

# The Measure of Opportunity

*A special Understanding Boston Series on  
Inequality, Prosperity, Well-Being &  
Boston's Future Mobility*



See play tickets in circulation against national Times at 400 pct in The Call



## THE HOUSE SAYS NO. FEAR GRIPS INVESTORS.

# HOW LOW WILL IT GO?

Dow plunges 7.7%, the biggest point drop ever as bailout deal is rejected



**MARKET REACTION**  
The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 7.7 percent, or 100.46 points, to 12,800.14. The S&P 500 index fell 7.5 percent, or 100.46 points, to 1,310.14. The Nasdaq Composite Index fell 7.1 percent, or 40.14 points, to 550.14. The Russell 2000 Index fell 7.3 percent, or 30.14 points, to 410.14. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is down 10.14 percent from its peak of 14,164.53 on September 29, 2007. The S&P 500 index is down 10.14 percent from its peak of 1,416.45 on September 29, 2007. The Nasdaq Composite Index is down 10.14 percent from its peak of 2,866.14 on September 29, 2007. The Russell 2000 Index is down 10.14 percent from its peak of 600.14 on September 29, 2007.

**DEPRESSION UNLIKELY BUT A RECESSION COULD BE PAINFUL**  
The Federal Reserve has cut its target rate for the federal funds rate to 1.25 percent, the lowest level since 1954. The Fed also announced a new program to purchase up to \$300 billion of government securities and other assets to provide liquidity to the credit markets. The Fed's actions are seen as a signal that it is prepared to do whatever it takes to stabilize the financial system. However, many economists believe that a recession is still likely to occur, and that it could be quite painful. The unemployment rate is expected to rise, and many businesses are expected to close. The housing market is also expected to continue to decline, and many homeowners are expected to lose their homes. The overall economic outlook is bleak, and many people are feeling pessimistic about the future.

MARCH 8, 2009

Price: 24¢ per copy (including postage) and sold in the afternoon. Circulation: 100,000. 400+ a year. Size of news and ads: 10.5" x 14.5". Headline: 10.5" x 14.5" p. 4. Section: 10.5" x 14.5" p. 4. Post Office: 700-000-0000. First-class postage paid. Post Office: 700-000-0000.

### NET WORTH SLIDE HITS YOUNGER WORKERS HARD



# The Loss Generation

Young Americans are more cautious, less hopeful about nation's economy

By Jenn Abelson  
GLOBE STAFF

It was spring 1995, and four Bentley College roommates had plastered the walls of their Waltham apartment with movie job offers and rejection letters. The economy was growing, and stocks were on the rise. The guys were feeling good, the way college graduates could back then, confident that they would make it big in business.

By 2002, Craig Berlinski and C.C. Chap-

man were earning more than their parents combined, and their college roommates Jim and Steve were wiped out when he carried two mar-

ried after the 9/11 attacks. Jim and Steve were wiped out when he carried two mar-

ried after the 9/11 attacks. Jim and Steve were wiped out when he carried two mar-

## TIME

# The New Hard Times

FREE SOUP

How Sarah Palin Took On Big Oil—And (Sort of) Won  
The Extreme TB Epidemic: Photos by James Nachtwey  
Robert Redford Remembers Paul Newman

No, this isn't Depression 2.0. How history can help us avoid it.

BY HELE FERGUSON

The Leadership Deficit  
BY MICHAEL GREENWALD

The Virtues of Thrift  
BY NANCY GIBBS

## Families' wealth dives 39% in 3 years

Richest gained 2% in financial crisis

NATO limits airstrikes on Afghan resistance

## Families see their wealth sapped

MIDDLE CLASS IN THE SADDLE  
Millions of net worth falls to zero

Commerce Secretary Has 'Limited Recall' of Two Car Accidents

## U.S. families see prosperity plunge



of will be centered (L) bubbles, stock-plunging article on Page A14

# **A Great Reckoning:** *Healing a Growing Divide*



A Summary of the  
Boston Indicators Report  
2009

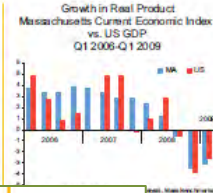
[www.bostonindicators.org](http://www.bostonindicators.org)



## Introduction: A Great Reckoning

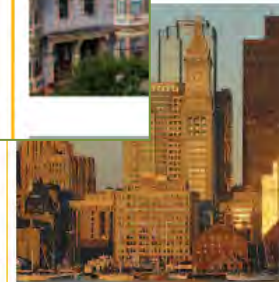
The last Boston Indicators Report, published in 2007, invoked the shared character in the Chinese words for “crisis” and “opportunity.” Two years later, Boston and the nation entered a period of crisis and opportunity squared.

In the final quarter of 2008, the US economy, already in mild recession, fell off a cliff as the overpriced, overbuilt and over-leveraged housing market imploded. Shaky declines, mortgage-backed securities brought banks



While the Commonwealth has fared better than most states since then, the collapse revealed deep and troubling vulnerabilities and disparities:

- The US now ranks as the most unequal Western industrialized nation. Among all nations, it ranks alongside Morocco, Tunisia, Georgia and Turkmenistan on the global Gini Index of Income Inequality.
- In household inequality, Massachusetts ranked 4th among all states in 2007, and in 2008 tied with Tennessee and Florida behind New York, Connecticut, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and California.
- Of the 12 Massachusetts counties, Suffolk County, which includes Boston, had the highest level of income inequality in 2008.
- Of the 50 largest US cities, Boston ranked 8th in inequality after Miami, Atlanta, New Orleans, New York, Dallas, DC, and LA in 2008.



Since its founding, Greater Boston has been the birthplace of a revolution—the American Revolution, America’s Industrial Revolution, the Information Age.

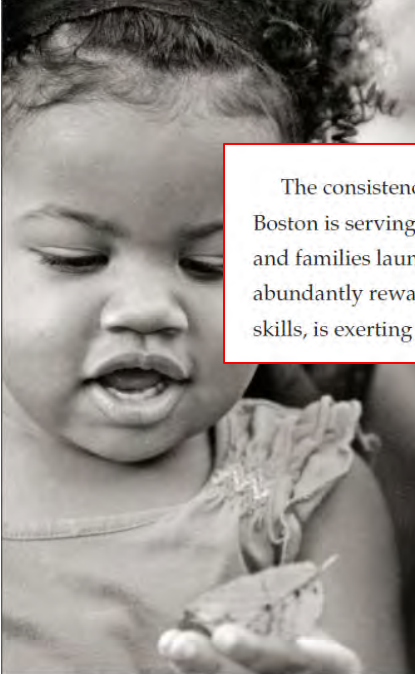
Today, the nation and the world face an undeniable period of crisis and opportunity—a “bottleneck for humanity” in the words of Harvard biologist E. O. Wilson—in terms of the scope and scale of global challenges. At home, the time has come for Bostonians to heal a growing economic divide in order to lead the way forward again.



# The Measure

## A Boston Indicators P

20



The consistency of poverty rates over time raises the question whether Boston is serving as a platform for upward mobility, with new individuals and families launched each decade, or whether its knowledge economy, which abundantly rewards high academic achievement and harshly punishes low skills, is exerting a strong downward pull on disadvantaged households.

### Despite Great Changes in Boston Over 20 Years, Poverty Has Remained Constant

**B**oston underwent a period of city building and demographic and economic transformation between 1990 and 2010, with sustained efforts to boost opportunity for low-income residents. Between 1990 and 2010, Boston's economy continued its shift from a manufacturing to a knowledge base. The city's population increased by about 43,000 even as its child population declined by 6,000.

Over that period, Boston's Latino population increased by 46,000, its Asian population by 25,000 and African Americans by 1,200 as whites declined by 48,000. However, despite these great demographic shifts, Boston's landscape of poverty remained relatively unchanged.

In 1990, Boston's poverty rate was 18.7%. In 2000, 19.5% of Bostonians lived at or below the poverty line.

At that time, 19.5% of Bostonians lived at or below the poverty line. In numerical terms, that translates to an estimated 30,900 Boston children living in poverty.



|   |          |
|---|----------|
| 3 | \$18,310 |
| 4 | \$22,050 |
| 5 | \$25,790 |
| 6 | \$29,530 |
| 7 | \$33,270 |
| 8 | \$37,010 |

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

Current rates of family poverty by race and ethnicity also closely mirror those of 1990, with the exception of poverty among white families with children, which has fallen by almost half.

In 1990, Boston was in recession and in the throes of a state fiscal crisis following a housing boom and bust—with high rates of foreclosure in low-income neighborhoods and increasing youth violence.

Today's low-income families in Boston face many of the same challenges.

Boston, like other successful cities, has acted as a springboard for many low-income residents and particularly for newcomer immigrants, many of whom arrive with both skills and high aspirations. However, like other US urban centers, Boston also contains pockets of intergenerational, or persistent, poverty.

# Both parties agree: Economic mobility will be a defining theme of 2016 campaign

On right and left, a search for a credible populist message

## Why America's middle class is lost

The middle class took America to the moon. Then something went horribly wrong.



## The Connection Between Successful Cities and Inequality

New research shows that the largest U.S. cities would do well to focus on workers at the bottom of the economic ladder.

RICHARD FLORIDA | [@Richard\\_Florida](#) | Jan 6, 2015 | 44 Comments

# Economic Mobility Trumps the Income Gap as Bigger Worry — WSJ/NBC Poll



## Cities, Inequality, and Wages

Cities reflect and compound growing social and economic divides even as they make us richer, more productive, and increase our wages

### It's Not the Inequality; It's the Immobility

APRIL 3, 2015

**Economic View**  
By TYLER COWEN

- Email
- Share
- Tweet
- Save
- More



Income inequality and economic immobility are often lumped together, but they shouldn't be.

Consider the two concepts positively: Income equality is about bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, while economic mobility is about elevating the poor as rapidly as possible. Finding ways to increase economic mobility should be our greater concern.

For instance, while we have talked incessantly about the disproportionate gains of the top 1 percent, the wage slowdown in the United States in recent decades is a bigger problem for most people. Since 1973, for workers as a whole, wages have stagnated largely because of a severe productivity slowdown.

The consequences have been startling. Data



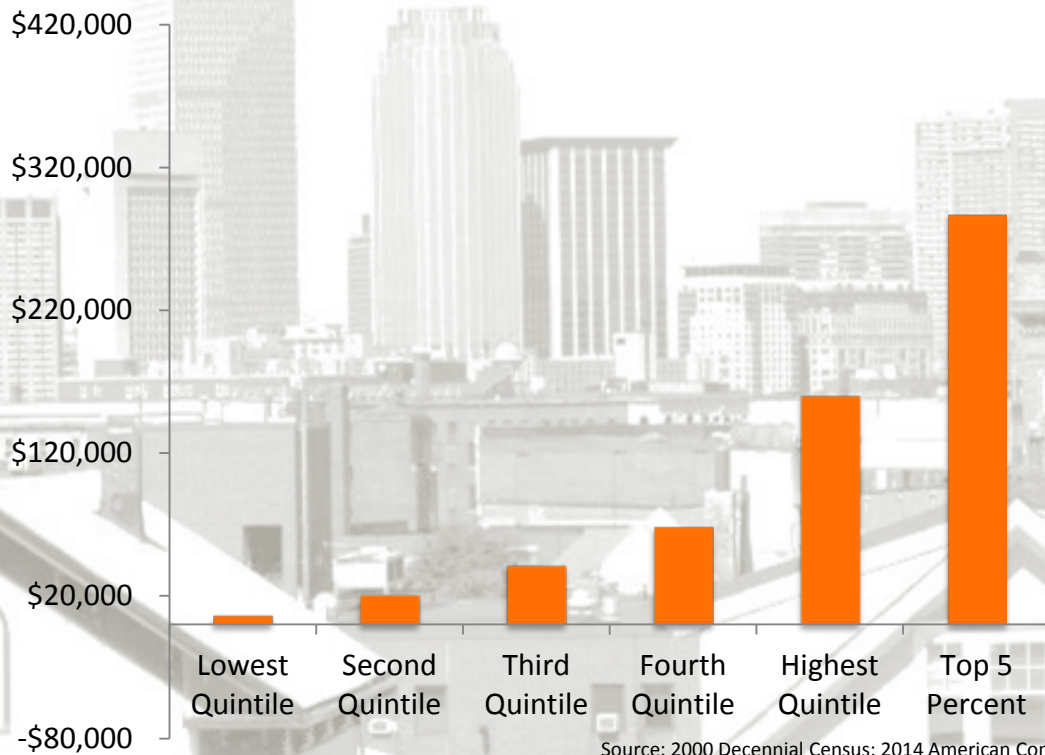
## Growth Has Been Good for Decades. So Why Hasn't Poverty Declined?







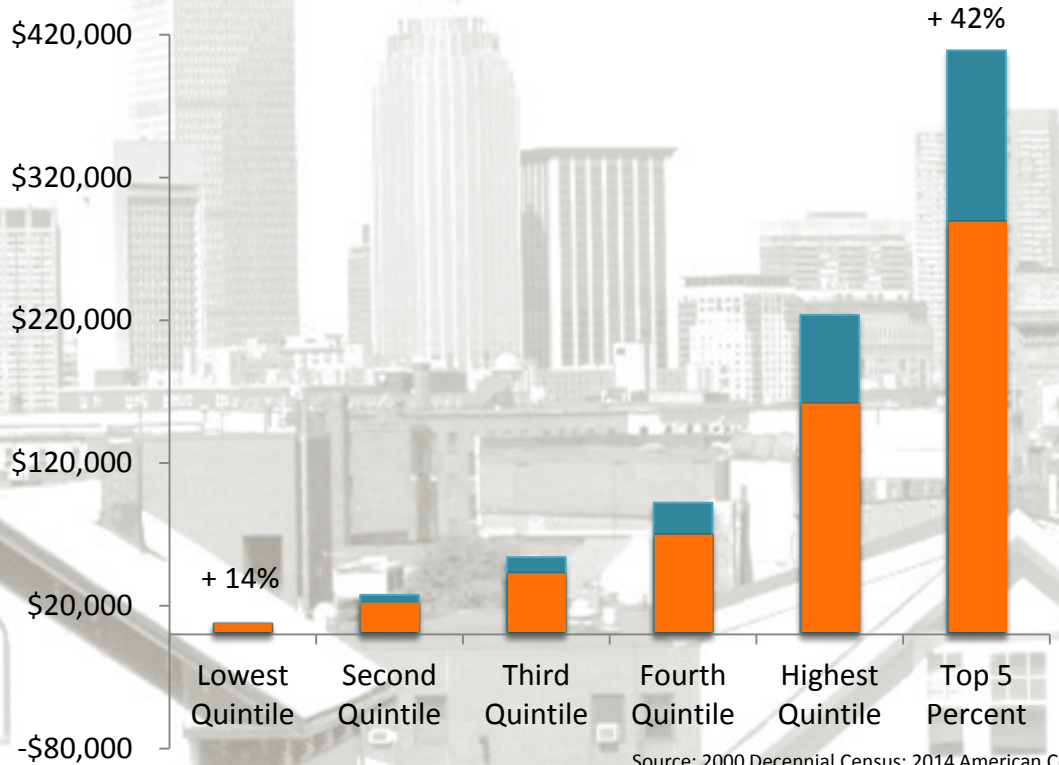
## Median Household Income by Quintile 2000



Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey



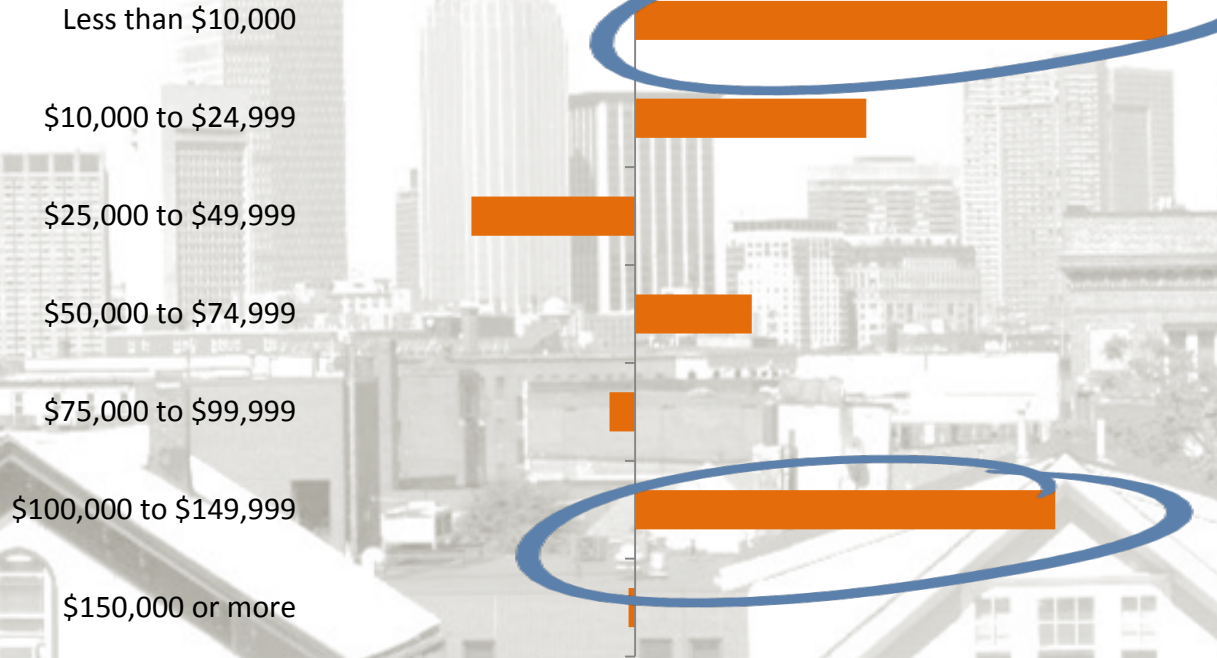
## Median Household Income by Quintile 2000 v 2013



Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey



## Change in Households by Income 2008 - 2013

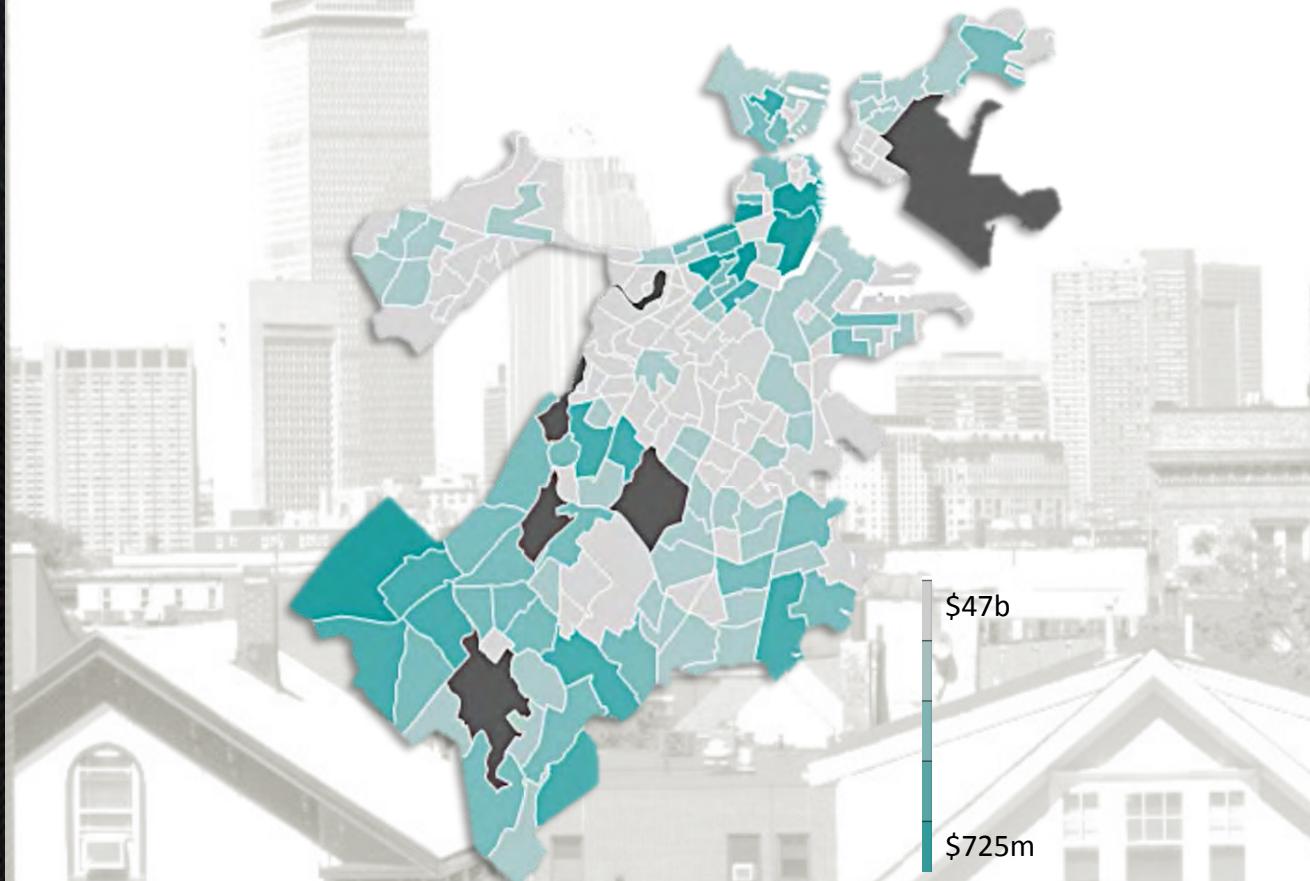


Source: 2008 - 2013 American Community Survey





## AGGREGATE HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Source: American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year estimates

CAN A CITY EXTEND THE BENEFITS OF  
ECONOMIC SUCCESS TO ALL OF ITS  
RESIDENTS & NEIGHBORHOODS?





