



## Issue 2

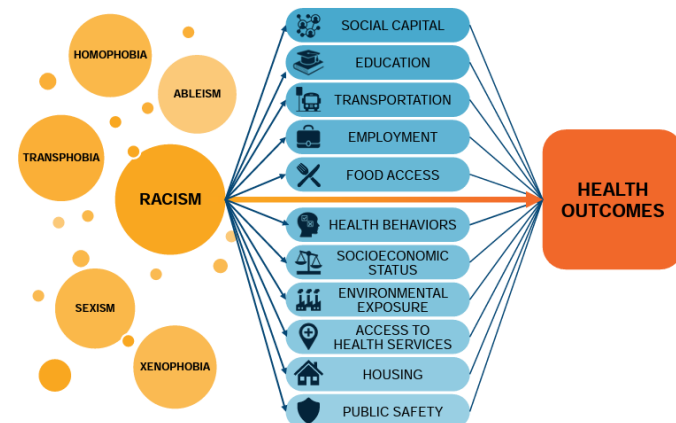
### Social Drivers of Health

Social drivers of health, also known as social determinants of health, are conditions in the environment in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affects health, functioning, and quality of life. Research shows that these factors drive health behaviors and outcomes more than medical care. Lack of access to healthy food and safe housing, jobs without paid family or medical leave, and poor transportation options lead many people to go to the emergency department or miss routine medical appointments.

Understanding these social drivers of health—and the social and economic structures, policies, and practices that shape one’s life circumstances—is critical to understanding health and healthcare inequities and disparities in Massachusetts.

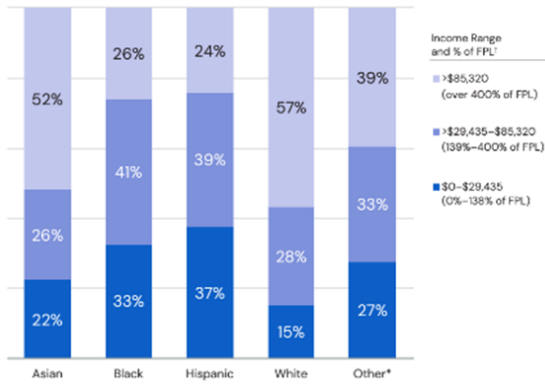
### Demographic Data from *Racism and Racial Inequities in Health: A Data-Informed Primer on Health Disparities in Massachusetts*:

**Racism, Among Many Structural Inequities, Negatively Impacts Health Outcomes and Other Social Determinants of Health**



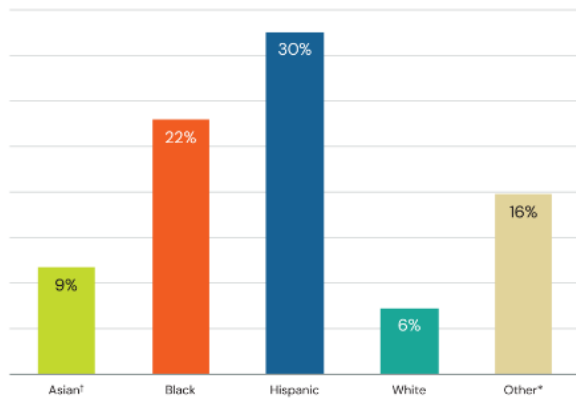
**HPC** Source: Boston Public Health Commission's Racial Justice and Health Equity Initiative, available: <http://www.bphc.org/whatwe-do/health-equity-social-justice/racial-justice-health-equity-initiative/Documents/RJHEIR202015%20Overview%20FINAL.pdf>

HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR A FAMILY OF THREE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, MASSACHUSETTS, 2019



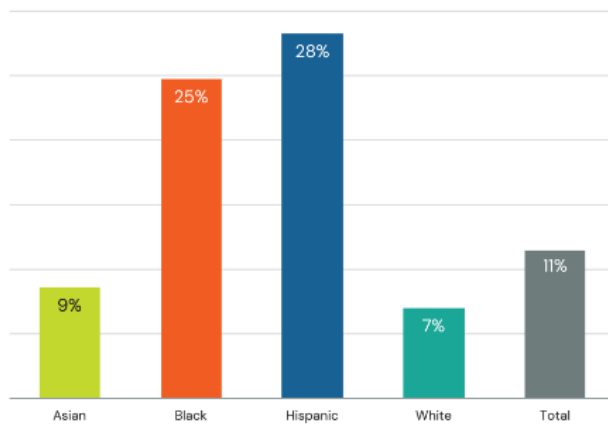
- Black and Hispanic people in Massachusetts are more than twice as likely as White people to have incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (\$29,435 for a family of three in 2019). Income influences food security, housing stability, educational status, and other socioeconomic conditions that are linked to health outcomes.

