



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Boston Public Health Commission
January 1 - December 31, 2025

**BOSTON
PUBLIC
HEALTH
COMMISSION**



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Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boston Public Health Commission is to work in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, particularly those impacted by racism and systemic inequities.

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Dear Fellow Residents and Partners,

As I reflect on 2025, I am deeply grateful to the people who make Boston's public health work possible - our residents, community leaders, partners, and the dedicated staff of the Boston Public Health Commission. Your trust, collaboration, and commitment to one another continue to shape a healthier Boston.

I am also grateful for the steadfast leadership and partnership of Mayor Michelle Wu, whose support continues to advance our shared mission to improve the health and well-being of all Boston residents, especially those most affected by longstanding inequities.

This past year brought both significant challenges and meaningful progress. In 2025, public health was shaped not only by the needs of our communities, but also by a difficult national climate that placed increasing pressure on the principles of equity, inclusion, and collective responsibility that are central to our work. Federal public health workforce reductions, harmful policies and rhetoric affecting immigrant communities, and continued attacks on other populations who have been made vulnerable deepened fear and instability for many residents. At the same time, economic uncertainty and ongoing public debate about vaccines contributed to growing concern and mistrust in many communities. Yet throughout these challenges, Boston's residents, community partners, and public health workforce continued to meet the moment with resilience, compassion, and resolve.

These challenges underscore a fundamental truth: public health is strongest when it is rooted in partnership and guided by equity. In 2025, that commitment shaped both our response to urgent needs and our long-term efforts to improve health across Boston's neighborhoods. A central focus of our work remained Boston's Live Long and Well population health equity agenda, the City's effort to close life expectancy gaps and address the social and economic conditions that shape health. Throughout the year, we strengthened partnerships, expanded data infrastructure, and worked alongside residents to better understand priorities such as housing stability, food security, economic mobility, and access to care.

Community engagement remained essential to this work. Through the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment, residents across Boston shared their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities affecting health in their neighborhoods. Their insights helped inform the Community Health Improvement Plan, which will guide collaborative action in the years ahead. At the same time, we remained focused on meeting immediate community needs. When SNAP benefit disruptions created uncertainty for thousands of residents, City leadership and community partners worked quickly to help ensure that families could access food and other essential resources. We also expanded support for Shirley's Pantry and Healthy Baby Healthy Child clients to help families navigate this period with dignity and stability.

As BPHC looks ahead to 2026, we remain committed to advancing health equity, strengthening trust, and deepening partnership across Boston's neighborhoods. The accomplishments of 2025 reflect the strength of Boston's public health system and the dedication of the staff, partners, and community members working every day to build a healthier, more equitable city for all.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bisola Ojikutu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bisola Ojikutu, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Commissioner of Public Health
Boston Public Health Commission

YEAR IN REVIEW



2025 was a year of extraordinary challenge and meaningful progress for the Boston Public Health Commission. Amid a rapidly evolving public health landscape—marked by health system disruptions, emerging threats, and widening health disparities—the Commission continued working in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents.

Through Boston's Live Long and Well population health equity agenda, BPHC strengthened partnerships, data systems, and community leadership needed to improve life expectancy and health outcomes across neighborhoods. The Commission expanded the initiative's infrastructure and released new analyses to translate life expectancy data into policy and community action.

Recognizing that differences in life expectancy across Boston are driven by structural factors—including economic opportunity, housing conditions, safety, and access to health-supporting resources—BPHC continued to focus on addressing the preventable conditions that shorten lives. During the year, BPHC released the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and engaged residents citywide through public events and community meetings. These insights informed the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which will guide cross-sector efforts addressing priorities identified by residents, including housing stability, economic mobility, food security, and access to care.

Boston also expanded national collaboration through CitiesLEAD, a network supporting cities in translating life expectancy data into action. Locally, BPHC partnered with Atrius Health Equity Foundation to distribute \$5 million in grants to community-led coalitions advancing economic security and neighborhood wealth building.