CAN IT RETAIN A VIBRANT MIX OF  
INCOME, ETHNIC & AGE DIVERSITY EVEN  
AS IT ATTRACTS HIGHER INCOME  
RESIDENTS?





CAN IT CREATE PATHWAYS TO  
EDUCATIONAL & ECONOMIC SUCCESS  
FOR ALL ITS YOUNG PEOPLE?



WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE  
BOSTON AMERICA'S MOST  
UPWARDLY MOBILE CITY?





# Data Tools for Change

## Child Opportunity Index

A National Equity Atlas Webinar

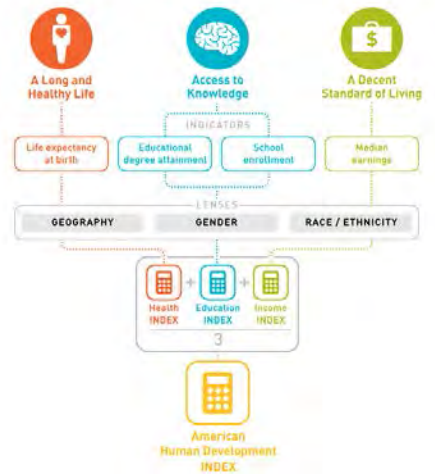
March 18, 2015



MEASURE OF AMERICA  
of the Social Science Research Council

# GEOGRAPHIES OF OPPORTUNITY

Ranking Well-Being  
by Congressional District



OPPORTUNITY NATION

Opportunity Index About the Index State F

A measure of opportunity at the community level

THE OPPORTUNITY INDEX

State County

Opportunity Score 7

Economy \$

Nassau County, NY

Adjacent County Average

STATE OF AMERICAN WELL-BEING 2014 State Well-Being Rankings



-SHARPS and KRISTEN L...  
CHIEF STATISTICIAN

CHER...  
STATICAL ANALYST & CARTOGRAPHER  
DESIGNER

ORT: WWW.MEASUREOFAMERICA.ORG

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
KIRWAN INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

FULL REPORT JANUARY 2009

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF OPPORTUNITY

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY IN MASSACHUSETTS



# SOCIAL PROGRESS INDEX 2015

BY MICHAEL E PORTER AND SCOTT STERN  
WITH MICHAEL GREEN





OPPORTUNITY



PROSPERITY

OPPORTUNITY





WELL-BEING

PROSPERITY

OPPORTUNITY

# SOCIAL & ECONOMIC MOBILITY



WELL-BEING

PROSPERITY

OPPORTUNITY



# SOCIAL & ECONOMIC MOBILITY



WHAT WE KNOW

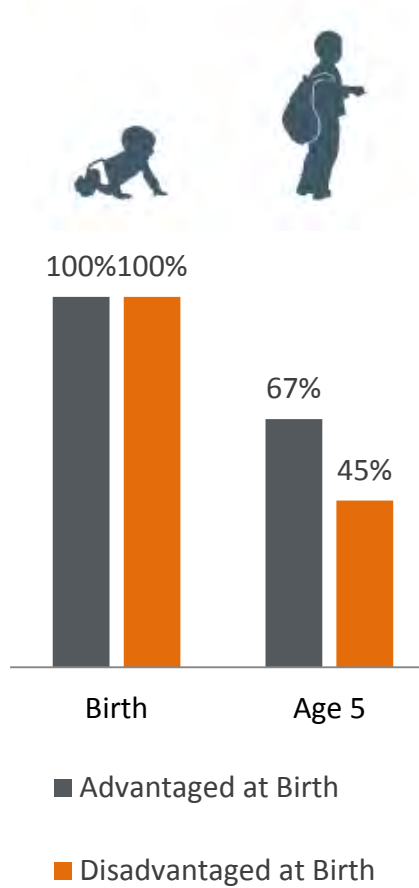


Birth

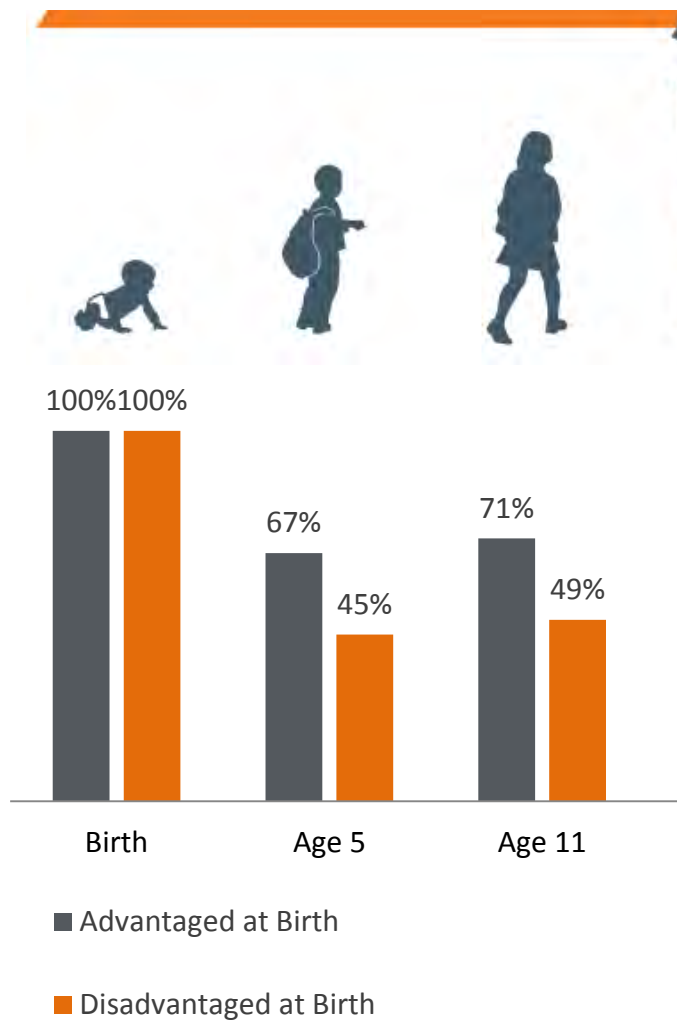
■ Advantaged at Birth

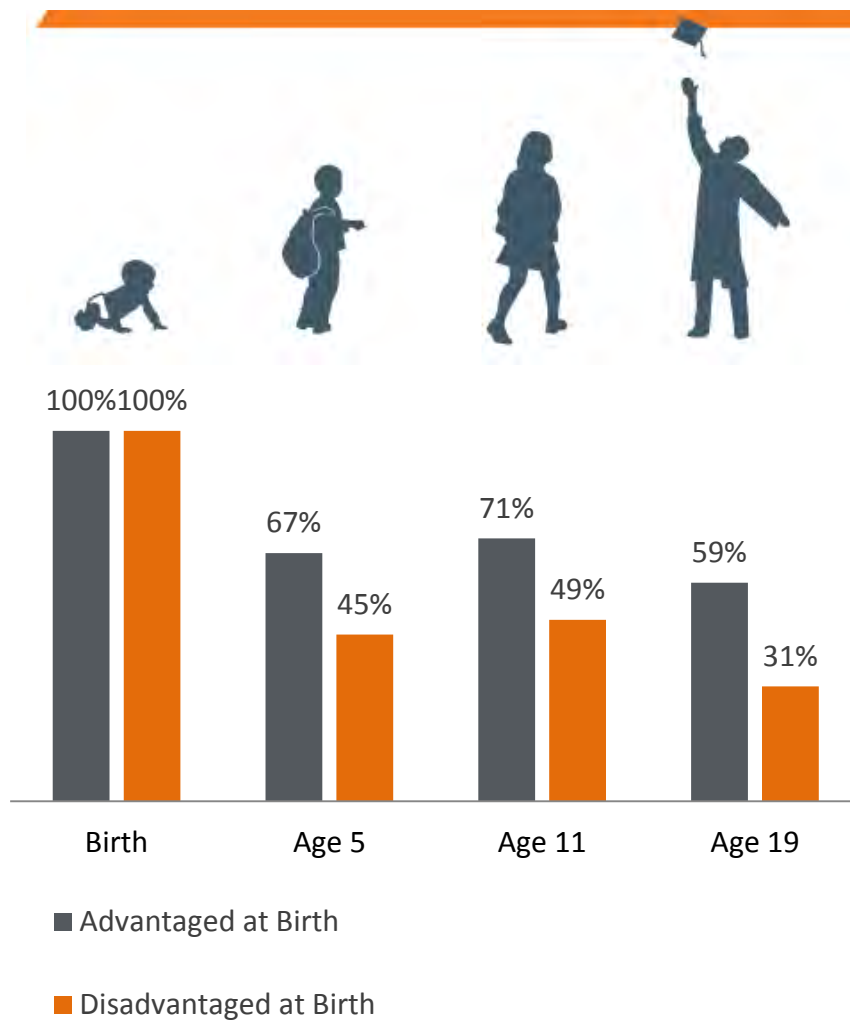
■ Disadvantaged at Birth

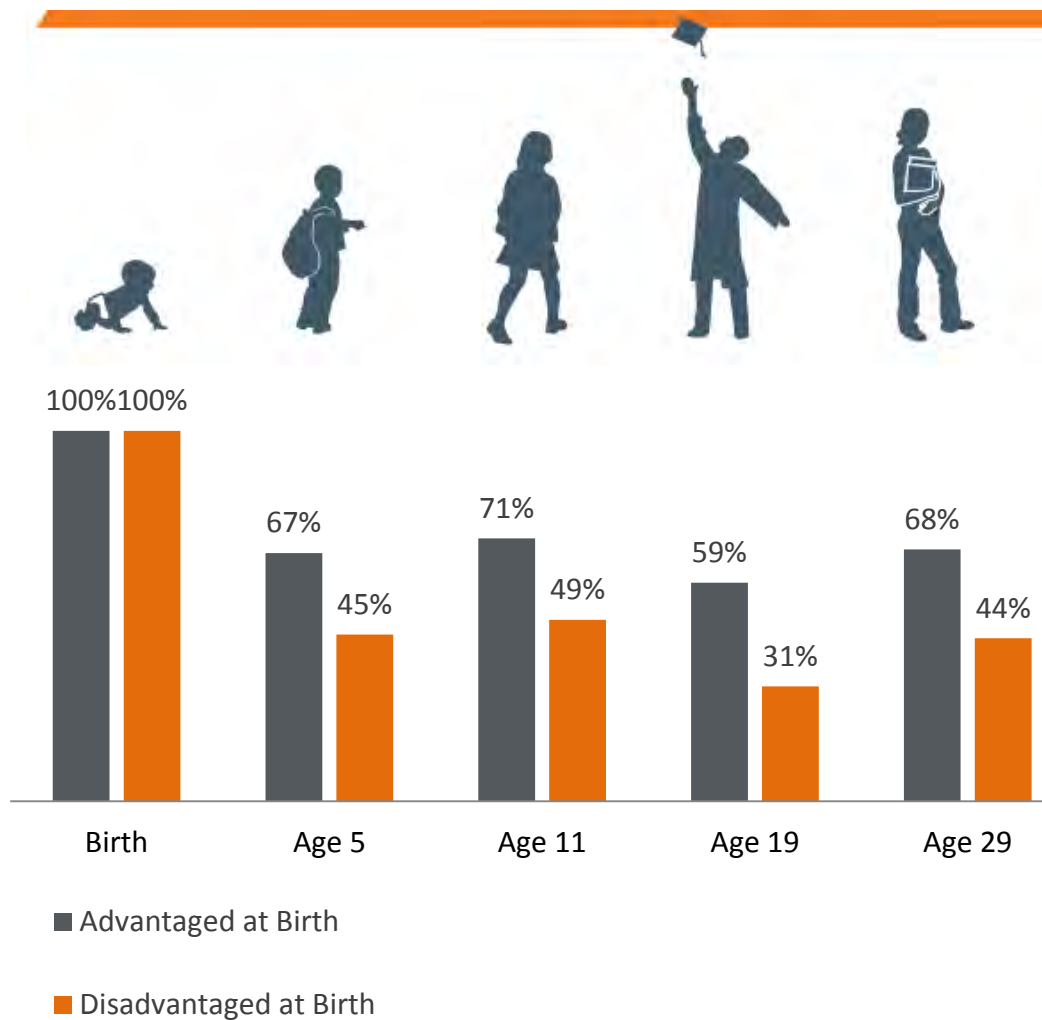
OPPORTUNITY AT BIRTH  
IMPACTS  
SUCCESS AT ADULTHOOD



