl.org/locations/18/</a>
<b>Library</b>	Egleston Square Branch of the Boston Public Library	2044 Columbus Ave, Roxbury, MA 02119	Egleston Square	Branch of the Boston Public Library	<a href="https://www.bpl.org/locations/22/">https://www.bpl.org/locations/22/</a>
<b>Library</b>	Jamaica Plain Branch of the Boston Public Library	30 South St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	Branch of the Boston Public Library	<a href="https://www.bpl.org/locations/28/">https://www.bpl.org/locations/28/</a>
<b>Mental Health</b>	Arbor Counseling Services	157 Green St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	Outpatient counseling services for adults and adolescents	<a href="https://arbourhealth.com/">https://arbourhealth.com/</a>
<b>Mental Health</b>	Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Trauma Team	41 Avenue Louis Pasteur Boston, MA 02115	Jamaica Plain	JP Trauma Team will establish methods to engage the broader community impacted by an event both in the immediate aftermath of the event and afterwards. These community support activities will create a visible community presence to	<a href="https://arbourhealth.com/">https://arbourhealth.com/</a>

				ensure that residents feel connected and informed, ensure widespread dissemination of basic information about the signs and impact of trauma, and make residents aware of the availability of ongoing services to address trauma within the community.	
<b>Mental Health</b>	The Meeting Point	3464 Washington St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	Group of independent health practitioners who provide mental health and wellness services	<a href="http://themeetingpoint.org/">http://themeetingpoint.org/</a>
<b>Mental Health</b>	Boston GLASS- Justice Resource Institute	75 Amory St., Jamaica Plain	Jamaica Plain	Drop-In Community Centers for LGBTQ+ youth of color between the ages of 13–25, one in Boston and one in Framingham. Programming includes support groups, educational workshops, social events, access to computers and internet, food, toiletries, clothes, games, and more!	<a href="https://jri.org/services/health-and-housing/health/boston-glass">https://jri.org/services/health-and-housing/health/boston-glass</a>
<b>Private School</b>	Meridian Academy	54 Brookside Ave, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Egleston Square	Meridian Academy is an urban, independent, college preparatory school. Our school serves students in grades six through twelve from throughout Boston and the surrounding communities.	<a href="https://www.meridianacademy.org/">https://www.meridianacademy.org/</a>
<b>Private School</b>	Nativity Preparatory School	39 Lamartine Street, Jamaica Plain	Hyde Square	Nativity Prep provides a transformative, tuition-free Jesuit education to boys from low-income families in Boston. Our intensive academic, after-school and graduate support programs empower young men of color to break the cycle of poverty, to thrive in high school, college, and career, and to become compassionate “men for others.”	<a href="https://www.nativityboston.org/">https://www.nativityboston.org/</a>
<b>Public School</b>	Curley K-8 School	493 Centre St. Jamaica Plain	Jamaica Plain	We offer reading intervention programs such as Reading Recovery and Wilson to strengthen literacy skills. Our Kindergarten I program provides the Opening the World to Learning (OWL) and Building Blocks curriculum, and we are piloting the new Experiential Learning curriculum in K-5. Our kindergarten program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).	<a href="https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/797">https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/797</a>

<b>Public School</b>	English High School	144 McBride St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	The English High School of Boston, Massachusetts, United States, is the first public high school in America, founded in 1821.	<a href="https://www.englishhs.org/">https://www.englishhs.org/</a>
<b>Public School</b>	Greater Egleston High School	80 School St. Boston, MA 02119	Egleston Square	GEHS has a Scholars Academy for 10th and 11th graders, College Prep Academy (CPA) for seniors and Online Learners Academy (OLA) for overage students who need to work to support their families, and/or students who are parents or students who have medically-related circumstances. The CPA includes a 10-week college immersion program.	<a href="http://www.greateregleston.org/">http://www.greateregleston.org/</a>
<b>Public School</b>	John F Kennedy Elementary School	7 Bolster St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Hyde Square	The JFK School is a K-5 elementary school serving Jamaica Plain and surrounding neighborhoods of Boston. The John F. Kennedy School will develop a holistic approach to learning with thinking embedded in the Engineering Design Process (EDP), STEM incorporated into the curriculum, and integrated content. With this educational approach, students will become flexible and creative thinkers who persevere with any challenge presented before them.	<a href="http://www.jfkelementary.org/">http://www.jfkelementary.org/</a>
<b>Public School</b>	Madison Park Technical Vocational High School	75 Malcolm X Blvd, Boston, MA 02120	Roxbury	Madison Park Technical Vocational High School is a public vocational technical high school located in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts, United States. It is the only technical vocational high school located in within the city of Boston. It is part of Boston Public Schools.	<a href="https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/oldmadisonpark">https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/oldmadisonpark</a>
<b>Public School</b>	Fenway High School	67 Alleghany St. Boston, MA 02120	Roxbury	Note: technically in Mission Hill but many residents in Hyde Square attend this school (including YAC members)	<a href="https://www.fenwayhs.org/">https://www.fenwayhs.org/</a>
<b>Public School</b>	Hernandez K-8	61 School St. Roxbury, MA	Roxbury	The Hernández is a dual language school (English/Spanish) — the first in the city of Boston (1970) and in Massachusetts. Every student is taught in English and Spanish, regardless of their home language.	<a href="https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/831">https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/831</a>