Food security remained an urgent priority throughout the year. During SNAP benefit disruptions, BPHC worked alongside City leadership, The Boston Foundation, and community partners to coordinate emergency support. The Commission also increased assistance to Shirley’s Pantry and Healthy Baby Healthy Child clients to ensure families maintained access to food and essential resources.

Protecting residents from infectious disease remained a central priority. In 2025, BPHC hosted 45 vaccine clinics and administered 3,311 vaccinations in partnership with community partners. These clinics provided influenza, COVID-19, and routine childhood vaccinations in accessible community settings, removing common barriers such as appointment requirements, insurance, and identification.

BPHC also strengthened early detection of infectious disease threats by expanding the city’s wastewater surveillance program. During the year, two visitors to Boston with measles prompted rapid public health responses.

No secondary cases were identified, demonstrating the effectiveness of Boston’s public health response system.

Progress in overdose prevention continued throughout the year. Boston experienced a sustained decline in overdose deaths, supported by the distribution of 22,572 doses of naloxone, expanded overdose prevention training, and ongoing efforts to connect residents to housing, treatment, employment, and recovery supports.

Ensuring access to health care remained a priority amid continued system disruption. Following the closure of Carney Hospital and anticipated insurance cost increases, the Mayor’s Health Line expanded outreach and enrollment assistance. Staff

supported more than 1,650 residents with insurance enrollment, participated in over 70 outreach events, and facilitated health literacy workshops across the city.



Across the life course, BPHC advanced initiatives to support mental health, reduce stigma, and strengthen community well-being. Programs including Healthy Baby Healthy Child served more than 1,700 families, providing home visits, case management, nutrition support, and access to care. Violence prevention efforts also expanded through new initiatives addressing domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence.

Emergency medical services remained a critical component of Boston's public health infrastructure. In 2025, Boston EMS responded to 141,372 emergency incidents and transported 95,503 residents requiring care, while continuing to invest in workforce development and system resilience.

Internally, BPHC continued to strengthen organizational capacity through workforce development, performance management improvements, and system upgrades across our Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology Services offices.

Looking ahead to 2026, BPHC remains committed to advancing health equity and strengthening partnerships across Boston's neighborhoods. The accomplishments of 2025 reflect the resilience of Boston's public health system and the dedication of the staff, partners, and community members working together to build a healthier and more equitable city.



BUREAUS

Boston Emergency Medical Services

Delivering high-quality emergency medical care and protecting public safety across Boston

Boston Emergency Medical Services (Boston EMS) provides lifesaving pre-hospital medical care and emergency response services for residents and visitors across the city of Boston. As the largest municipal EMS system in New England, Boston EMS continues to serve as a national leader in emergency medical response, clinical innovation, and public safety partnerships.

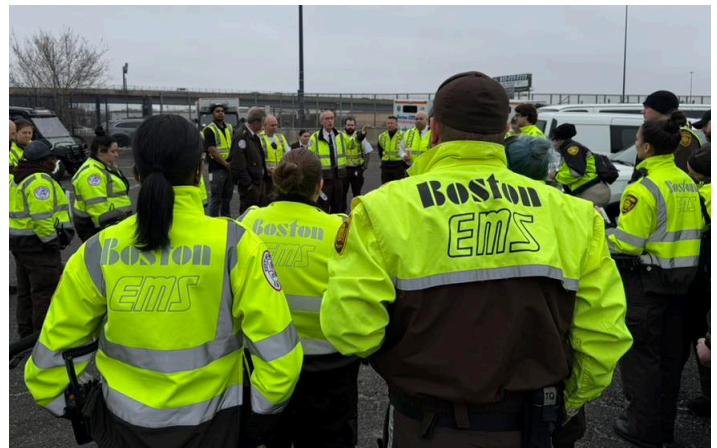
2025 Highlights

In 2025, Boston EMS strengthened its operational capacity, expanded workforce development, and continued modernizing the department's fleet and communications infrastructure.