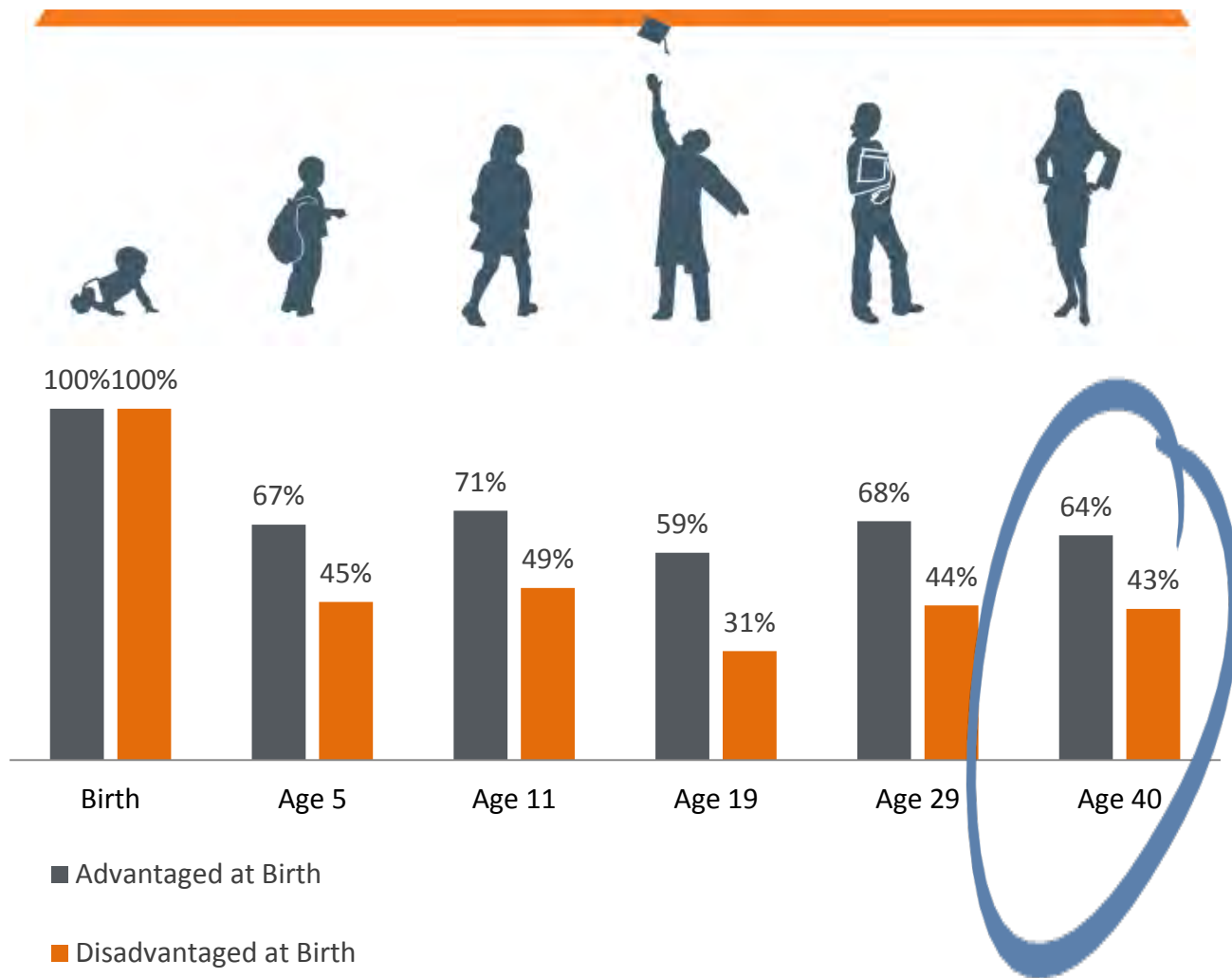








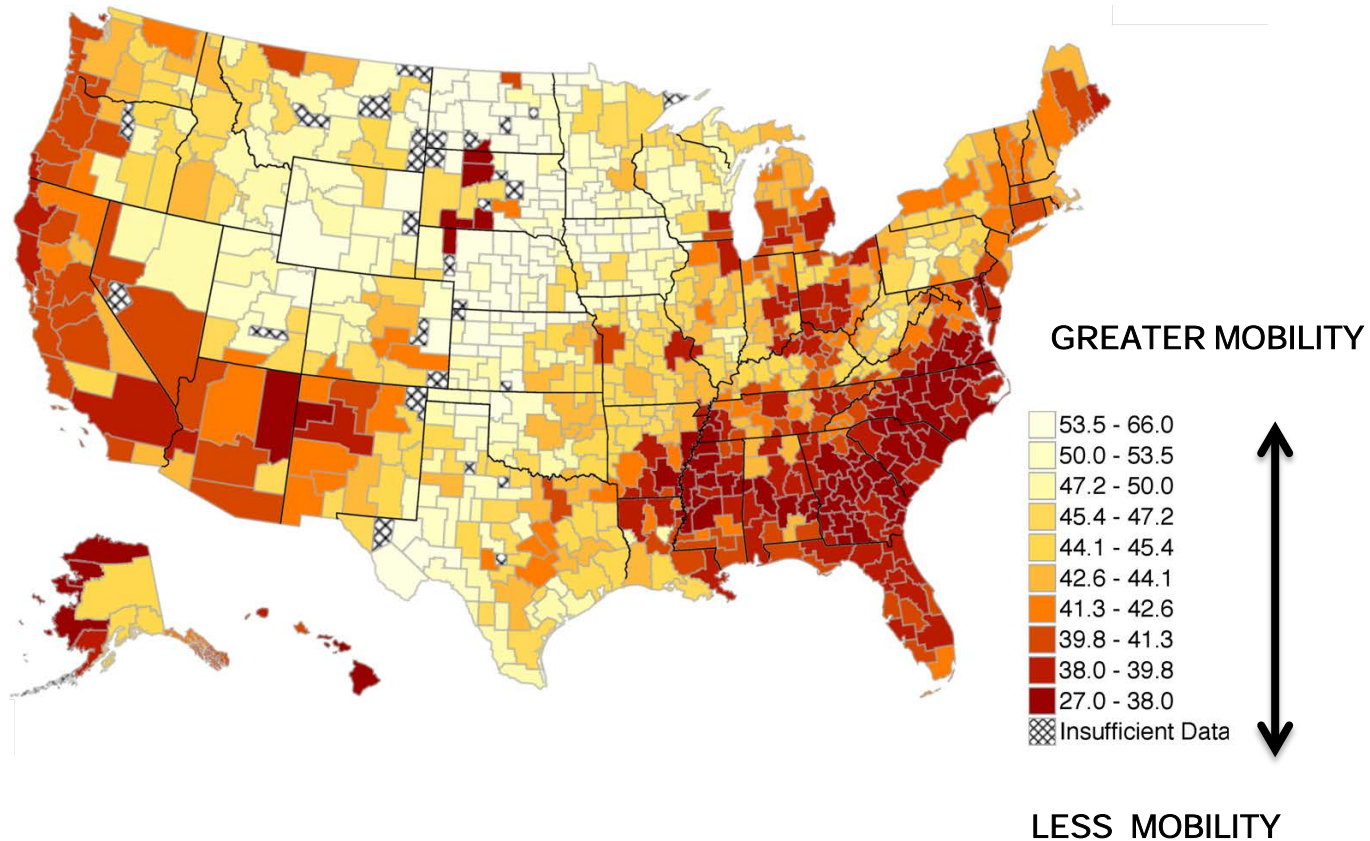






# THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

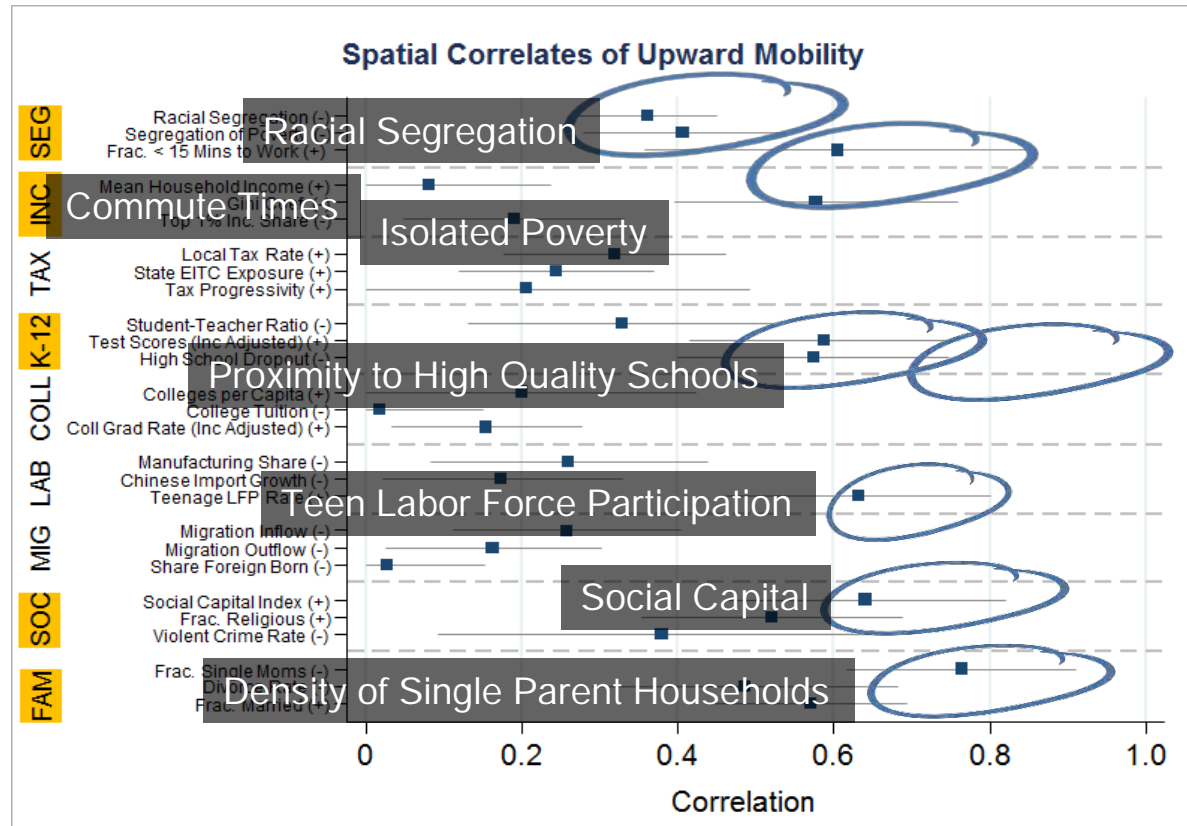
Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner





# THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner

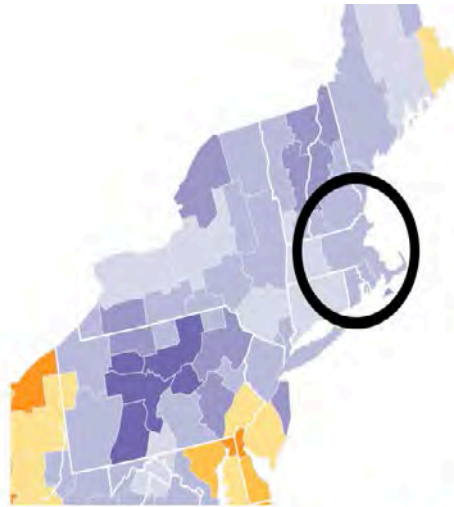




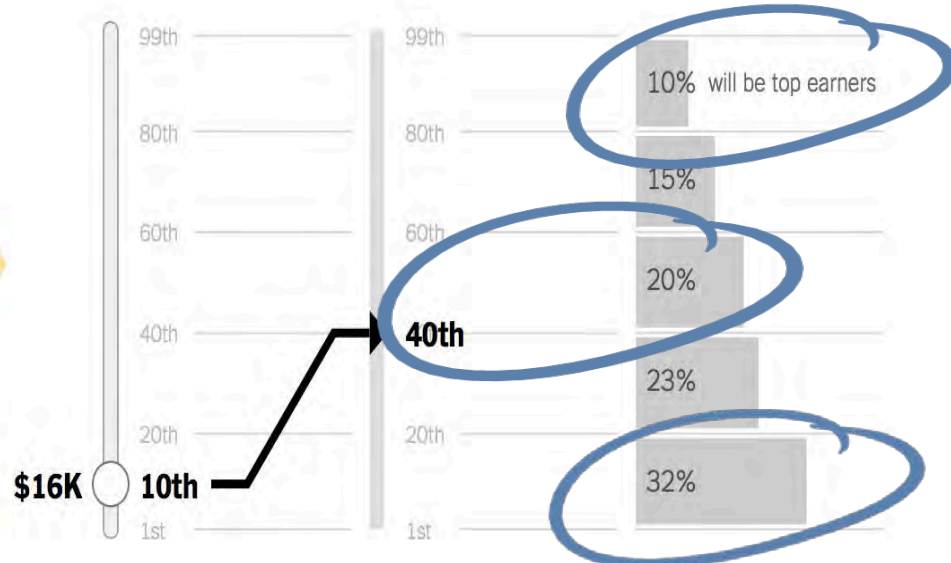
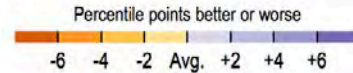


# THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner



With parents who earn \$16K, how area compares to U.S. average:

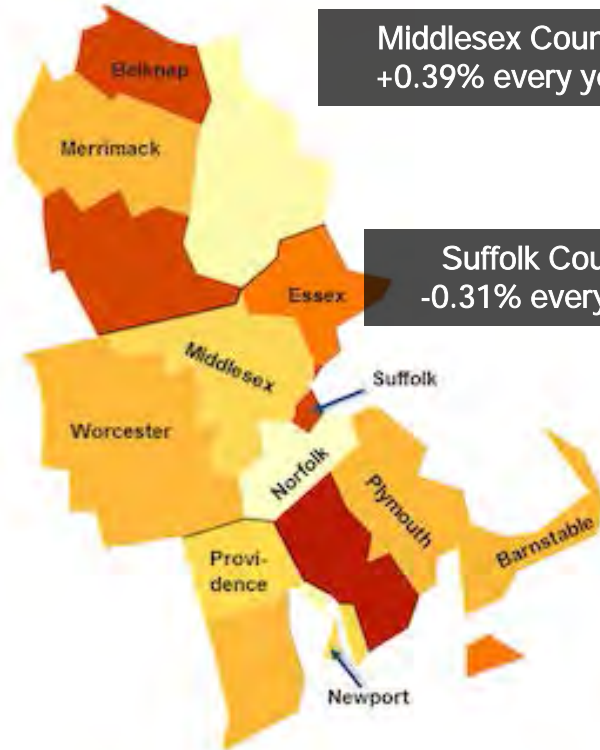


Data is based on the experiences of children who are now around age 30, and their parents' incomes in today's dollars from the late 1990s



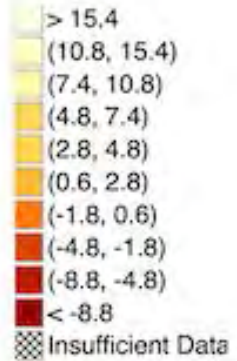
# THE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner



Middlesex County:  
+0.39% every year

Suffolk County:  
-0.31% every year





2015

*A BABY IS BORN IN BOSTON*



A white ladder is positioned vertically on the left side of the image, set against a solid orange background. The ladder has several rungs. The text is placed on specific rungs: '2027' is on the second rung from the top, and '2020' is on the second rung from the bottom.

2027

*ENTERS 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE*

2020

*TURNS FIVE YEARS OLD*



2039

*STARTS A CAREER PATH*

2038

*COMPLETES COLLEGE*

2033

*GRADUATES HIGH SCHOOL*

2055

*ACHIEVES THE  
AMERICAN DREAM*

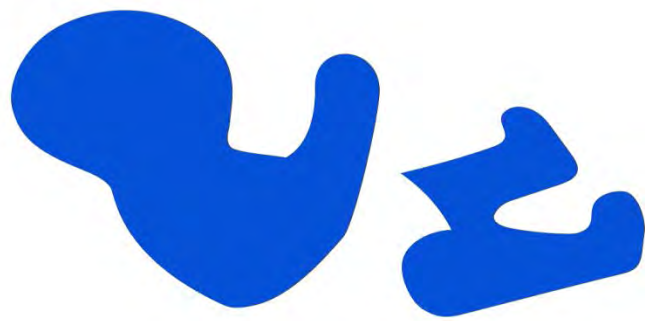


2048

*HAS A CHILD*

# LIFETIME of OPPORTUNITY

created by the  
boston indicators project



## LY OPPORTUNITY



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT





dashboard launched  
january 2015

# a LIFETIME of OPPORTUNITY

created by the  
boston indicators project

BIRTH



EARLY OPPORTUNITY



E



NEIGHBORHOOD STRENGTH



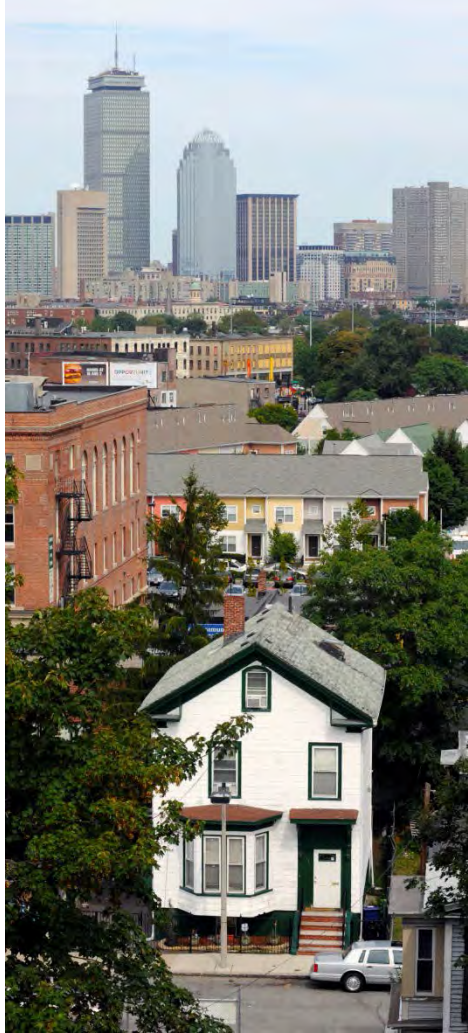
EDUCATION & SKILLS



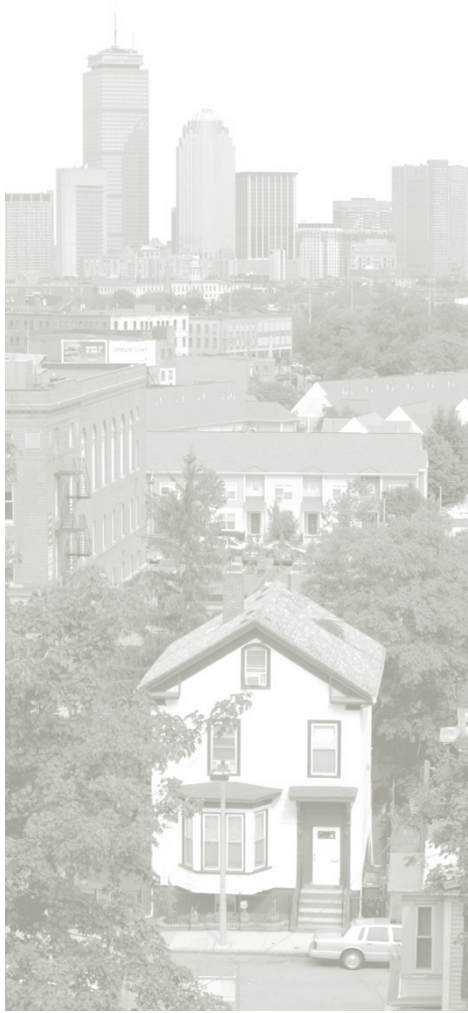
INEQUALITY &  
PLACES OF OPPORTUNITY

INCOME, WEALTH, ASSETS

JOBS & EMPLOYMENT







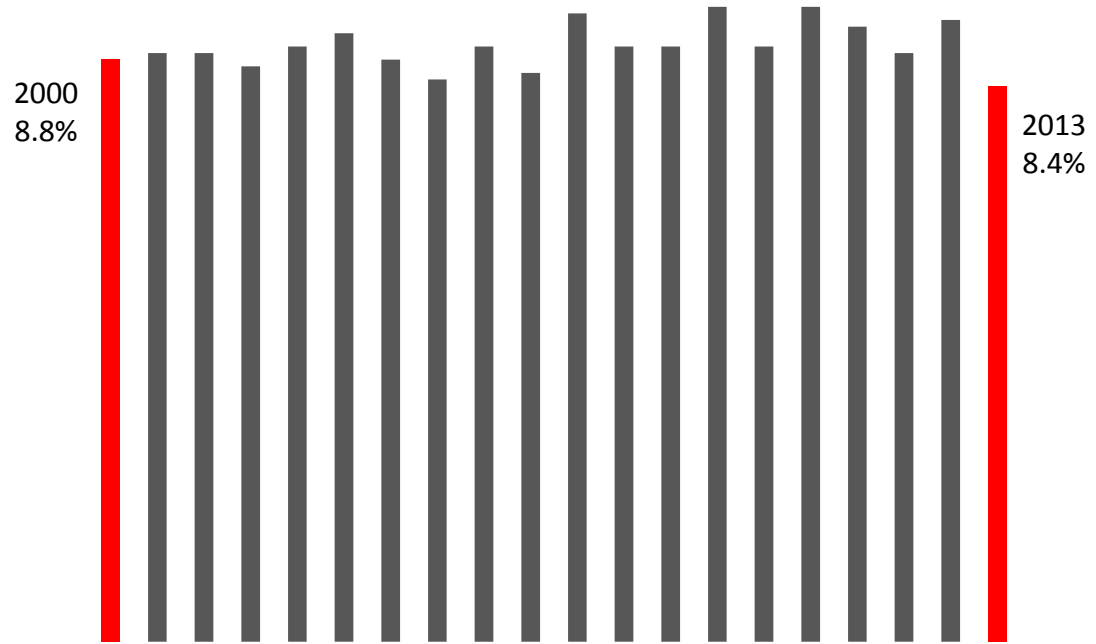
# KEY INDICATOR:

# Healthy Birth Weight



## Percent of Babies Born at Low Birth Weight

Boston 2000 - 2013

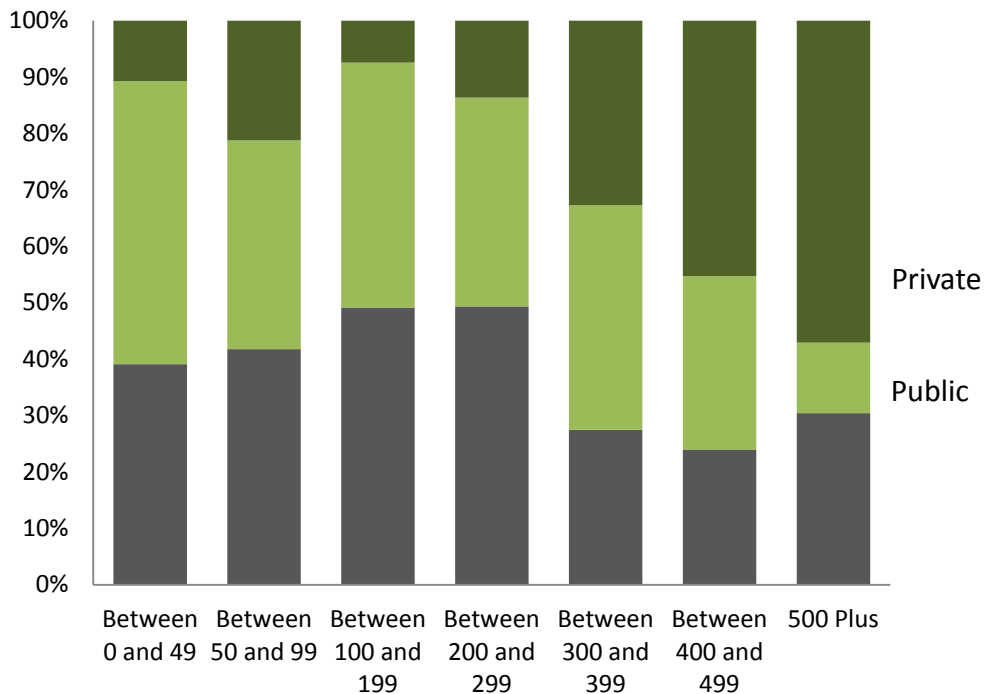


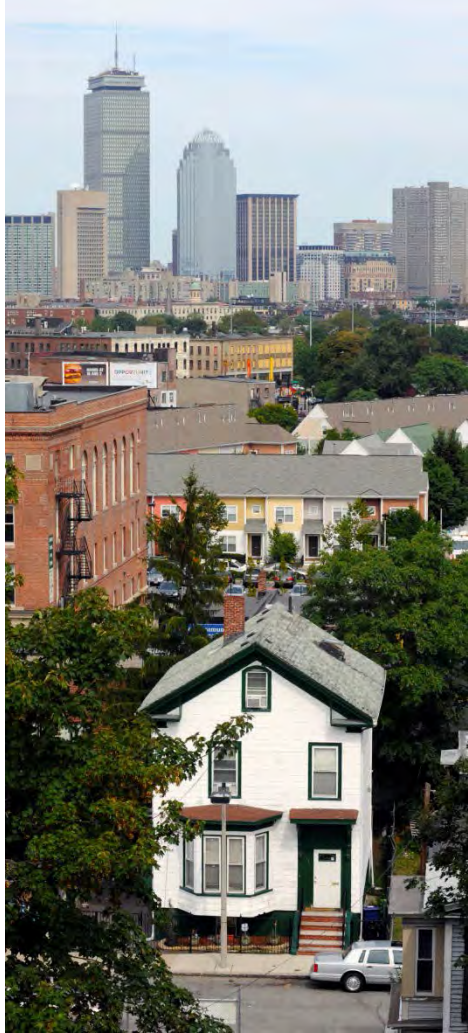


# Early Education Opportunity : KEY INDICATOR

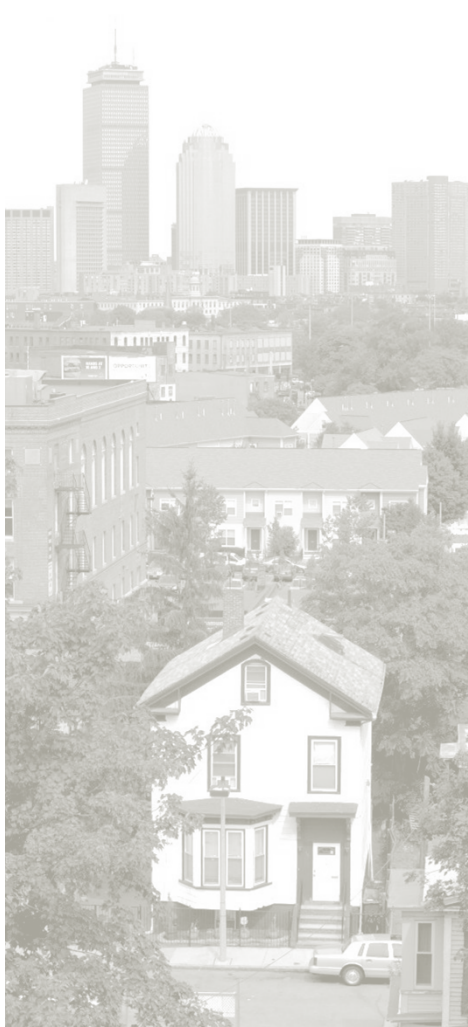
## Percent of 3 and 4 year-olds enrolled in school