CHILD POVERTY RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, MASSACHUSETTS, 2018



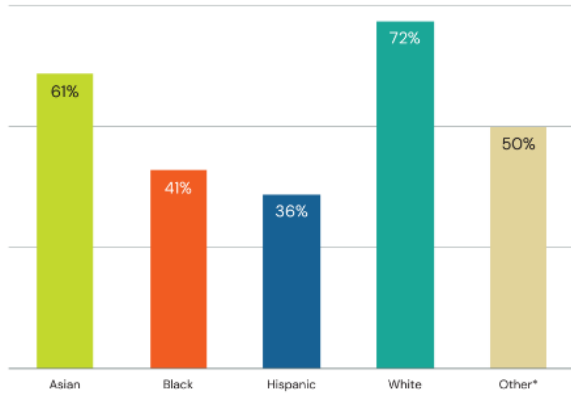
- One in eight children in Massachusetts live below the poverty level, including nearly one in four Black children and nearly one in three Hispanic children. Childhood poverty has been found to have long-term health implications, including disrupting neurologic, metabolic, and immunologic system development and leading to poorer developmental outcomes.

USE OF FOOD STAMPS/SNAP BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, MASSACHUSETTS, 2019\*



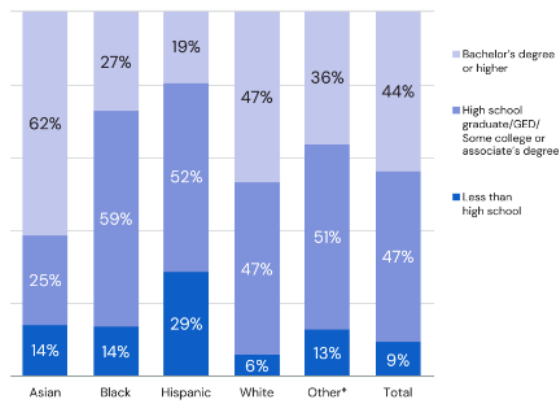
- Black and Hispanic people in Massachusetts experience higher food insecurity levels than White and Asian people. Food insecurity is strongly associated with a range of adverse health outcomes.

HOUSING: OWNER-OCCUPIED, MASSACHUSETTS, 2019



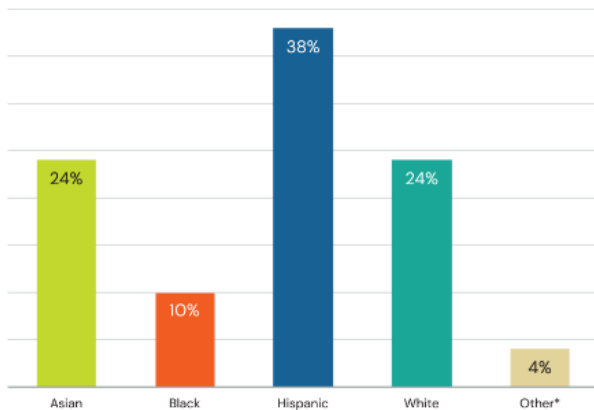
- Black and Hispanic people in Massachusetts are less likely to own their homes than White and Asian people. Housing stability, quality, safety, and affordability significantly impact health outcomes.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, PEOPLE AGES 25 AND OVER, MASSACHUSETTS, 2019



- More than one in four Hispanic adults in Massachusetts have less than a high school diploma, twice the rate of Black and Asian people and more than four times the rate of White people. Higher levels of education are linked to decreased risk of certain chronic conditions, including heart disease and diabetes.

MASSACHUSETTS ADULTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY<sup>1</sup> ACROSS RACE AND ETHNICITY CATEGORIES, 2016



- Hispanic residents make up nearly 40% of the Commonwealth's residents with limited English proficiency (LEP) but make up only 12% of the population. Patients with LEP often experience worse quality of health care than those who speak English "well."

Source:

[https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/g/files/csphws2101/files/2022-03/Health\\_Equity\\_Primer\\_Revised%20Final.pdf](https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/sites/g/files/csphws2101/files/2022-03/Health_Equity_Primer_Revised%20Final.pdf)