Throughout the year, Boston EMS responded to 141,372 emergency incidents and transported 95,503 residents requiring medical care.

On average, crews responded to nearly 400 emergency calls each day, demonstrating the critical role the department plays in protecting public health and safety.

Investment in workforce development remained a major priority. Boston EMS promoted 20 members into paramedic, supervisory, and command roles, awarded 14 paramedic scholarships, and hired 67 new uniformed members. The department also strengthened its workforce pipeline by awarding 120 EMT course scholarships and hiring more than 100 cadets and recruits.



Improved staffing levels allowed Boston EMS to expand service availability across the city. In 2025, the department added a 24-hour ambulance in Dorchester, increased overnight coverage in Jamaica Plain, and improved system-wide staffing reliability.

Boston EMS also continued modernizing equipment and communications systems. The department placed 14 new ambulances into service, incorporated frontline staff feedback into vehicle design improvements, upgraded dispatch terminals and supervisory vehicles to encryption-



capable radio systems, and purchased more than 100 portable radios to support a department-wide communications transition.

Innovative care programs also expanded in 2025. As the Commonwealth's first Mobile Integrated Healthcare Emergency Department Avoidance program, Boston EMS has now served more than 3,000 patients experiencing low-acuity behavioral health emergencies through TeleBEST 9-1-1 transfers and Alternative Response Model units. ARM coverage expanded to 16 hours per day and served 1,600 patients in 2025.

Boston EMS continued supporting community health and public safety beyond emergency response. The Special Operations Team coordinated medical coverage for nearly 1,000 events across the city, while Community Initiatives staff supported more than 170 families through child car seat installations and delivered 68 CPR and AED certification classes.

Together, these efforts strengthened Boston's emergency medical response system while improving access to lifesaving care for residents and visitors throughout the city.

BY THE NUMBERS

141,372

emergency incidents

95,503

medical transports

1,600

Mobile Integrated Healthcare encounters



Child, Adolescent and Family Health Bureau

Supporting children, youth, and families from pregnancy through young adulthood

The Child, Adolescent and Family Health Bureau (CAFHB) strengthens the health and well-being of Boston families by connecting residents to services, supporting healthy development, and building community capacity. Through programs serving children, adolescents, parents, and caregivers, the Bureau provides a continuum of care that supports families from pregnancy through early adulthood.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, CAFHB advanced BPHC’s mission through coordinated efforts across two core divisions: the Child and Adolescent Health Division and the Healthy Start Systems Division. Together, these divisions delivered education, health services, and family supports to thousands of Boston residents.

Programs focused on youth leadership, health education, and access to care. Through the Boston Area Health Education Center (BAHEC), School-Based Health Centers, Peer Leadership

Institute, Start Strong, and Youth Development Network (YDN), the Bureau empowered young people with knowledge, leadership opportunities, and access to supportive health services. More than 1,500 young people participated in care, health education programs, and youth leadership initiatives addressing reproductive health, relationships, and mental wellness.

The Healthy Start Systems Division worked to improve birth outcomes and strengthen family systems by addressing the social and economic





factors that influence health. Programs including Healthy Baby Healthy Child, the Boston Healthy Start Initiative, Healthy Start in Housing, the Community-Based Perinatal Health Initiative (doula program), and Welcome Family provided case management and home visiting services to 1,705 pregnant and parenting families. Father engagement remained a key priority through trainings, funding initiatives, and community programming highlighting the role of fathers in family health and child development.

The Bureau also addressed basic needs that affect family stability. During the SNAP benefit disruptions, Shirley’s Pantry distributed groceries and gift cards to 9,542 families. Healthy Start in Housing supported families experiencing housing instability, helping several families secure permanent housing and providing housing support to 85 families across Boston. The Boston Healthy Start Initiative piloted a meal delivery program providing healthy, prepared food for postpartum families.