Boston 2000 - 2014













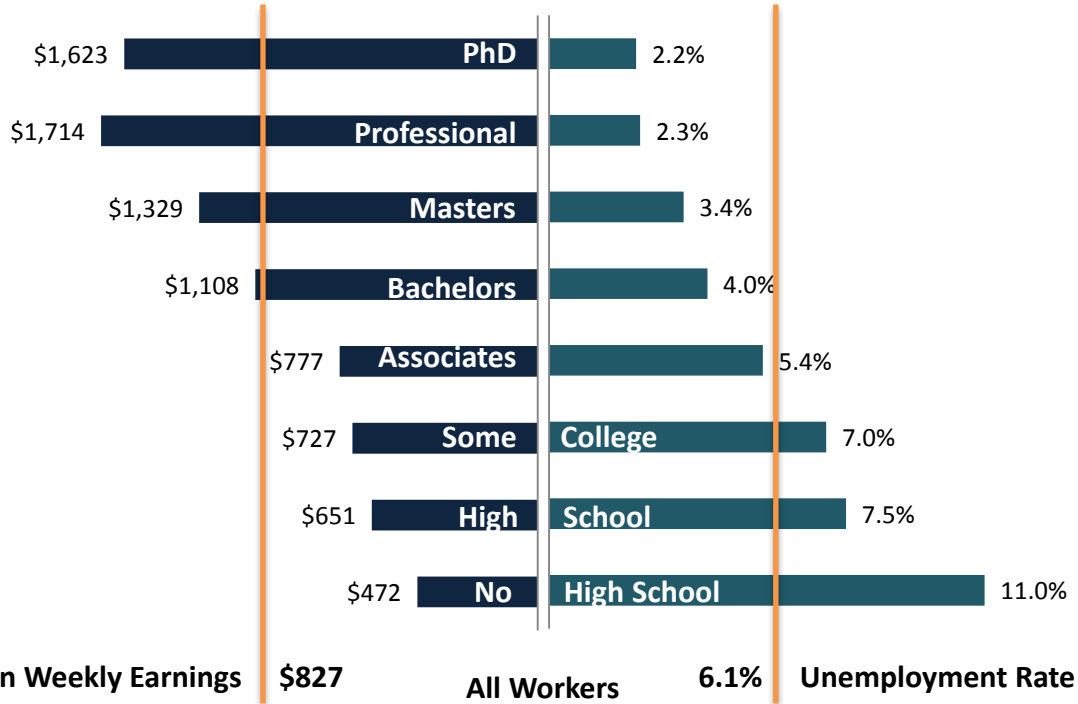


# WHAT MATTERS IN THE EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT PIPELINE?



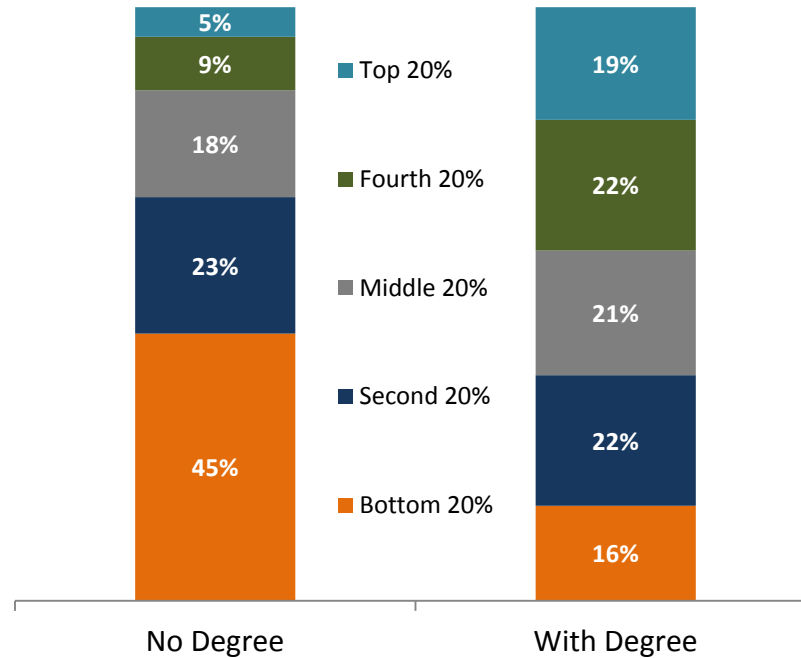


## Unemployment and Median Earnings by Educational Attainment



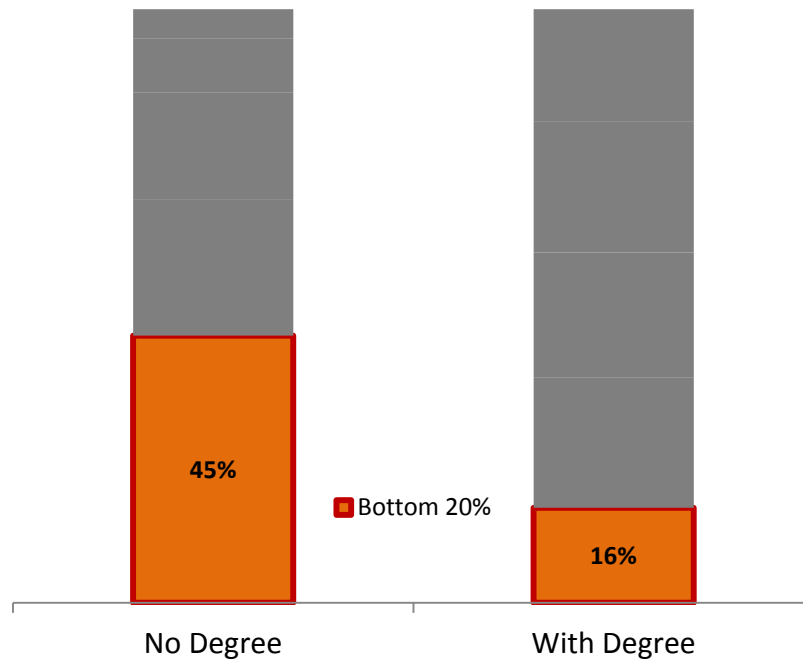


## Adult Income Quintile of Children Born at the Bottom Income Quintile by College Degree





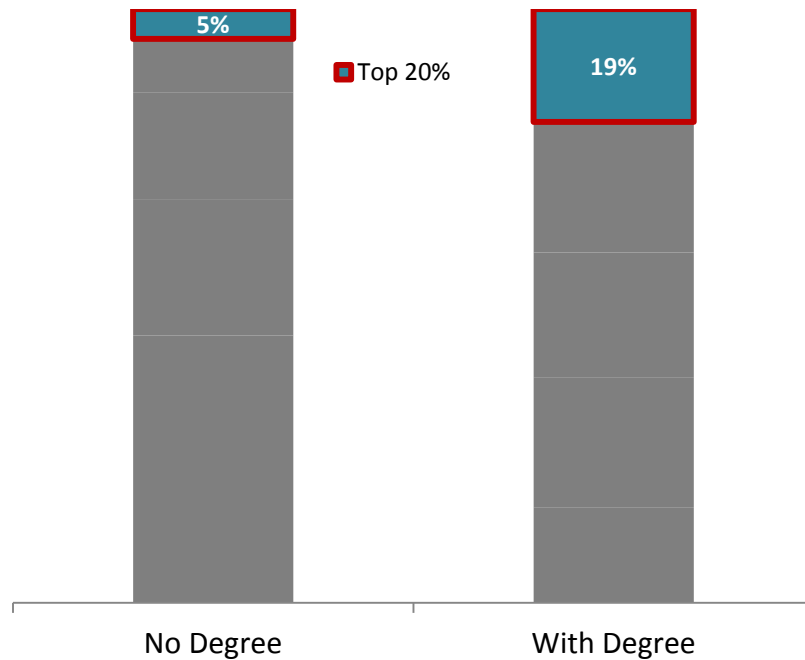
## Adult Income Quintile of Children Born at the Bottom Income Quintile by College Degree





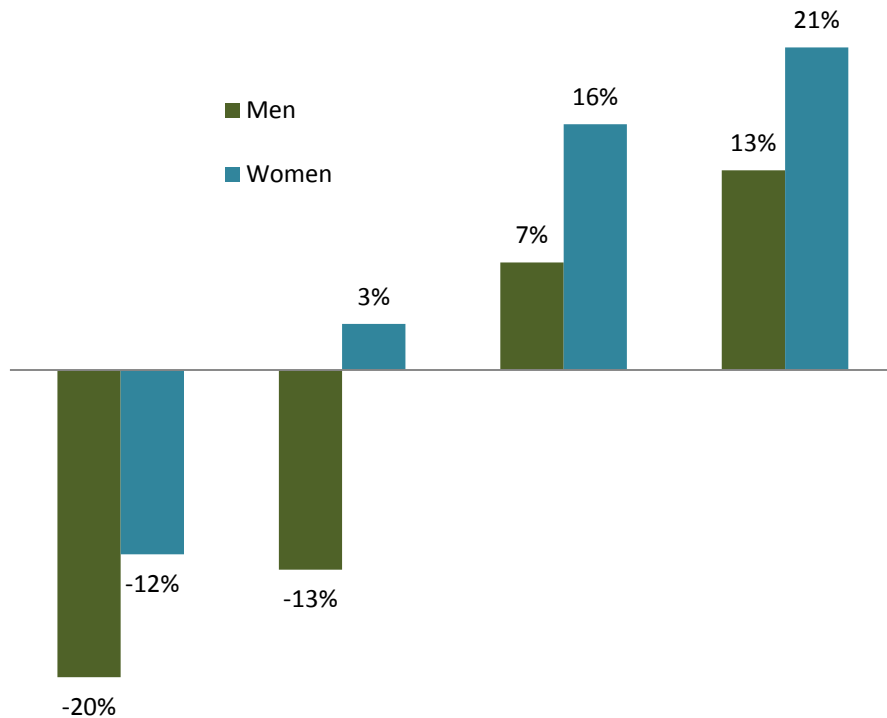


## Adult Income Quintile of Children Born at the Bottom Income Quintile by College Degree



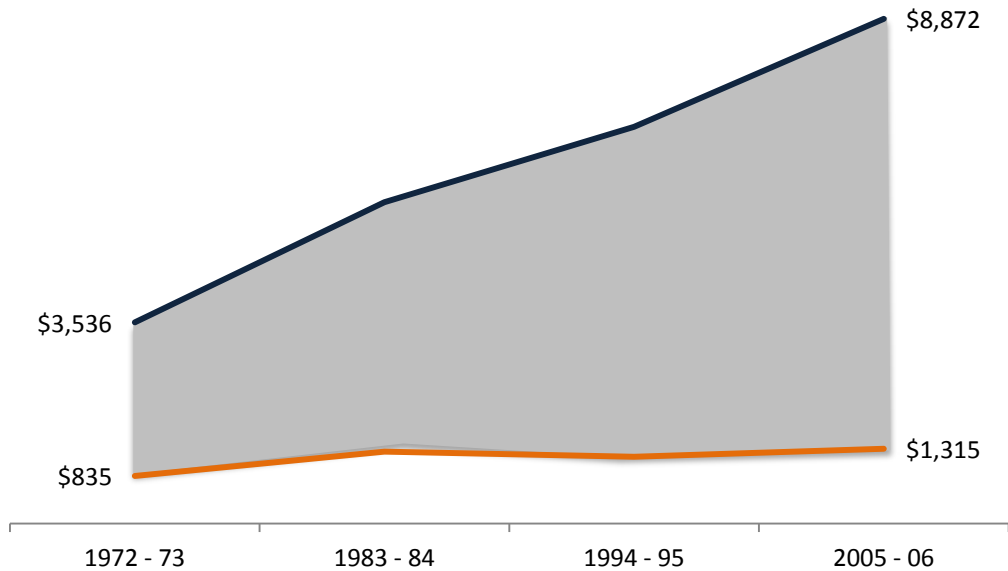


## Change in Real Earnings by Educational Attainment 1990 - 2013



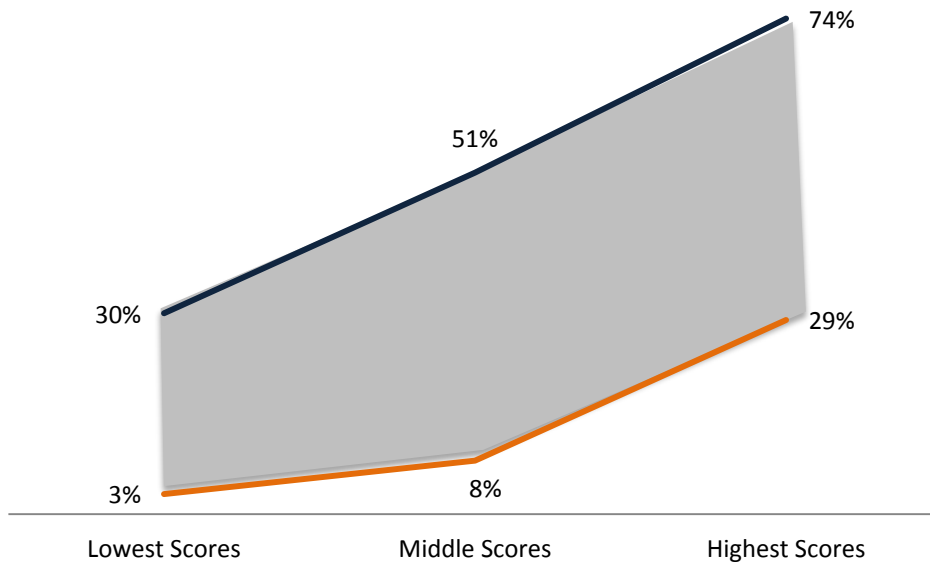


## Spending on Educational Enrichment by Parent's Income





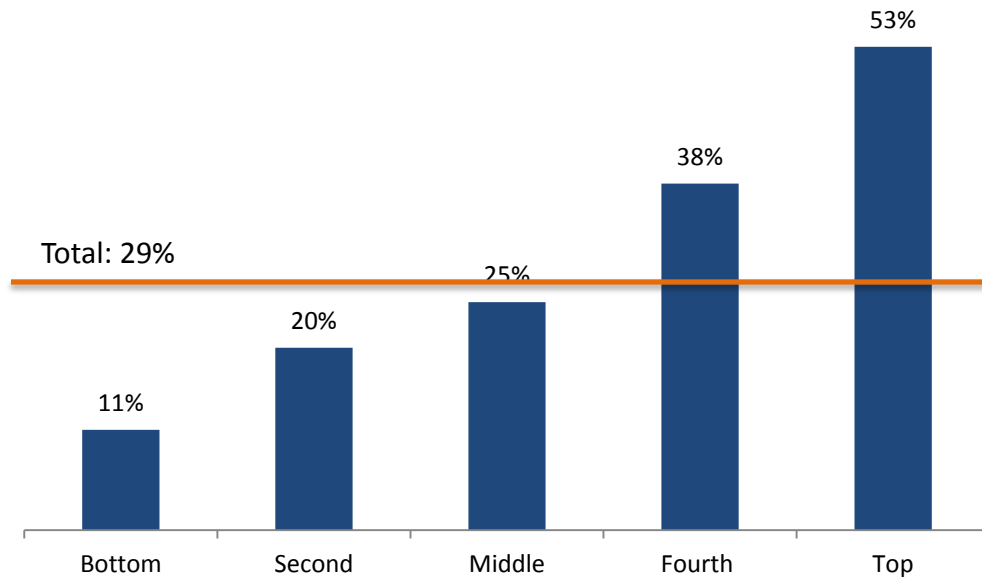
## Chances of Graduating College by 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math NAEP Scores





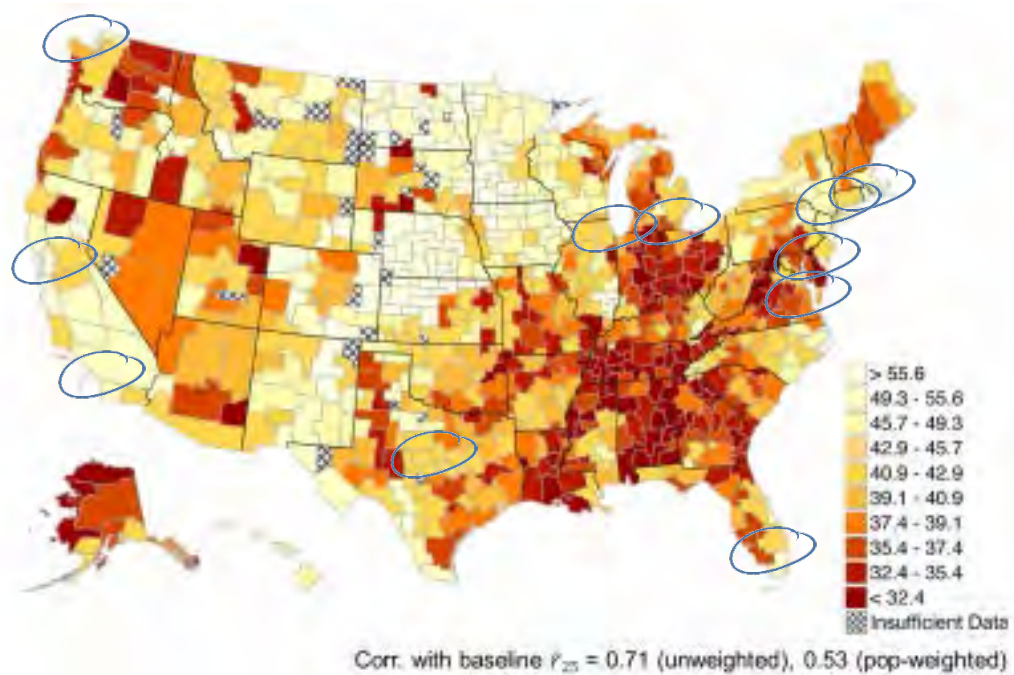


## Percent of Children with a College Degree by Parents' Income Quintile 2005



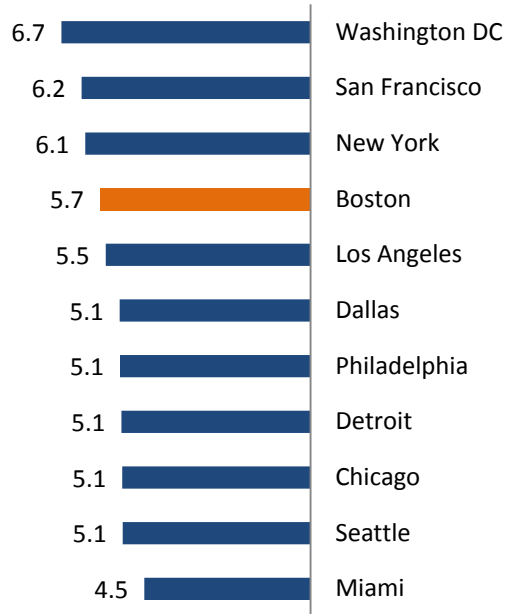


## College Attendance Rates for Children of Parents in the Bottom 25%





## Income Inequality / Economic Prosperity

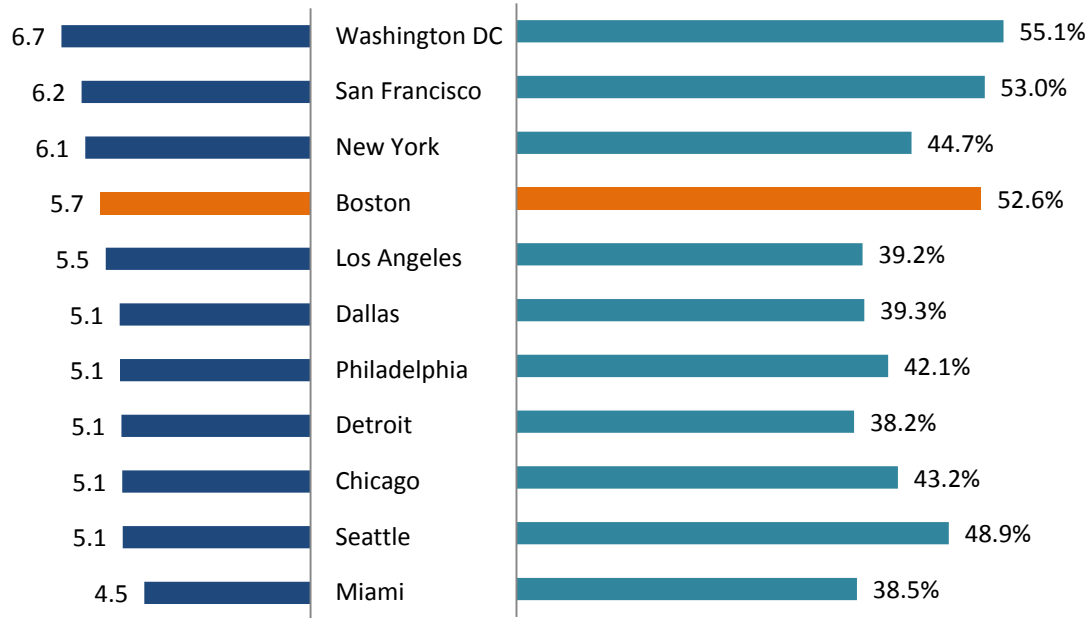


Income Ratio of 90<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> percentile