<b>Public School</b>	James Timilty Middle School	205 Roxbury St., Roxbury MA, 02110	Roxbury	The Timilty offers an innovative approach to learning with a longer school day through Extended Learning Time. Our faculty and staff collaborate in daily common planning time, allowing them to meet the academic needs of all students. We organize our students in small teams of 80-100 students to provide a more individualized learning experience.	<a href="https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/timilty-middle-school">https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/timilty-middle-school</a>
<b>Sports</b>	Jamaica Plain Regan Youth League	Willow Pond Road, Boston, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	The purpose of the Regan Youth League is to provide boys and girls of Jamaica Plain and surrounding communities with the opportunity to play organized baseball and softball in an open, safe, and friendly environment.	<a href="https://www.reganyouthleague.org/reganyouthleague">https://www.reganyouthleague.org/reganyouthleague</a>
<b>Sports</b>	Jamaica Plain Youth Soccer	127 CAROLINA AVE JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	Jamaica Plain Youth Soccer provides a safe and sporting atmosphere for the youth of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale and surrounding Boston neighborhoods to have fun while learning and participating in the game of soccer.	<a href="https://www.jpyouthsoccer.org/home">https://www.jpyouthsoccer.org/home</a>
<b>Sports</b>	The Kelly Rink	1 Marbury Terrace, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	The Kelly Rink is an open air public skating rink located behind Stony Brook MBTA station on Marbury Terrace in the Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain.	<a href="https://friendsofthekellyrink.org/">https://friendsofthekellyrink.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	ABCD Jamaica Plain	30 Bickford St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jackson Square	YEA! and Summer Works programs for youth ages 13-21 over the summer	<a href="https://bostonabcd.org/location/jamaica-plain-apac-citywide-boston-hispanic-center/">https://bostonabcd.org/location/jamaica-plain-apac-citywide-boston-hispanic-center/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	Bikes Not Bombs	284 Amory St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Egleston Square	We use the bicycle as a tool to foster young people's leadership, development, and sense of individual and collective power to transform their own lives, strengthen communities and build a just and sustainable planet.	<a href="https://bikesnotbombs.org/">https://bikesnotbombs.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	Strong Women Strong Girls	555 Amory St #3r, Boston, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	SWSG was founded in 2000 as a student group in Boston to create mentorship opportunities for women and girls.	<a href="https://swsg.org/">https://swsg.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	The City School	614 Columbia Rd, Dorchester, MA 02125	Serving JP	We work with young people ages 14-19 living in Boston and its surrounding suburbs who are emerging leaders and have a passion for social justice. Our community intentionally crosses lines of race, class, gender, and neighborhood.	<a href="https://thecityschool.org/">https://thecityschool.org/</a>