Mental health remained a cross-cutting priority throughout the Bureau’s work. Programs expanded behavioral health screenings, referrals, and educational programming for youth and families. Healthy Baby Healthy Child and

BY THE NUMBERS

1,705

pregnant and parenting families served

1,500+

youth engaged

947

School-Based Health Center
medical visits

250

clients received behavioral
health services

25+

doulas trained

150+

families received doula services

85

families received housing support

9,542

families supported through
Shirley’s Pantry



the Boston Healthy Start Initiative expanded behavioral health screenings and referrals for expecting and parenting families, while Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) supported parents and providers through Mindful Moments and ECMH Corners, promoting emotional wellness. School-Based Health Centers served more than 250 youth with behavioral health services, and BAHEC and YDN advanced mental health education and peer advocacy through the Mental Health Ambassadors Program. Start Strong extended its reach to more than 2.5 million individuals through a social media campaign promoting healthy relationships.

CAFHB also advanced health equity by addressing systemic barriers. The Bureau continued the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) process, established a data-sharing agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and onboarded a Nurse



Coordinator to support investigations. In addition, CAFHB initiated a strategic planning process to strengthen adolescent health outcomes, beginning with a national analysis of youth health initiatives to inform future strategies.

Community Initiatives Bureau

Advancing community health through prevention, access, education, and environmental health protections

The Community Initiatives Bureau works to prevent disease and promote community health by partnering with residents, community-based organizations, schools, faith institutions, and small businesses. Through outreach, education, and environmental health protections, the Bureau supports healthier living conditions and improved access to essential services across Boston neighborhoods. This work includes targeted efforts to reduce the burden of cancer and cardiometabolic disease, which remain leading drivers of premature mortality in Boston.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Bureau expanded access to health coverage and strengthened community-based health education initiatives. Guided by the City’s population health equity agenda, Live Long and Well, BPHC uses neighborhood-level data to identify disparities in cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and related risk factors, and directs resources to communities with the greatest need. BPHC expands access to preventive screenings and chronic disease management through partnerships with community health centers, while also supporting programs that promote healthy nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco cessation.

The Mayor’s Health Line supported both Health Connector and Medicare open enrollment in 2025. The program kicked off Health Connector open enrollment in November with high caseloads and expanded community enrollment events. Through Medicare Open Enrollment, the Mayor’s Health Line partnered with the City’s Age Strong Commission and ETHOS to host enrollment events across all 23 Boston neighborhoods. These efforts helped residents enroll in Medicare supplemental and prescription plans and connect





to cost-saving programs such as MassHealth. Across the year, Mayor’s Health Line staff also provided phone support and case management services to thousands

of Boston residents seeking assistance navigating healthcare and social services.

The Bureau advanced the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s (BOLD) Project in partnership with the Boston Housing Authority, expanding education and awareness around dementia prevention, early warning signs, caregiver support, and effective communication strategies for residents living with dementia.

The Environmental and Occupational Health Division modernized its permitting and inspection systems by transitioning to a new database for permit applications and enforcement case management. The system strengthened reporting capacity while improving the experience for residents and businesses submitting permit applications.

The Boston Healthy Childcare Initiative expanded programming for family childcare educators. The Bureau launched a new learning collaborative and expanded training programs focused on nutrition and physical activity for young children. Through the Farm to Early Care and Education Collaborative and the Physical Activity Learning Sessions model, the Bureau supported childcare providers in creating healthier learning environments. These initiatives reached hundreds of childcare programs and young children across the city.



BY THE NUMBERS

1,696

residents enrolled in health coverage

10,575

permits processed

605

tobacco inspections conducted

335

window guards installed

8,516

fitness program participants

Homeless Services Bureau

Providing emergency shelter, prevention, and stabilization services

The Homeless Services Bureau works to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring by preventing homelessness, providing shelter and stabilization services, and supporting pathways to permanent housing.