## Income Inequality / Economic Prosperity



Income Ratio of 90<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> percentile

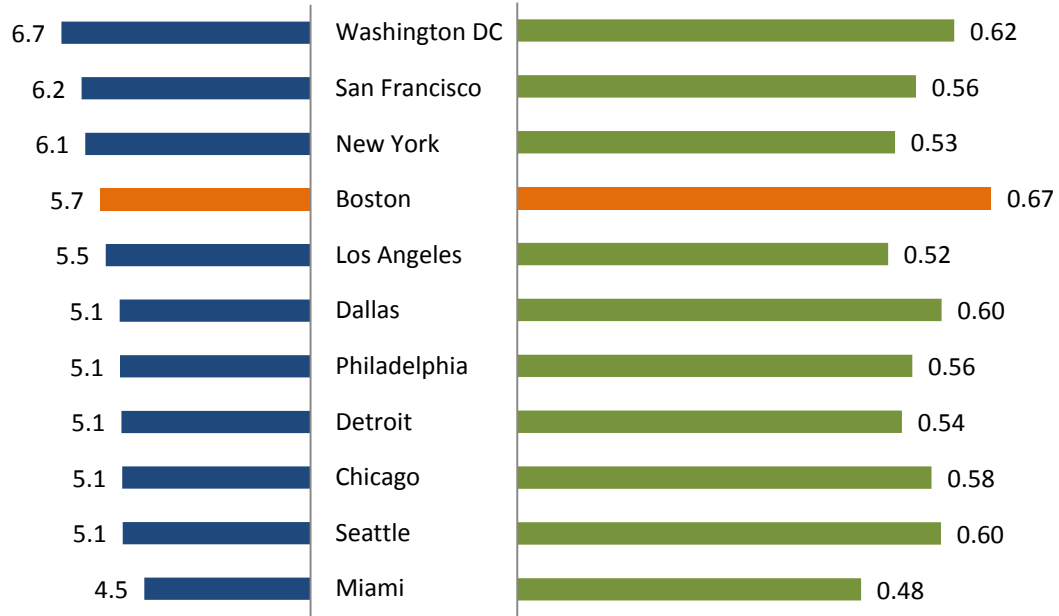
% Associate's or Higher







## Income Inequality / Economic Prosperity



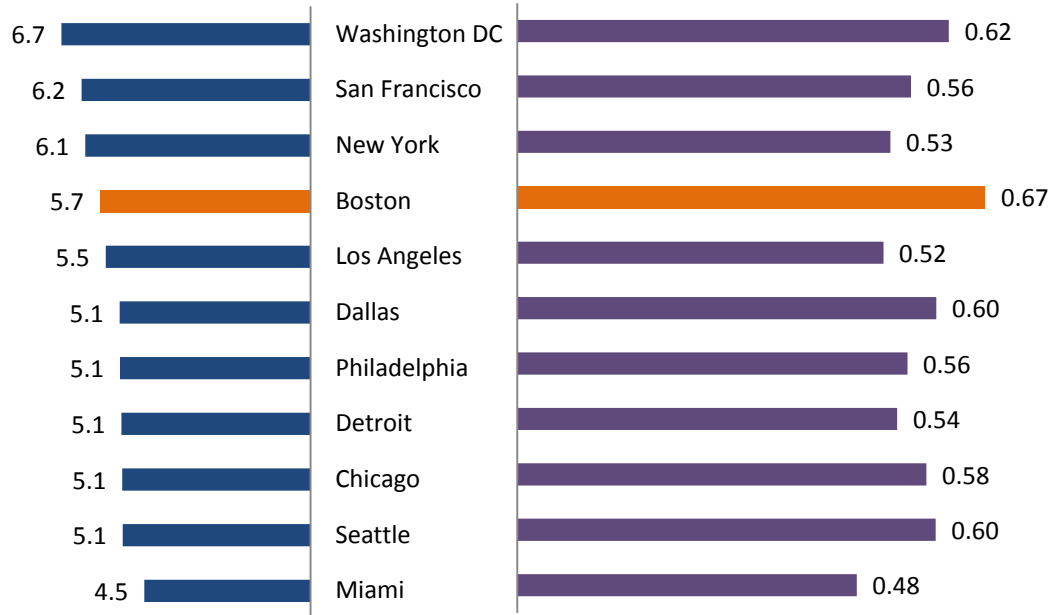
Income Ratio of 90<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> percentile

Employment to Population Ratio





## Income Inequality / Economic Prosperity



Income Ratio of 90<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> percentile

Employment to Population Ratio – 16 to 24 year olds



# EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT



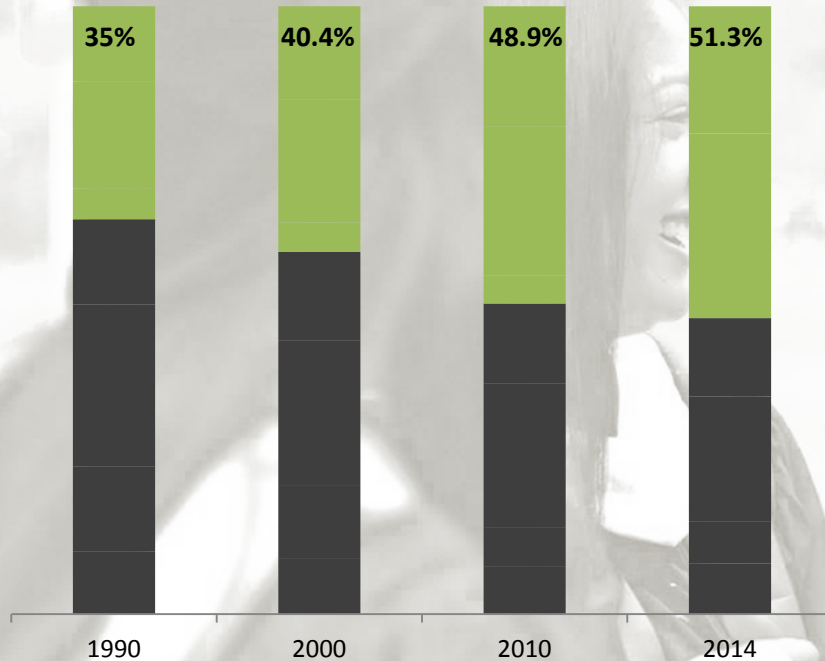
# EDUCATION & SKILLS





# EDUCATION & SKILLS – Key Indicator

SHARE OF ADULTS WITH AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR HIGHER



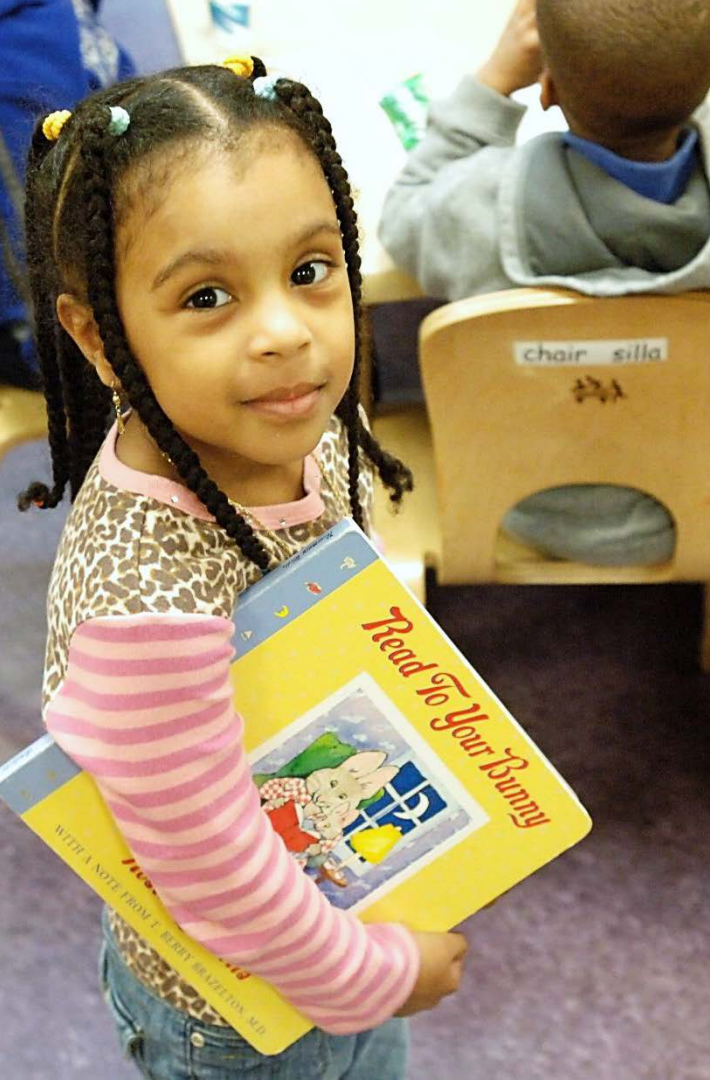
Source: 1990, 2000 Decennial Census; 2010, 2014 American Community Survey



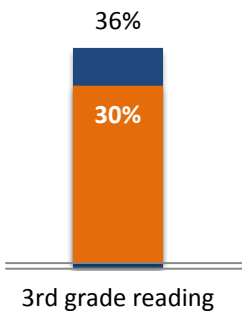
# EDUCATION & SKILLS







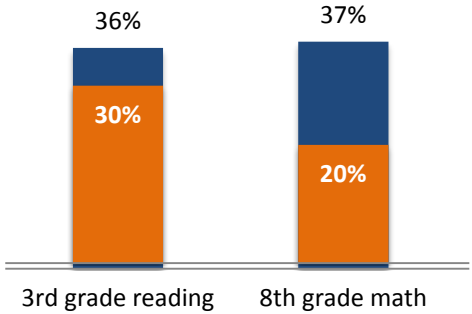
# Change in MCAS Proficiency Rates 2001 - 2014



Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

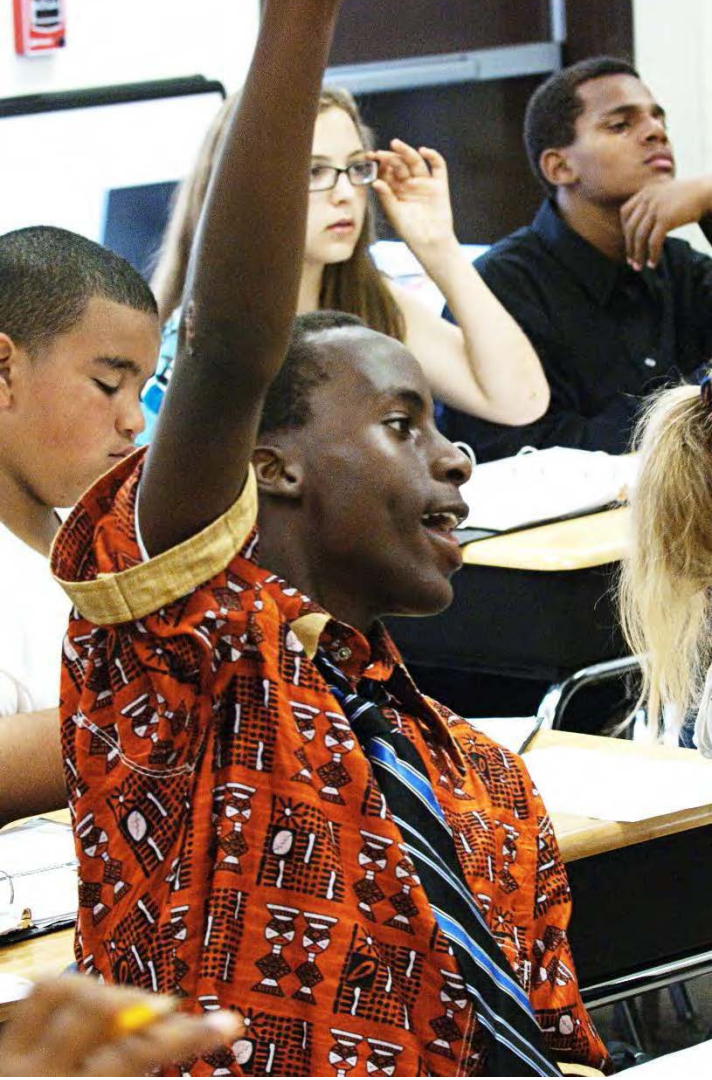


# Change in MCAS Proficiency Rates 2001 - 2014



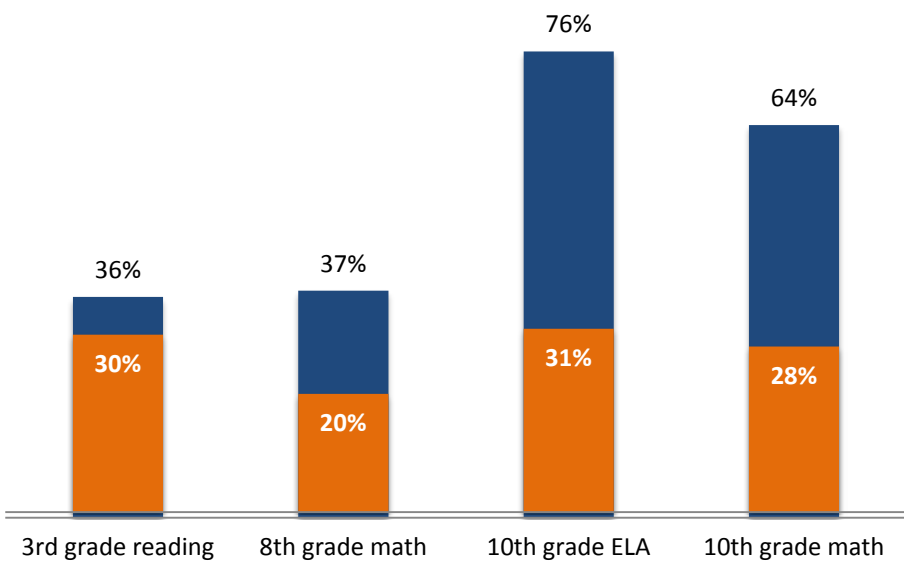
Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education