<b>Youth Programming</b>	Girls LEAP	194 Centre St. Boston, MA	Jackson Square	Host a Girls' LEAP program and support youth in discovering their strength and learning life and self-defense skills, so they can take on new challenges with more confidence.	
<b>Youth Programming</b>	BalletROX	45 Danforth Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Egleston Square	BalletRox runs in-school and after-school dance programs at Boston Public School sites throughout the city. These year-long programs for grade K0-12 provide arts-integrated dance curriculum to over 800 BPS students each year. We also offer specialized integrative dance instruction for children with autism.	<a href="https://balletrox.info/about">https://balletrox.info/about</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	826 Boston	3035 Washington Street Roxbury, MA 02119	Egleston Square	In-school and after-school offerings strengthen each student's power to express ideas effectively, creatively, and confidently.	<a href="https://826boston.org/">https://826boston.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	Beantown Society/Spontaneous Celebrations	45 Danforth Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	The vision of Beantown Society is to unite youth in Boston across race, class, culture, and neighborhood to end youth violence. We believe in changing youth's oppression, neglect-ion, rejection, and depression into youth power. We work towards this vision by offering a youth run after school program as well as workshops, projects and events based on youth interests. We provide a space for youth to express themselves, receive one-on-one support, and become leaders in their community.	<a href="http://www.spontaneouscelebrations.org/activi ty/beantown-society">http://www.spontaneouscelebrations.org/activi ty/beantown-society</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	Boston Neighborhood Network	3025 Washington Street, Egleston Square, Boston, MA 02119	Egleston Square	Boston residents may join Boston Neighborhood Network with a Basic Individual Membership or a Full Individual Membership and receive an array of media training and production benefits.	<a href="https://bnnmedia.org/">https://bnnmedia.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	Egleston Square Main Streets	3134 Washington Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts	Egleston Square	Egleston Square Main Street's mission is to build our community, strengthen our business district and revitalize our public spaces through partnership with local merchants, residents and community groups. They also have summer jobs for youth.	<a href="https://eglestonsquare.org/">https://eglestonsquare.org/</a>

<b>Youth Programming</b>	Hyde Square Task Force	30 Sunnyside St, Boston, MA 02130	Hyde Square	Youth job, youth organizing college access, and after school programming	<a href="https://www.hydesquare.org/">https://www.hydesquare.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	South Street Youth Center	17 Saint Rose St Rear Basement Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130	Jamaica Plain	After school and youth leadership programming	<a href="https://southst.org/">https://southst.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	The Possible Project	Cambridge but expanding to JP in 2021	Jamaica Plain	The Possible Project works to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in our students, developing the social-emotional skills necessary to work collaboratively and solve problems in a high-level career path. We guide students through a dynamic curriculum, including hands-on work experience and individualized career planning, to develop the personal qualities that predict future professional success.	<a href="https://www.possibleproject.org/about/">https://www.possibleproject.org/about/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	Urbano Project	29 Germania St., Jamaica Plain, 02130 MA	Egleston Square	Our cohort is made up of practicing teaching artists, youth artists, arts administrators, and those who defy category working to support one another through mentorship, artistic exploration, and public presentation of our work.	<a href="http://urbanoproject.org/">http://urbanoproject.org/</a>
<b>Youth Programming</b>	YMCA of Greater Boston: Egleston Square Program Center	3134 Washington St, Roxbury, MA 02119	Egleston Square	YMCA ACHIEVERS AT EGLESTON (couldn't find specific details about programming)	<a href="https://ymcaboston.org/contact/">https://ymcaboston.org/contact/</a>
<b>Youth Services</b>	Boston Private Industry Council	555 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130	Jamaica Plain	The Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) works to strengthen Boston's communities and its workforce by connecting youth and adults with education and employment opportunities that align with the needs of area employers.	<a href="https://www.bostonpic.org/">https://www.bostonpic.org/</a>
<b>Youth Services</b>	Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp	31 Germania St Boston, MA 02130	Egleston Square	To transform the lives and amplify the voices of Boston residents who have been excluded from prosperity by an inequitable economic system. We develop affordable housing that allows people to thrive, provide services that help people build on their strengths, and organize people to pursue the changes they desire.	<a href="https://jpndc.org/">https://jpndc.org/</a>

<b>Youth Services</b>	Mildred Haley	30 BICKFORD STREET, JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130	Jackson Square	Resource Guide in collaboration with Mildred Haley and other partners	<a href="https://www.bostonhousing.org/BHA/media/Documents/CCECR/Mildred%20Community%20Partners%E2%80%99%20Resource%20Guide/Mildred-Haley-Resource-Guide-9-11-2017_ENG.pdf">https://www.bostonhousing.org/BHA/media/Documents/CCECR/Mildred%20Community%20Partners%E2%80%99%20Resource%20Guide/Mildred-Haley-Resource-Guide-9-11-2017_ENG.pdf</a>
<b>Youth Services</b>	Nurtury Learning Lab	33 BICKFORD STREET, JAMAICA PLAIN	Jackson Square	Center based childcare and family child care systems	<a href="http://www.nurturyboston.org/">http://www.nurturyboston.org/</a>
<b>Youth Services</b>	The Eliot School of fine and applied arts	24 Eliot Street, Boston MA	Jamaica Plain	The Eliot School offers classes to people of all ages in woodworking, sewing and yarn, fiber arts, book arts, drawing, painting, photography and other crafts and fine arts. Also runs art-based summer and after school programming.	<a href="https://eliotschool.org/">https://eliotschool.org/</a>