2025 Highlights

The Homeless Services Bureau (HSB) continued to provide critical safety-net shelter services to individuals experiencing homelessness. HSB shelters remain the largest congregate facilities in New England and maintain the lowest threshold for access, ensuring that individuals with high substance use and behavioral health acuity—who may face barriers in other settings—can access care. These services serve as a platform for longer-term engagement, supporting guests in identifying housing opportunities and connecting to treatment and care that promote long-term stability.

HSB advanced its ongoing “shelter transformation” initiative, an iterative process to review and refine policies and practices that may create barriers for the most vulnerable. In 2025, efforts focused on strengthening staff workflows to better identify individuals with prolonged histories of homelessness who had not engaged in housing pathways. These enhancements enable staff to more effectively engage individuals who may be resistant to services and connect them to viable pathways out of shelter.

In preparation for increased winter demand, HSB launched its first “Winter Challenge,” an initiative designed to deconcentrate shelter populations and strengthen housing-focused engagement. Staff shifted from day-to-day operations to data-driven, individualized outreach to assess housing options. This effort built new infrastructure to



BY THE NUMBERS

4,130

individuals served

3,640

individuals stayed in shelter

774,491

meals served

270

individuals diverted
from homelessness

275

individuals placed into
permanent housing



better support priority populations, including older adults, veterans, and individuals living with HIV. It also facilitated a new partnership with the BPHC Infectious Disease Bureau through the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative, enhancing intake assessments to include HIV screening, referrals for testing, and linkage to care for individuals living with HIV.

HSB also prioritized staff safety and client engagement through the implementation of de-escalation and motivational interviewing trainings. These trainings are now foundational for both current and future staff and emphasize relationship-building, empathy, and practical strategies to safely manage challenging behaviors while encouraging engagement in services.

Front Door Triage teams continued to play a key role in homelessness prevention and rapid

response. By engaging individuals prior to the onset of homelessness and at initial entry into shelter, teams identify diversion opportunities such as family reunification or placement into long-term treatment. In 2025, these efforts prevented homelessness for 270 individuals.

HSB's Workforce Development Program further supports stability by providing job training and case management for individuals experiencing homelessness. Using a "work-first" approach, the program employs participants in janitorial and kitchen roles while they build job readiness, coping strategies, and essential soft skills. This model enables participants to gain practical experience, navigate employment while managing complex challenges, and transition toward long-term financial independence and community-based employment.

Infectious Disease Bureau

Preventing disease and strengthening Boston’s public health response

The Infectious Disease Bureau works to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases through education, prevention, and treatment. Programs prioritize trauma-informed and anti-stigma approaches that support the health of Boston’s most vulnerable residents.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Bureau expanded its work across communicable disease control, community engagement, and HIV prevention and care, strengthening both service delivery and community partnerships.

In collaboration with the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP), CAFHB’s School-Based Health team, and community partners, BPHC hosted 45 vaccine clinics and administered 3,311 vaccinations, including COVID-19, influenza, and routine childhood vaccines.

The Communicable Disease Control Division conducted case investigations and contact tracing for vector-borne illnesses, enteric infections, viral hepatitis, and other high-consequence pathogens affecting Boston residents. The Division also provided care coordination for 66 individuals with confirmed tuberculosis, representing a 22% increase from 2024, and conducted targeted tuberculosis screening events in BPHC shelters for both residents and staff. These vaccination efforts were delivered in coordination with the Office of Public Health Preparedness, which



provided operational support to expand access across community and clinical settings.

The Education and Community Engagement Division expanded its reach through trainings, community events, and public awareness campaigns. Staff delivered direct education to residents, participated in outreach events across the city, and coordinated the Bureau's presence at Boston Pride for the People. The Division developed and disseminated multiple public health campaigns, including Safe is Sexy (Ad Age Healthcare Marketing Platinum Award), Stay Healthy Boston, Let's Talk HIV, and Caring for All of Me (Gold eHealthcare Leadership Award). Through Ending the HIV Epidemic funding, the Bureau awarded 10 community-based contracts to expand prevention and outreach efforts, including five new partner organizations.