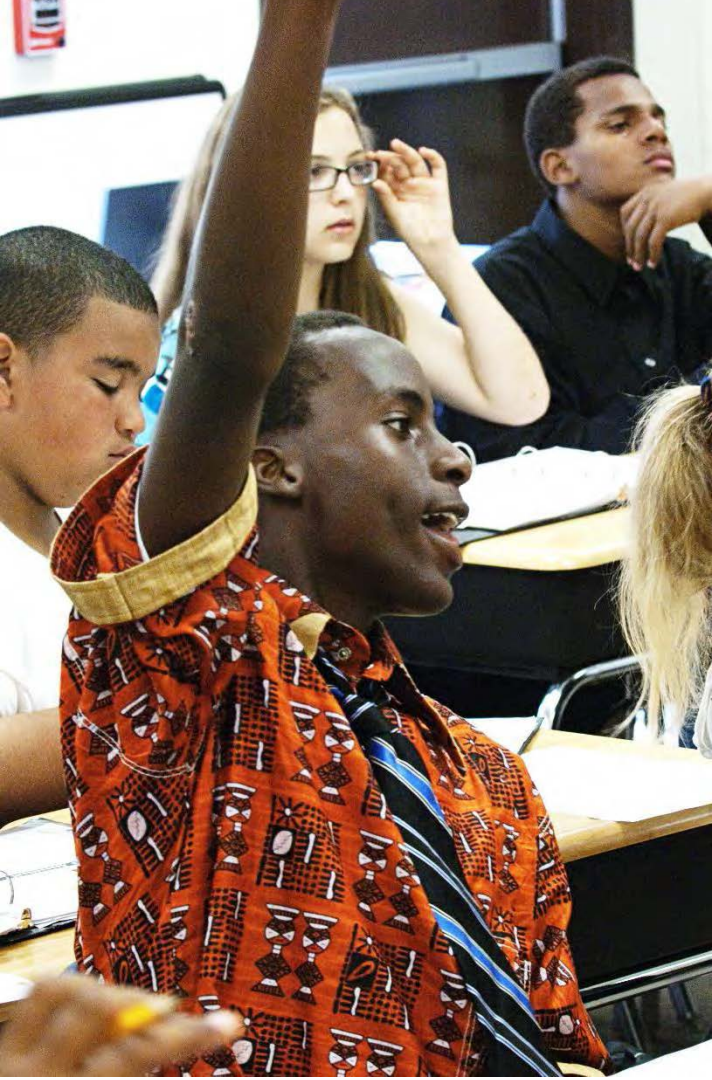


# Change in MCAS Proficiency Rates

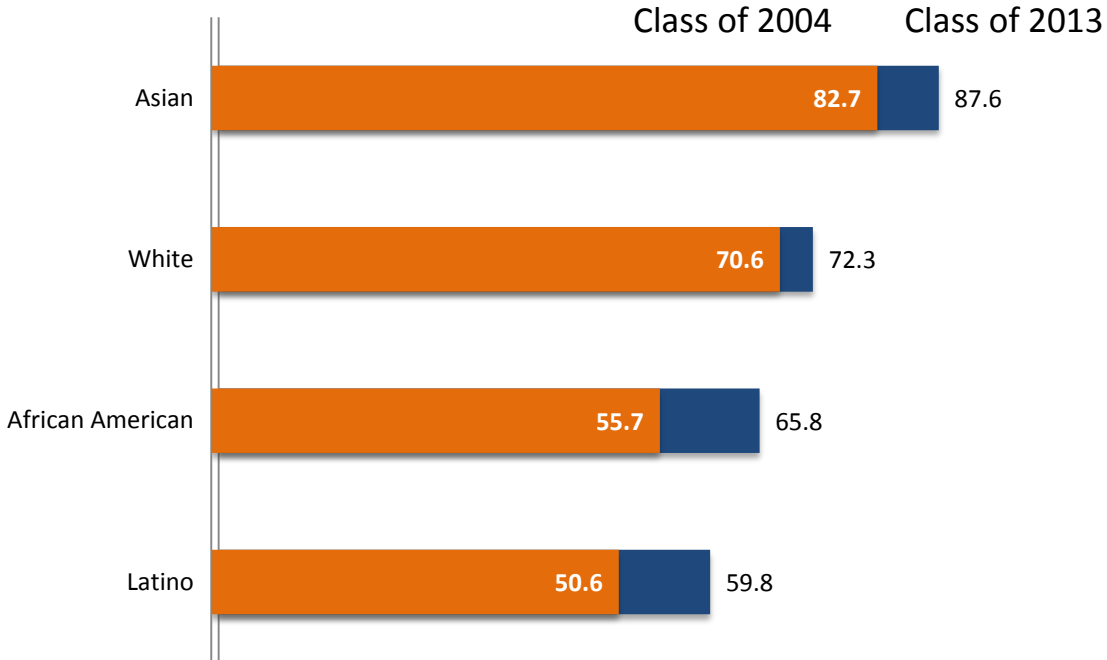
2001 - 2014



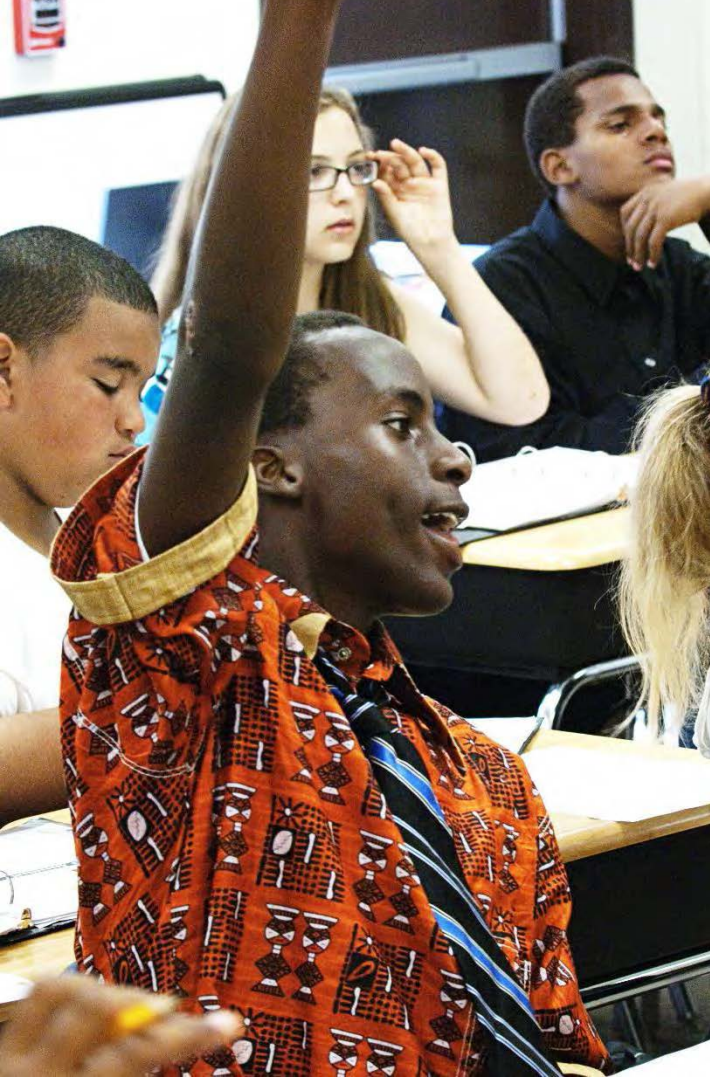
Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education



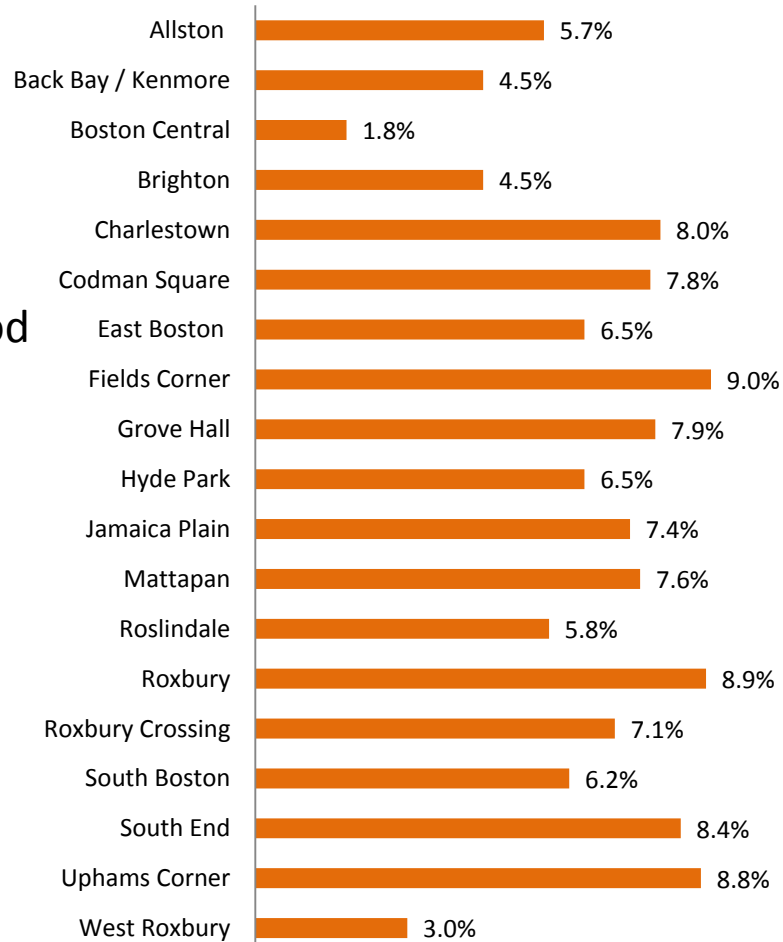
# BPS Four Year Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity 2006 & 2013



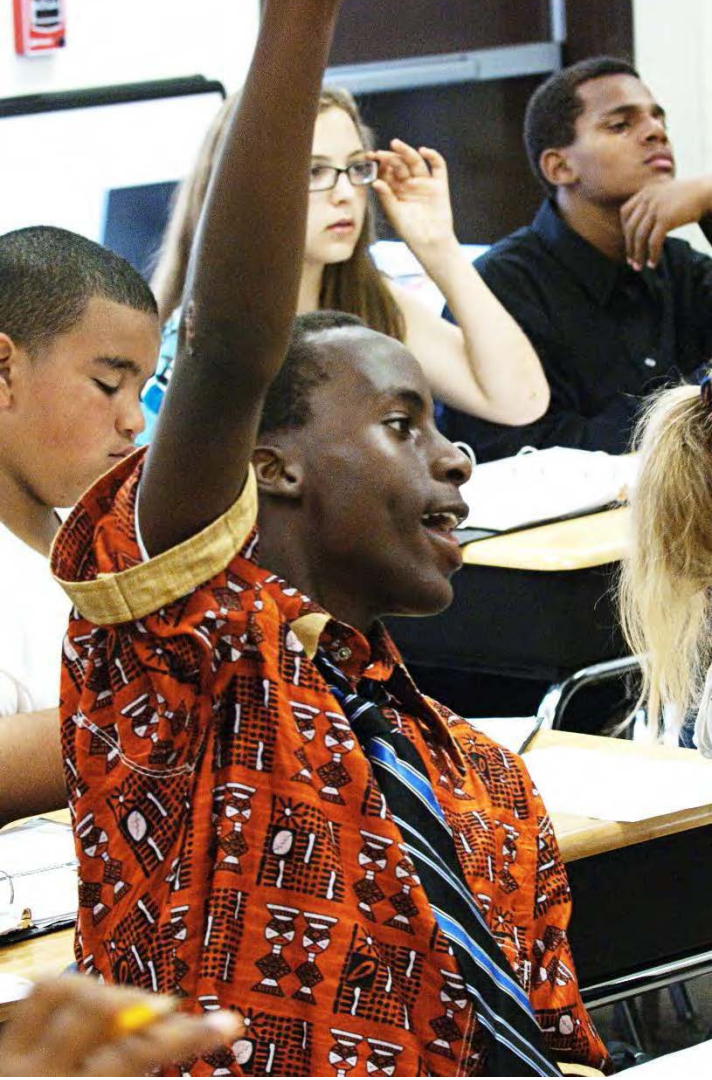
Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education



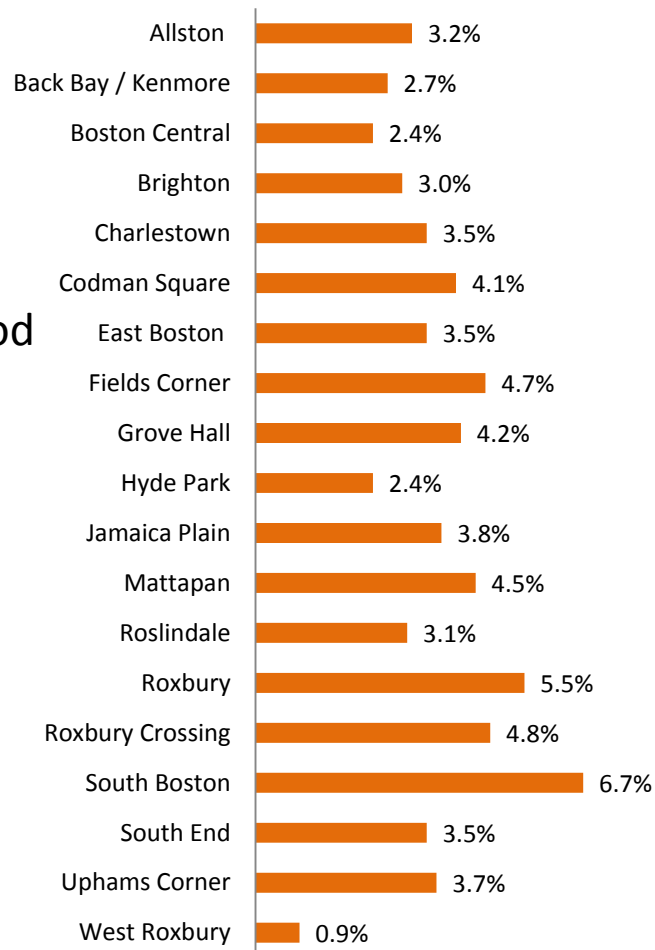
## BPS Annual Dropout Rate by Neighborhood 2008







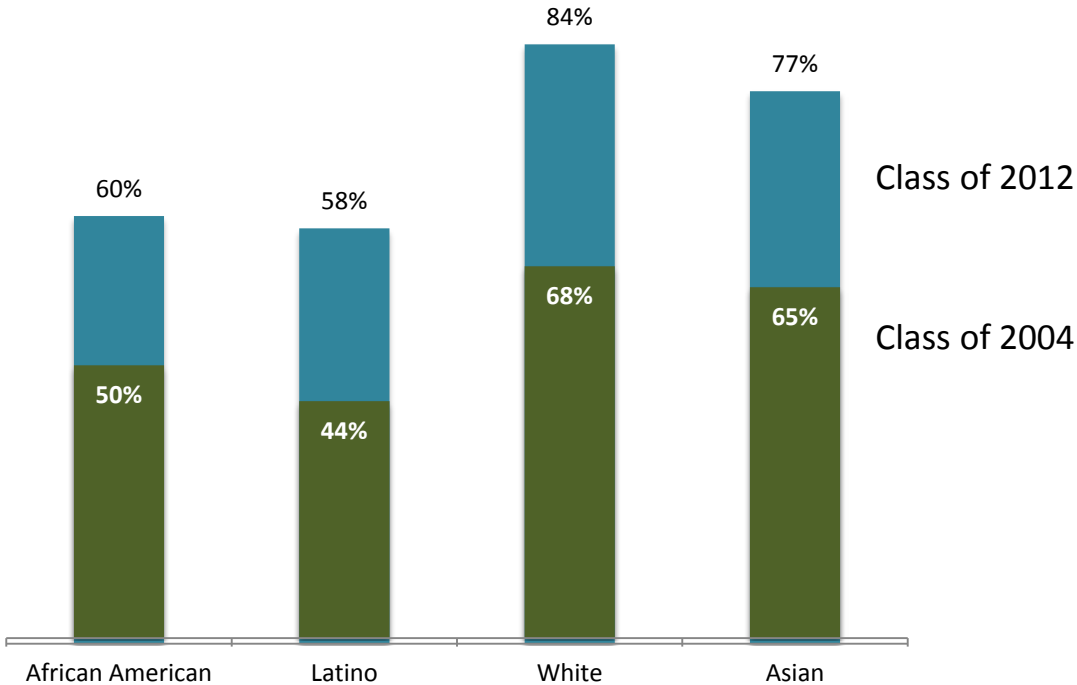
## BPS Annual Dropout Rate by Neighborhood 2014







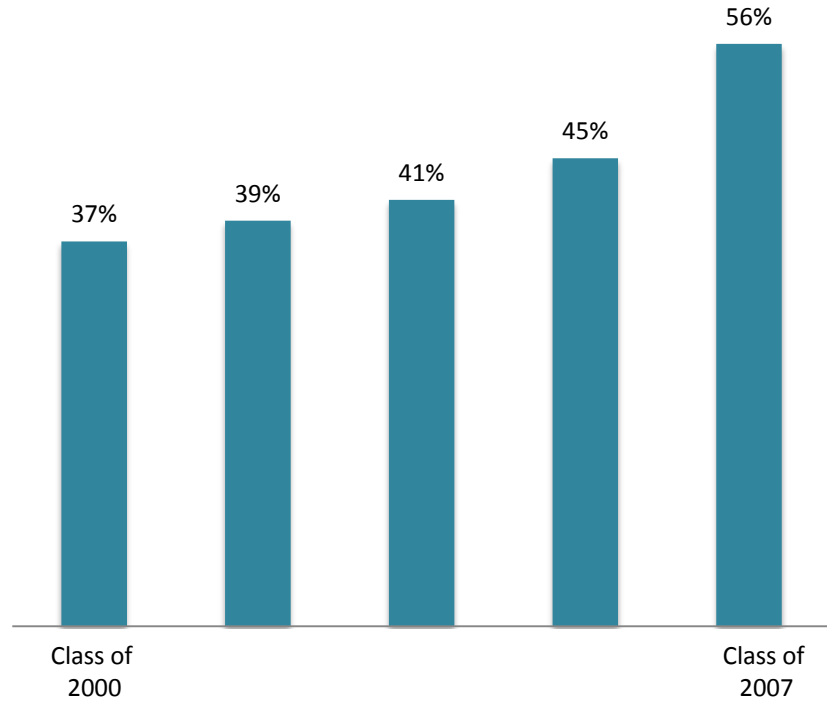
# BPS Graduates College Enrollment Rates 2004 - 2012



Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education



## Boston Public School Graduates' College Completion Classes of 2000 - 2007



Source: Success Boston



UNITED SOUTH END  
SETTLEMENTS

LISA FRASER

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

UNITED SOUTH END  
SETTLEMENTS

NADIA REZZOUK

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

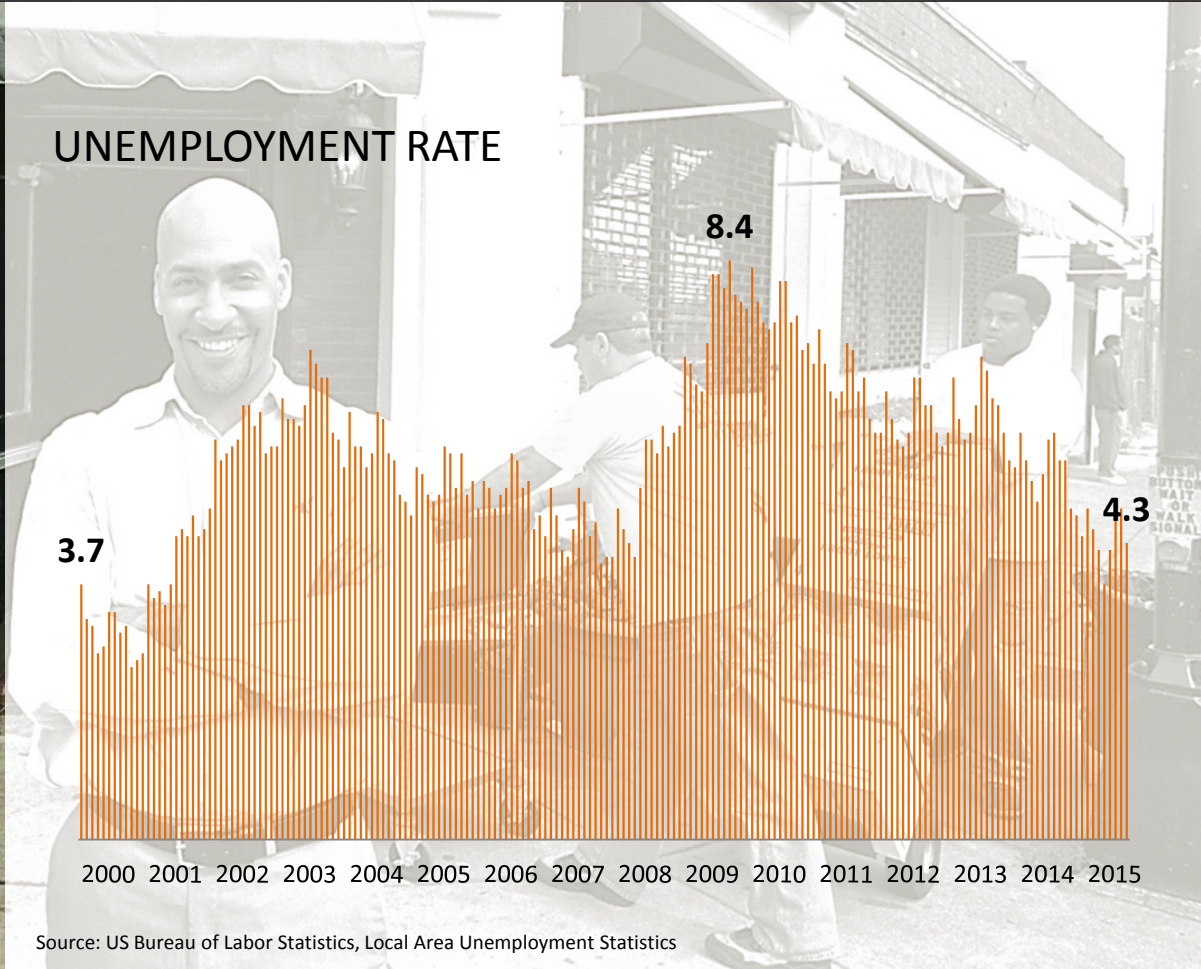


# JOBS & EMPLOYMENT





# JOBS & EMPLOYMENT – Key Indicator



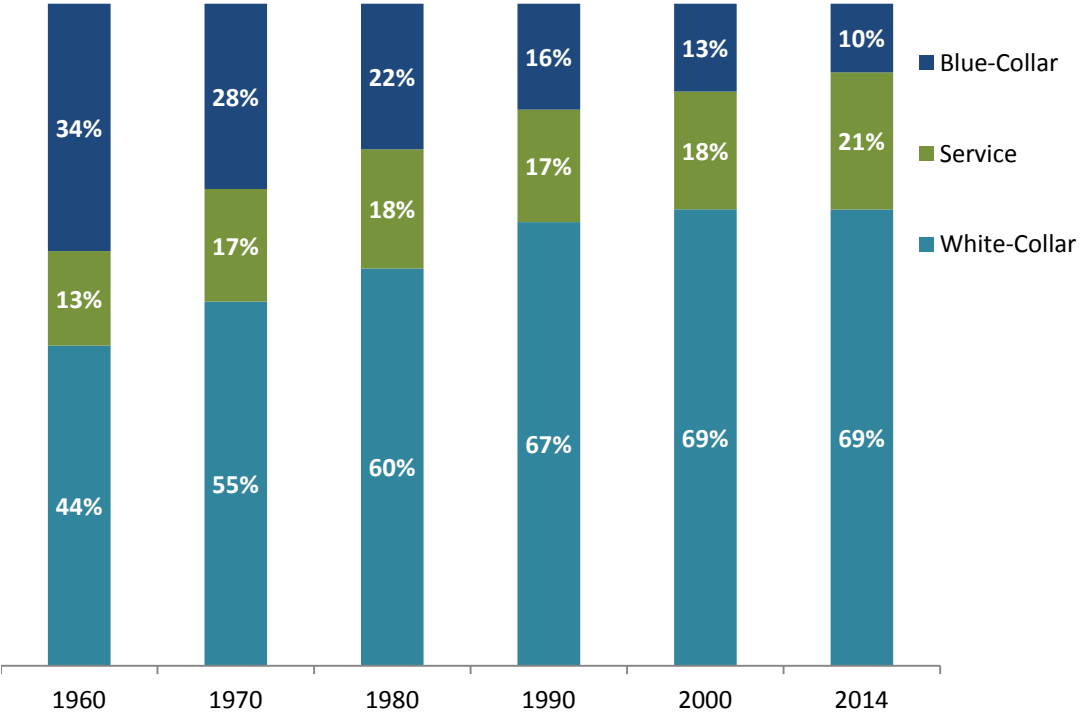
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