The Planning Council Support team strengthened community engagement and stigma reduction efforts by hosting its first large-scale gala event, bringing together 120 attendees to recognize the impact of the Someone You Know and Love campaign.

The HIV/STI Services Division continued to support individuals living with HIV across the Boston Eligible Metropolitan Area, which includes 10 counties across Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. Through Ryan White-funded services, the Division expanded access to medical and supportive services, including oral health care. The Bureau also increased both the scale and scope of community investments through Ending the HIV Epidemic funding and continued to support prevention-focused community-based grants addressing HIV, hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infections.

The Client Services Department introduced new initiatives to strengthen provider collaboration

BY THE NUMBERS

1,452

communicable disease investigations

3,311

vaccinations administered

6,000

tuberculosis clinic visits

5,168

Ryan White clients supported

2,722

clients received oral health services

\$1.4 million

awarded to community organizations

and service quality. A monthly "Talk Shops" series was launched to support peer learning and share best practices across providers. In addition, the Bureau launched a public-facing HIV dashboard to improve transparency, support service navigation, and strengthen performance monitoring through regularly updated data on service utilization and provider locations.

Recovery Services Bureau

Reducing overdose risk and expanding access to treatment and recovery support

The Recovery Services Bureau works to prevent overdose, expand treatment access, and support recovery through harm reduction services, outreach programs, and community partnerships.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Recovery Services Bureau strengthened its programming through enhanced data use, expanded service delivery, and targeted investments in overdose prevention and recovery support.

The Bureau advanced assessment-driven programming by using real-time data, client feedback, and frontline staff insight to guide decision-making and accelerate implementation. In partnership with external collaborators, the Bureau launched PulsePoint to strengthen data collection and improve coordination across programs. Street Outreach expanded service hours, operating Monday through Friday from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., increasing engagement during early morning hours and improving responsiveness to evening 311 requests. The Bureau also launched the Boston Overdose



Data Dashboard to increase transparency and support more strategic resource allocation across neighborhoods.

Community engagement remained a central component of program design. The Bureau continued convening Community Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Board sessions to ensure that resident and youth perspectives inform service delivery and program development. Through opioid settlement planning and ongoing engagement with residents and providers, the Bureau aligned funding strategies with emerging community needs and substance use trends.

Across core programs—including AHOPE, the Mobile Sharps Team, Street Outreach, PAATHS, overdose prevention initiatives, Transitions, and Entre Familia—the Bureau maintained





a coordinated, citywide approach focused on engagement, harm reduction, stabilization, and pathways to recovery.

The Bureau also expanded community-based response efforts through new opioid settlement-funded initiatives. The Community Overdose Response Grants supported community organizations in delivering prevention, outreach, and service linkage activities, resulting in 7,600 client engagements, 734 individuals trained in overdose prevention, and 1,683 service linkages, including connections to substance use treatment and housing. The Family Overdose Support Fund provided critical assistance to families impacted by overdose loss, supporting more than 50 families with over \$220,000 in funding for funeral expenses, therapy, childcare, legal services, and other urgent needs. These investments reflect a comprehensive approach addressing both immediate overdose risk and long-term impacts on families and communities.





The Bureau strengthened overdose preparedness across its treatment campus through expanded staff training and system improvements. A structured overdose prevention initiative introduced ongoing trainings, live simulations, and hands-on practice using emergency response equipment, including AMBU bags. Naloxone distribution increased, and the Bureau delivered 63 overdose rescue trainings in English and Spanish, while also launching a self-paced online training to expand access.

Organizational capacity and leadership development were also prioritized. Bureau leadership shared best practices at state and national conferences, highlighting Boston's harm reduction strategies and cross-sector partnerships. Internally, the Bureau engaged a leadership consultant and supported staff participation in targeted trainings to strengthen performance, accountability, and team effectiveness.

Together, these efforts strengthened the Bureau's systems, expanded access to care, and reinforced support for individuals, families, and communities impacted by substance use.

BY THE NUMBERS

45,314

client interactions

22,572

naloxone doses
distributed

2,474

treatment placements
supported

2,123

transports and handoffs

7,600

community outreach
engagements

734

residents trained
in overdose prevention

50+

families supported

PROGRAMMATIC CENTERS AND OFFICES

Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness

Strengthening Boston's behavioral health system

The Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness coordinates citywide behavioral health initiatives and works to ensure residents have access to culturally responsive care.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Center strengthened Boston's behavioral health system through expanded workforce development, cross-sector partnerships, and targeted capacity-building initiatives.

The Children's Wellness Initiative, in partnership with Franciscan Children's Hospital, expanded to serve 10 Boston Public Schools and sustained a third year of summer behavioral health programming for Boston Public Schools students. The Center also continued its partnership with UMass Boston to support students pursuing behavioral health careers through financial assistance, mentorship, and workforce placement commitments within the city.

Collaboration with Flourish Agenda advanced trauma-informed school transformation efforts, with additional investments to deepen engagement with families and caregivers. Through Health Resources in Action, the Center further strengthened youth-serving organizations by training staff as Behavioral Health Champions, expanding the capacity of community-based providers to support youth mental health needs.



The Center also launched new community-centered initiatives to address gaps in culturally responsive care. In partnership with Vital Village, Black Male Healing Circles were established as peer-led, culturally grounded spaces that promote well-being, resilience, and connection among Black men.



In October, the Center co-hosted the first annual Social Determinants of Mental Health Summit



in partnership with Northeastern University’s Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research. The convening brought together 130 leaders from city agencies, community organizations, and private partners to examine housing and economic stability as key drivers of mental health and to elevate community-informed strategies to inform policy and systems change. Building on this work, the Center is advancing plans to launch a cross-sector workgroup to support coordinated action in these areas.

The Center strengthened support for the public health workforce through agency-wide wellness initiatives. Staff engagement efforts included events such as the Harvest Festival and Annual All-Staff Mental Wellness Day. In addition, the Center launched the Mental Wellness Roadshow, delivering accessible wellness resources directly to bureaus and programs to reduce stigma and barriers to engagement and to reinforce a culture of care across the agency.

BY THE NUMBERS

198
community organizations engaged

3,158
youths served

149
workforce trainings delivered

Center for Public Health Science and Innovation

Advancing equity-centered, data-driven decision-making

The Center for Public Health Science and Innovation advances equity-centered, data-driven public health decision-making across Boston through research, surveillance, and data partnerships.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Center strengthened BPHC's analytic and research capacity through the coordinated work of its two core teams: Population Health and Research (PHAR) and Epidemiology and Evaluation.

The Center expanded its ability to identify and address health inequities through advanced analytic approaches. By linking census and vital records data, the Center produced disaggregated, age-adjusted mortality rates that revealed disparities in overdose, cancer, and cardiovascular disease outcomes that are often obscured within broader categories. These analyses directly informed the City's Live Long and Well population health equity agenda.

The Center also led and supported multiple large-scale, citywide data collection efforts. In 2025, the Center fielded Boston's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), analyzed data from Boston's Adult Caregiver Survey, and supported the Community Health Needs Assessment.

In collaboration with Boston teaching hospitals and partners, the Center supported community-informed data collection efforts and strengthened analytic capacity across sectors. The Center also produced hundreds of analytic reports and responded to a high volume of data requests, reinforcing BPHC's role as a data-driven public health agency.



BY THE NUMBERS

258

analytic reports
produced

35+

cross-sector
partners engaged

Office of Public Health Preparedness

Building resilience during emergencies and climate events

The Office of Public Health Preparedness strengthens Boston's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Office strengthened emergency preparedness and response through cross-sector collaboration, workforce training, and expanded public health response capabilities.