# JOBS & EMPLOYMENT





# Labor Market by Occupation

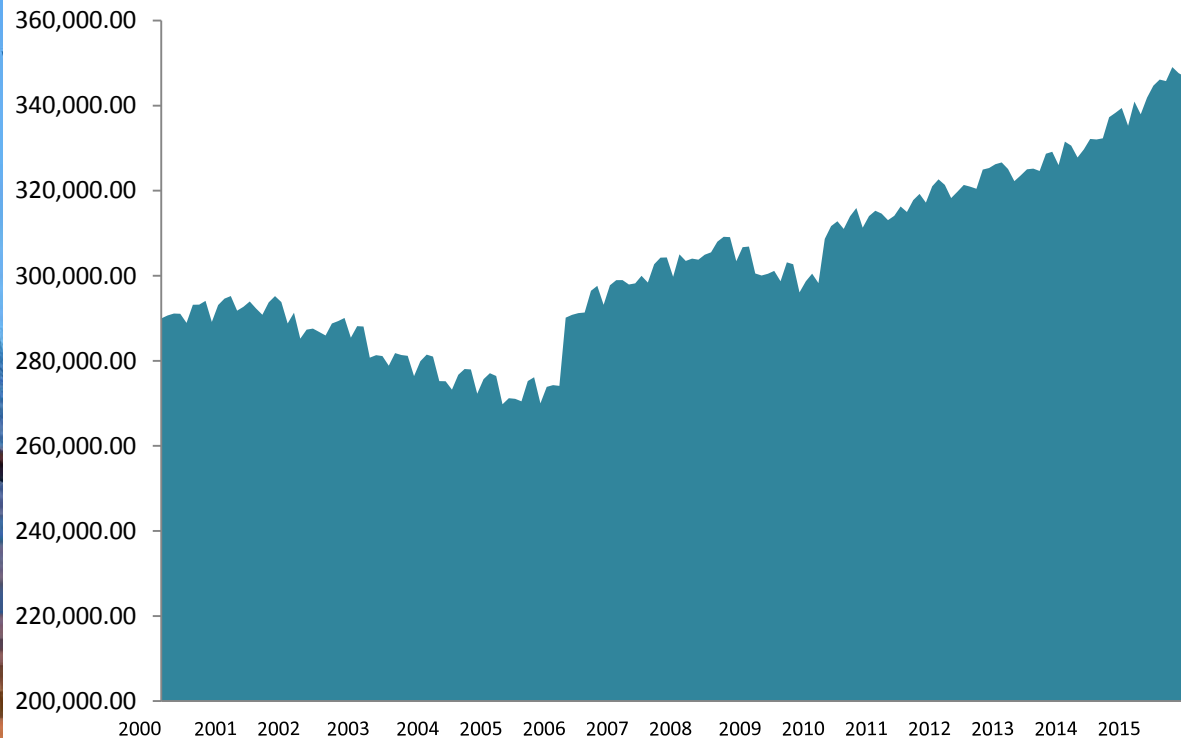


Source: 1960 – 2000 Decennial Census; 2010, 2014 American Community Survey





## Total Employment 2000 - 2015

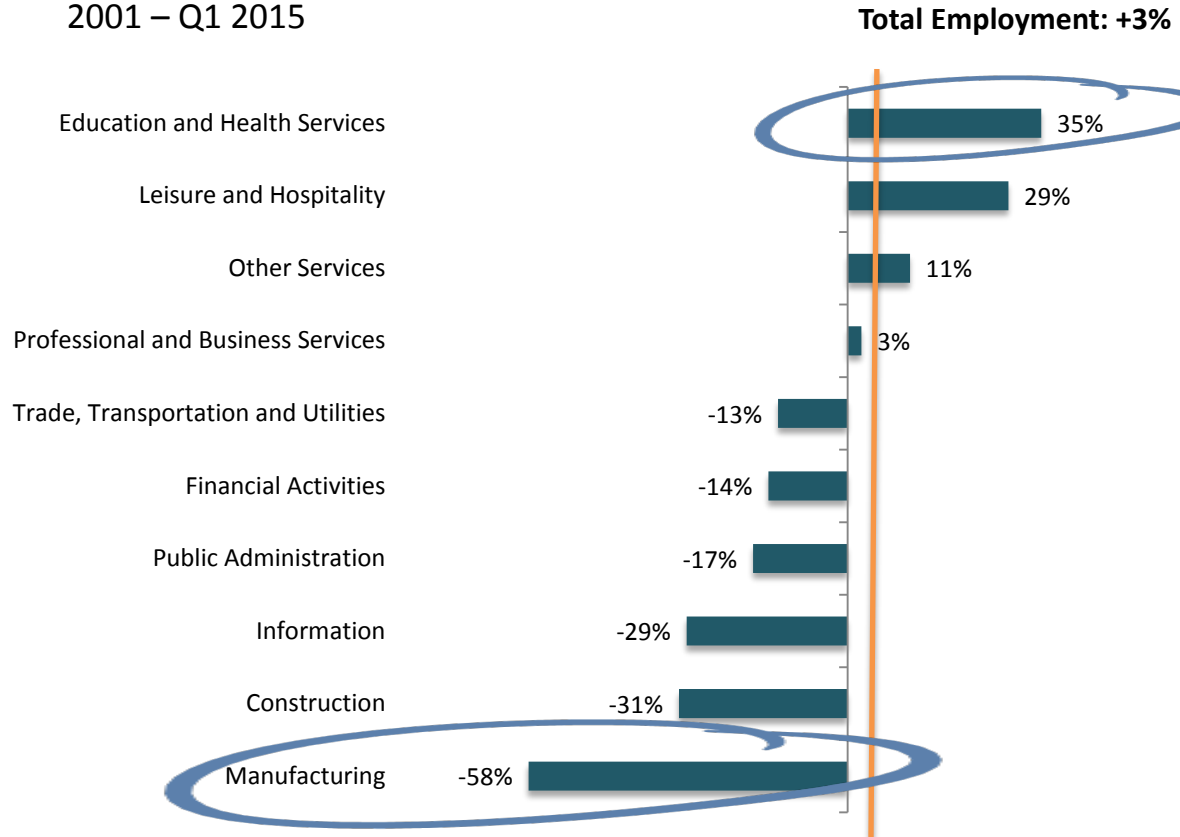


Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics





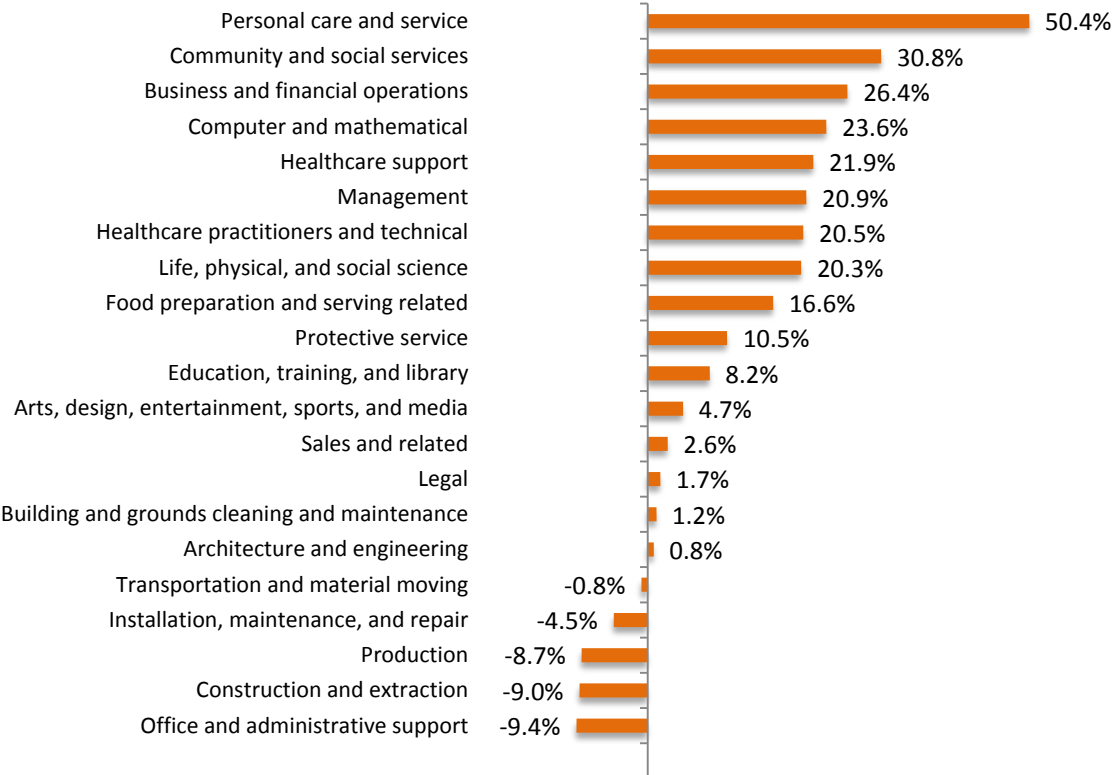
## Change in Employment by Industry 2001 – Q1 2015



Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development ES202



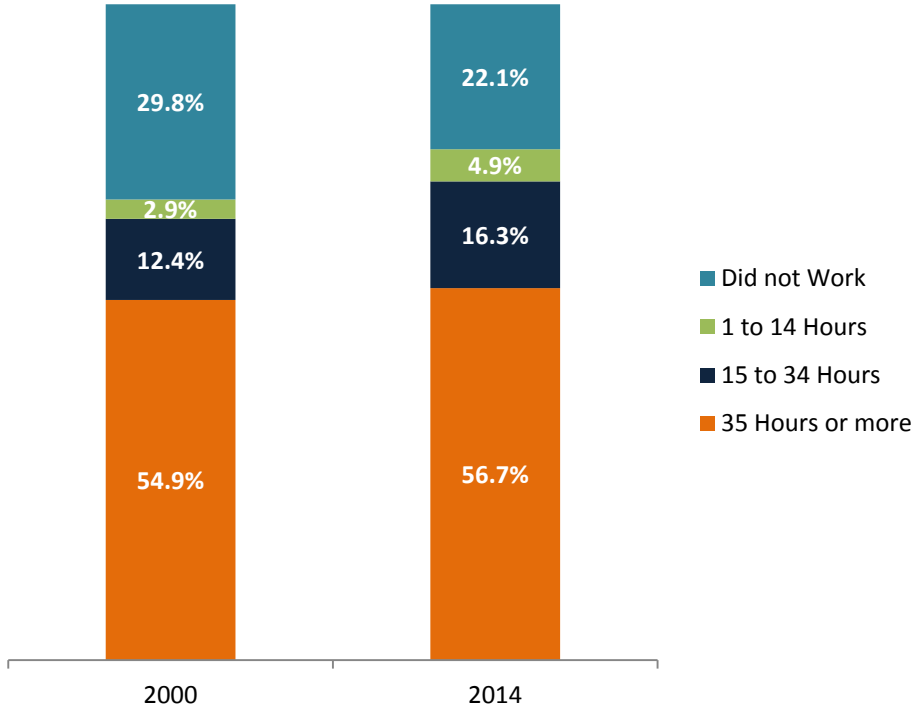
# Change in Employment by Occupation 2005 - 2014



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Boston MSA



# Work Experience by Weekly Hours Worked



Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey



# Work Experience by Weekly Hours Worked

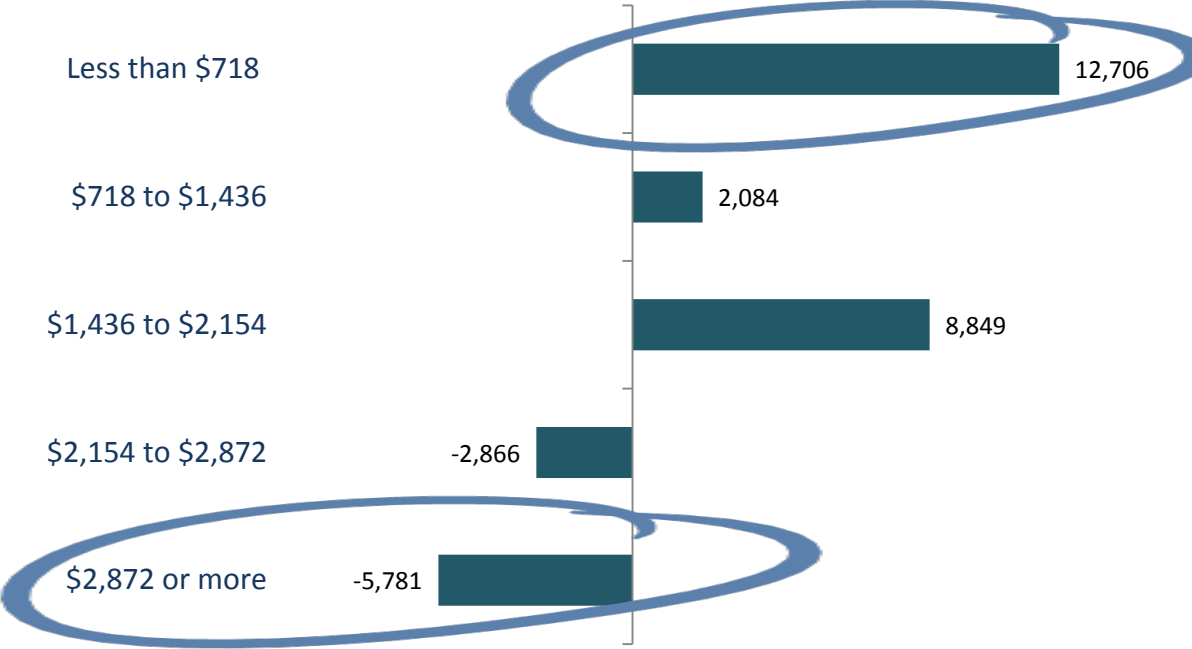


Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey





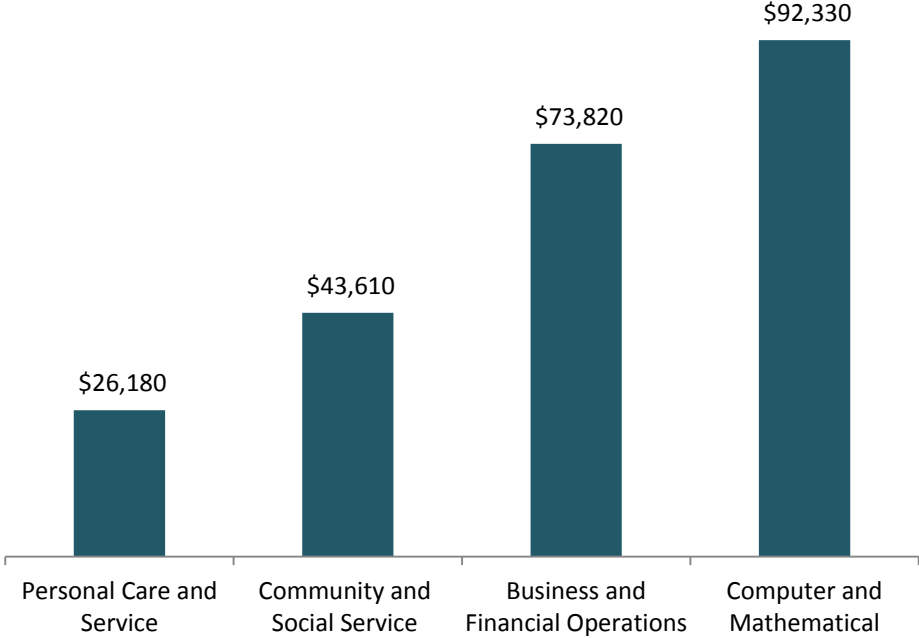
# Change in Employment by Average Weekly Wages 2008 & 2014



Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development ES202



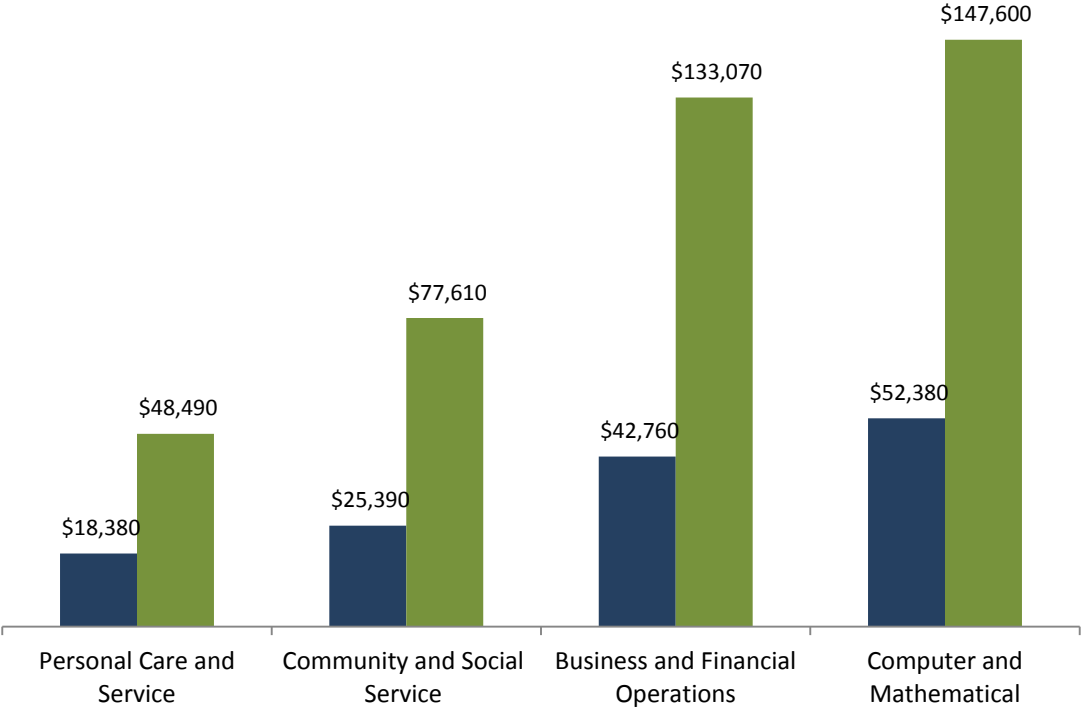
# Median Annual Earnings, Fast-Growing Occupations 2014