In June, the Office hosted the People-Centered Response and Recovery Summit, advancing a public health approach to climate resilience that centers the needs of residents, staff, and communities. The convening brought together 130 leaders from city agencies, community organizations, and private partners to strengthen coordination and shared understanding of climate-related risks. Participants engaged in workshops on evacuation and shelter-in-place strategies and took part in a behavioral health drill addressing the psychological impacts of climate emergencies. The summit also featured a screening and discussion of Inundation District, strengthening awareness of inland and coastal flooding risks. Participating organizations committed to expanding emergency preparedness efforts, strengthening communication strategies, and advancing coordinated approaches to recovery.

The Office supported vaccination efforts for both BPHC staff and Boston residents. The Office provided operational planning and implementation for vaccine clinics conducted in partnership with the Infectious Disease Bureau. Across these efforts, the Office supported the planning and implementation of 45 vaccine clinics

conducted in partnership with the Infectious Disease Bureau, improving access to influenza, COVID-19, and routine childhood vaccines across Boston neighborhoods.

In addition, the Office supported public health operations during major city events. The Medical Intelligence Center was activated to coordinate patient tracking and situational awareness during events including the Boston Marathon and Independence Day celebrations. On Marathon Monday, the Office tracked 79 patients across hospital systems, supporting real-time coordination and response.

BY THE NUMBERS

45

vaccine clinics supported

130

summit participants

79

patients tracked during
Marathon operations

Office of Racial Equity and Community Engagement

Embedding equity in policy and practice

The Office of Racial Equity and Community Engagement advances racial and health equity across BPHC programs and operations through strategic planning, training, and community engagement.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Office expanded engagement, training, and workforce development initiatives that strengthened internal culture and supported broader city efforts to address social determinants of health.



The Office hosted agency-wide events recognizing and celebrating the contributions of BPHC staff. In March, the second annual Women's History Month

Breakfast brought together more than 100 employees to highlight leadership, public service, and the impact of women across the workforce. In June, the inaugural Men's Health Month Breakfast convened more than 60 employees to recognize contributions to public service and promote dialogue on health, well-being, and community.

The Office also expanded training efforts across the City of Boston. During Fall 2025, four training sessions were delivered to more than 100 City staff, equipping leaders with tools to address social determinants of health and strengthen equity-informed decision-making across policies and programs.





Workforce development remained a key priority. The Generational Health Scholarship Program, implemented in partnership with three nonprofit organizations, supported approximately 75 Boston students pursuing careers in STEM, public health, behavioral health, and the health sciences. The program strengthens pathways into public health careers and contributes to building a more representative and skilled workforce.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 100+**
BPHC employees engaged
(Women’s History Month)
- 60+**
BPHC employees engaged
(Men’s History Month)
- 4**
citywide training sessions
delivered
- 75**
students supported

Office of Violence Prevention

Preventing violence and promoting community healing

The Office of Violence Prevention works to prevent violence and promote community well-being through partnerships, data-informed strategies, and trauma-informed services.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Office expanded its impact through strengthened partnerships, program integration, and targeted investments in prevention and response strategies.

The Community Safety Team formally merged with the Office of Violence Prevention, strengthening coordination and expanding the City's capacity to prevent and respond to violence.

The Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative expanded training and collaboration across sectors, including partnerships with community organizations and regional partners. The Initiative launched a new training program for hairstylists and barbers to recognize signs of domestic violence and human trafficking.

The Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative transitioned to a citywide model, expanding services and increasing access to support for residents at elevated risk.

The Community Healing and Response Network continued supporting families impacted by violence through both immediate response and long-term recovery services, while strengthening data infrastructure and continuity of care.

The Capacity Building and Training Initiative delivered trauma-informed trainings to frontline providers, strengthening service delivery and workforce well-being.



BY THE NUMBERS

Second lowest

number of firearm incidents recorded since 1960

100+

community partners engaged

1,000+

residents served

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Recommended citation: The 2025 Annual Report of the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Public Health Commission

For inquiries, please contact:
Boston Public Health Commission
1010 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
Phone: 617-534-5395
Email: info@bphc.org

boston.gov/bphc



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