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Boston MSA



# Median Annual Earnings at 10<sup>th</sup> & 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile 2014



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Boston MSA

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY

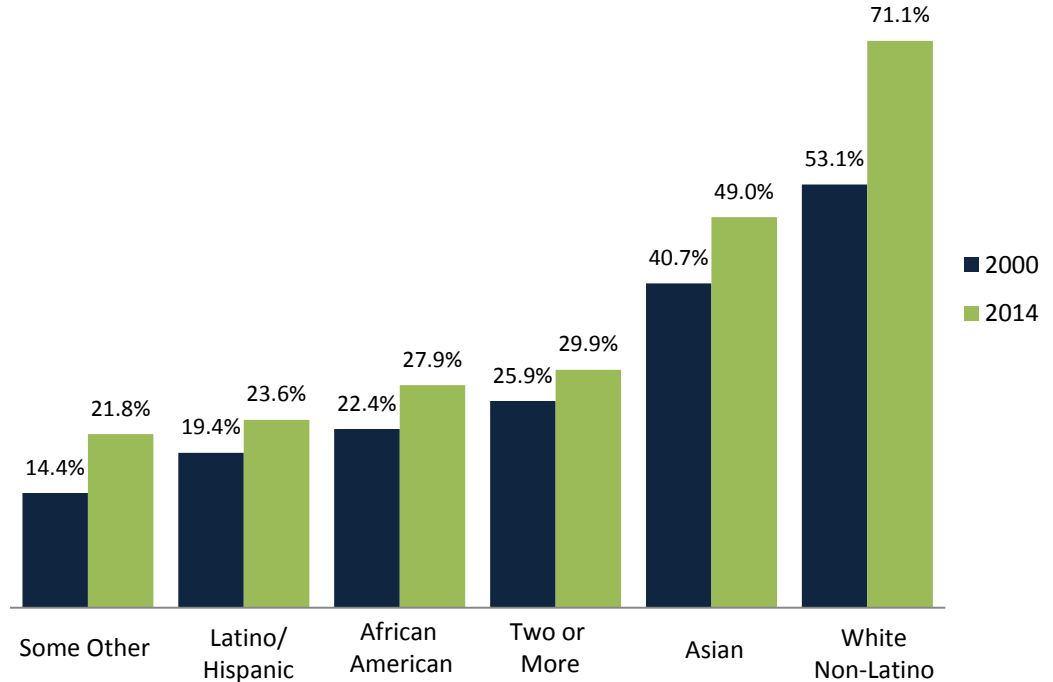




# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



Adults with and Associate's Degree or Higher  
by Race/Ethnicity  
2000 & 2014



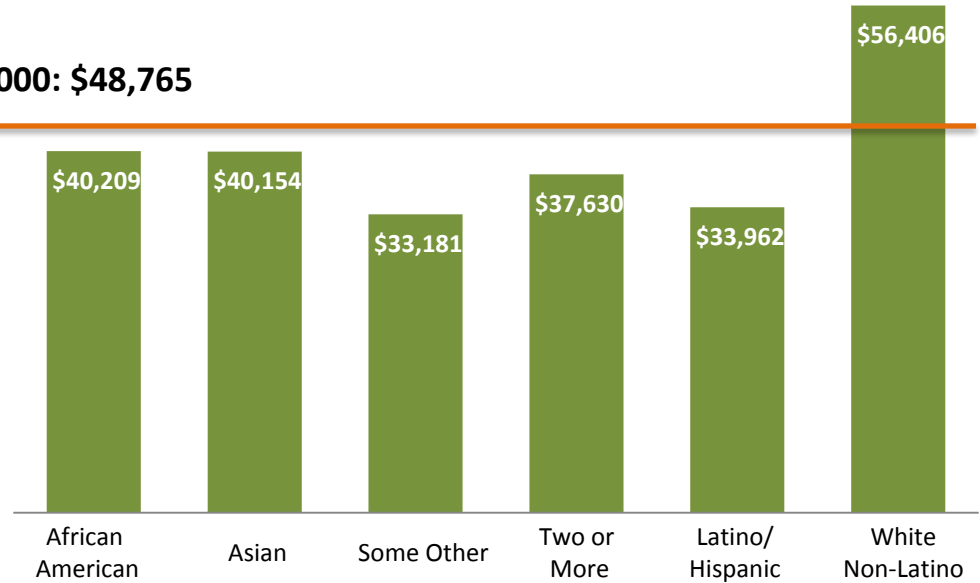
Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## Median Earnings for Full Time Workers 2000 & 2014

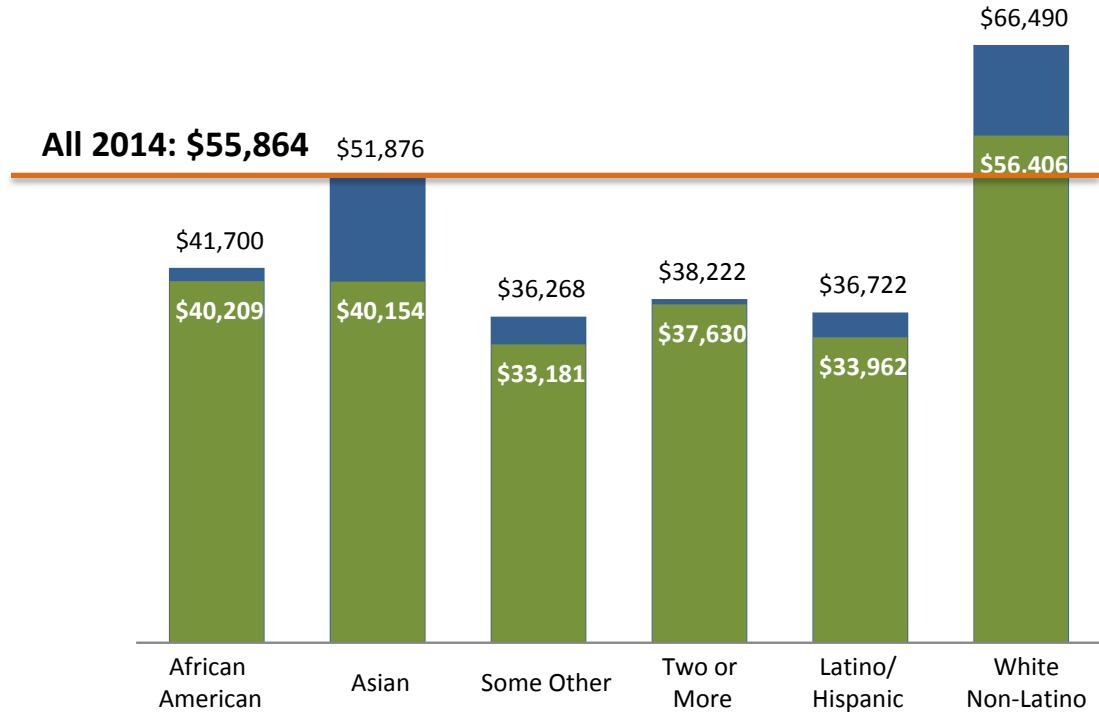
All 2000: \$48,765



# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## Median Earnings for Full Time Workers 2000 & 2014

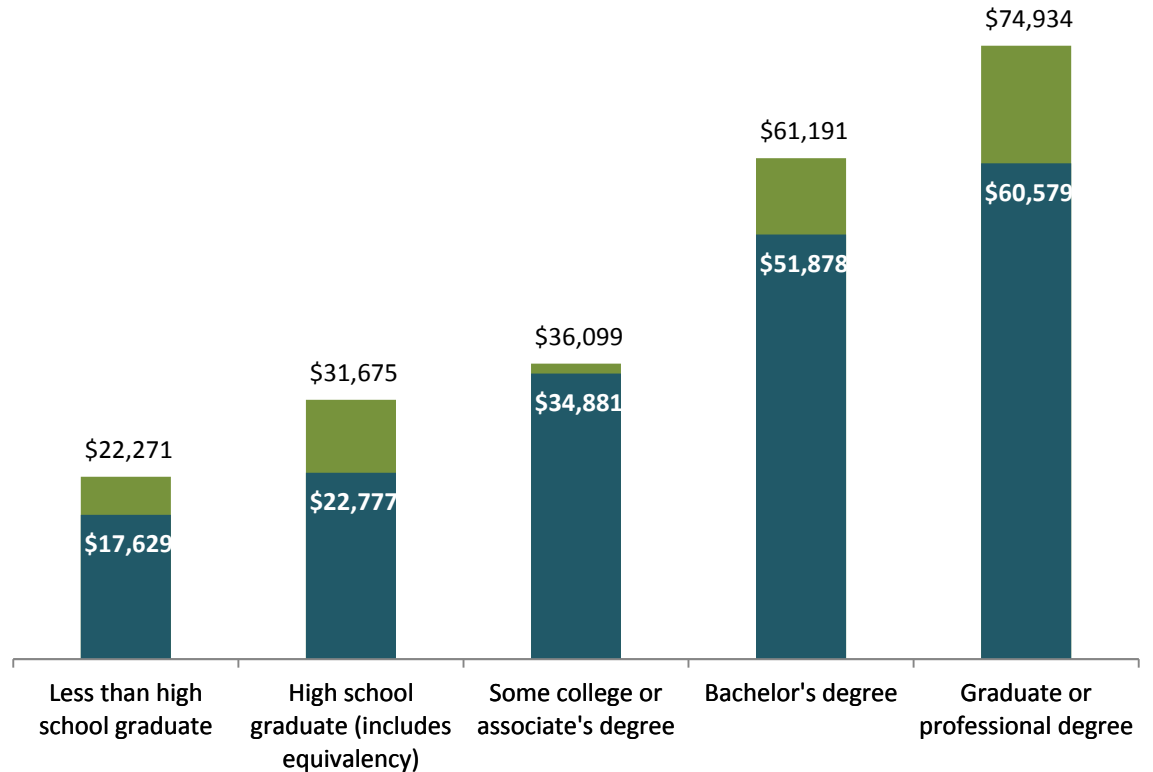


Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



Median Earnings for Full Time Workers – gender gap  
2014



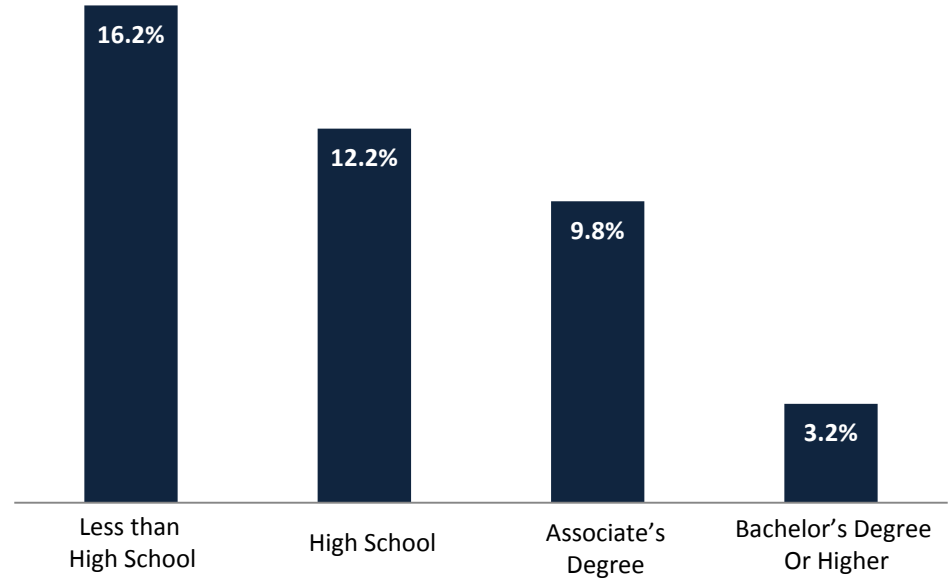
Source: 2014 American Community Survey



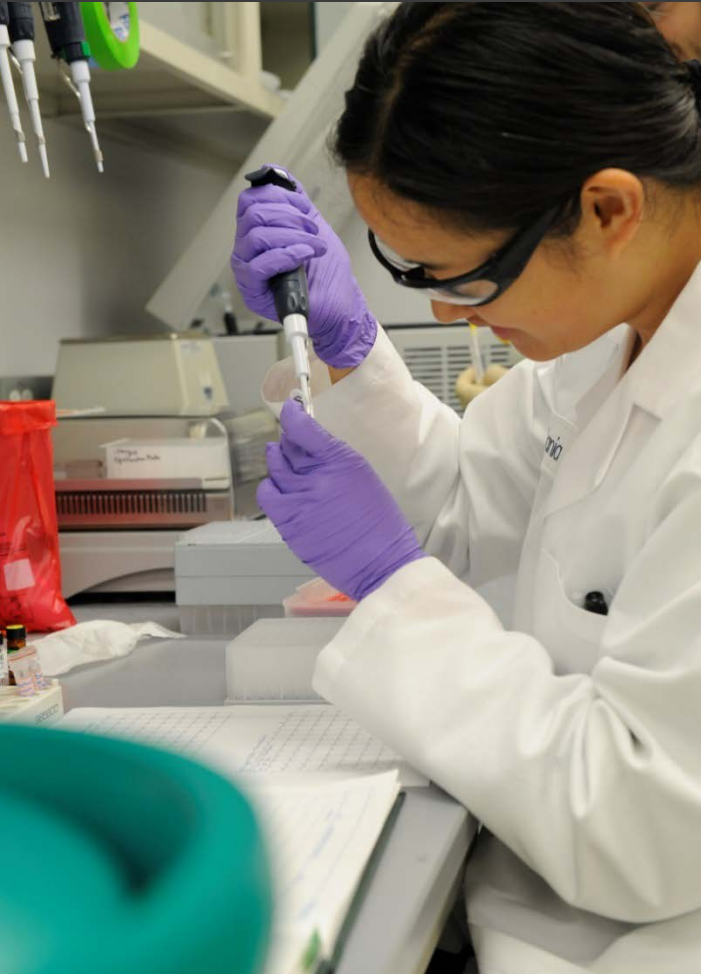
# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



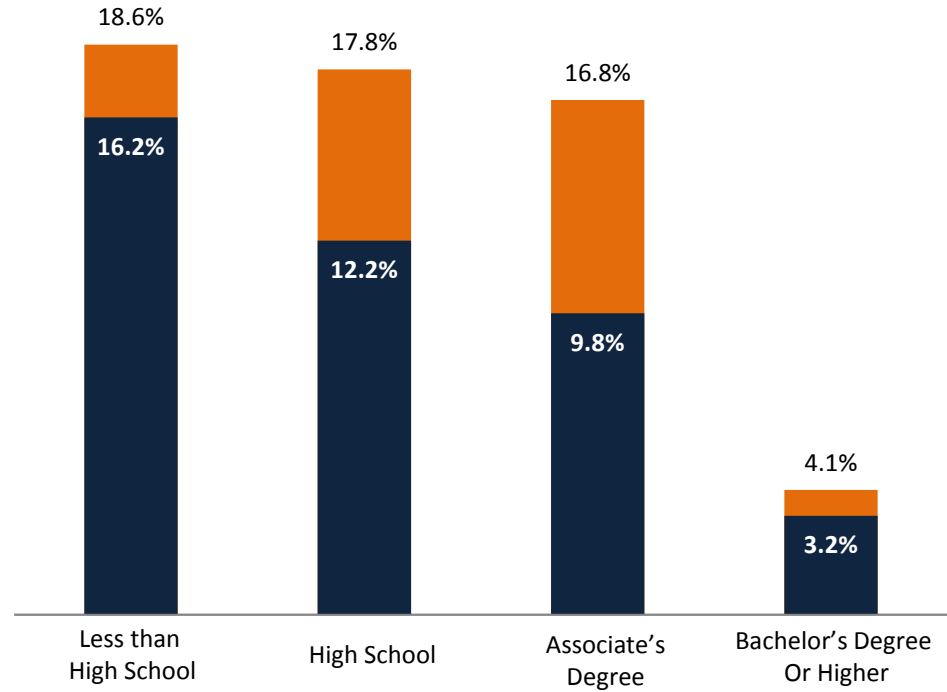
Unemployment by Educational Attainment  
2000 & 2014



# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



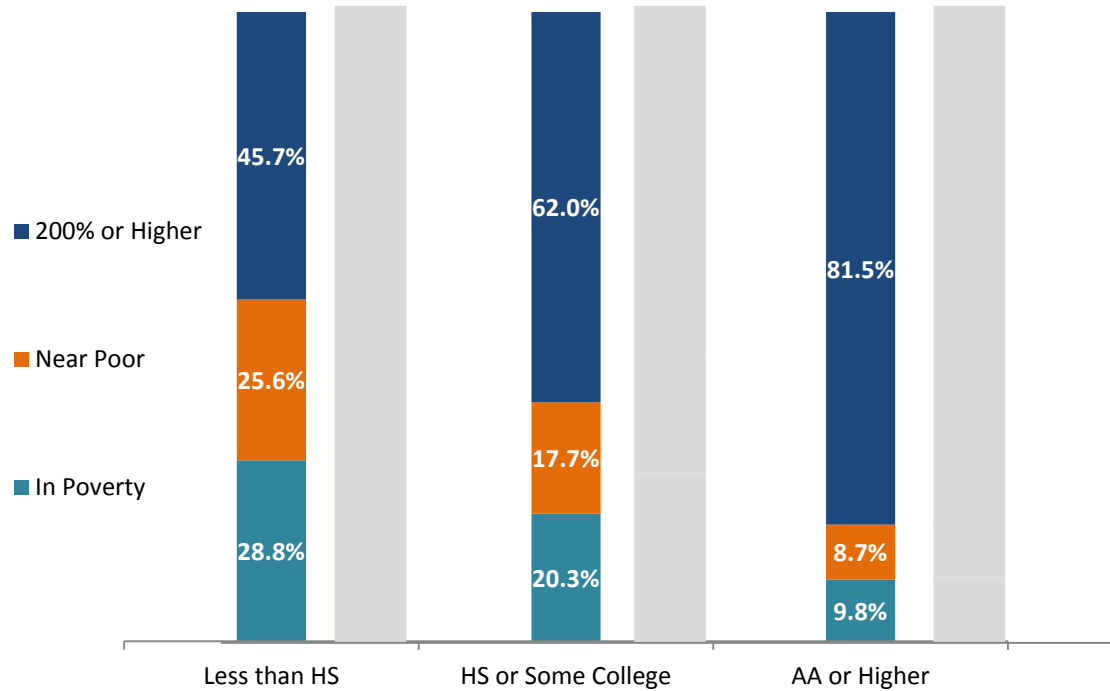
Unemployment by Educational Attainment  
2000 & 2014



# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## Poverty & Economic Security by Educational Attainment 2000

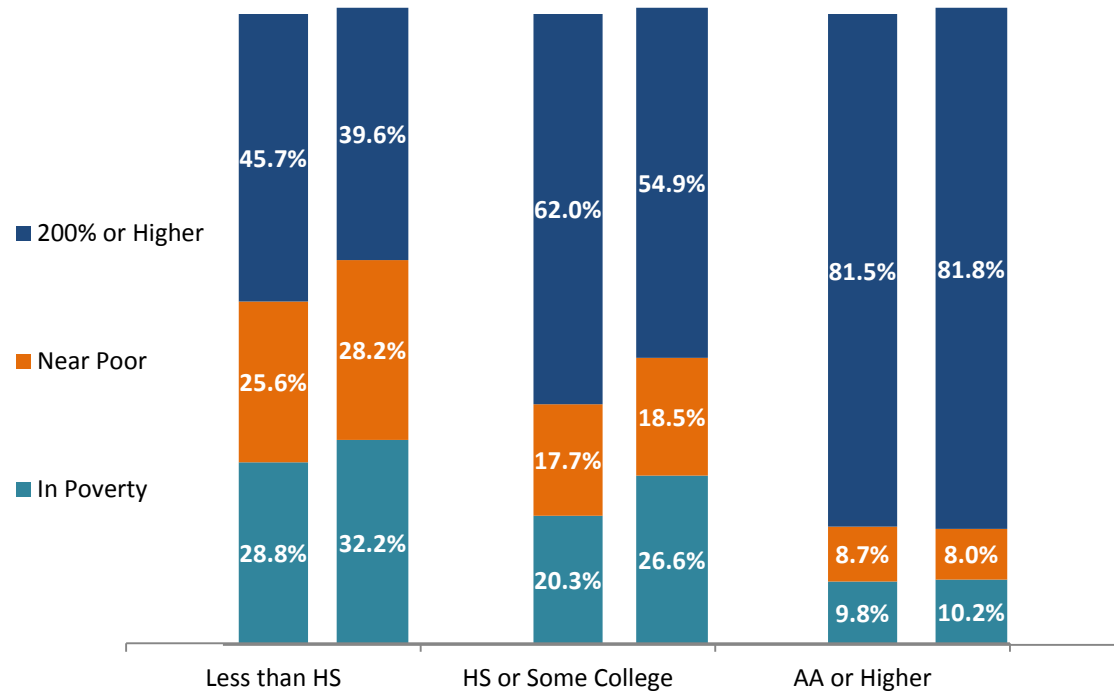


Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Data

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## Poverty & Economic Security by Educational Attainment 2000 & 2014



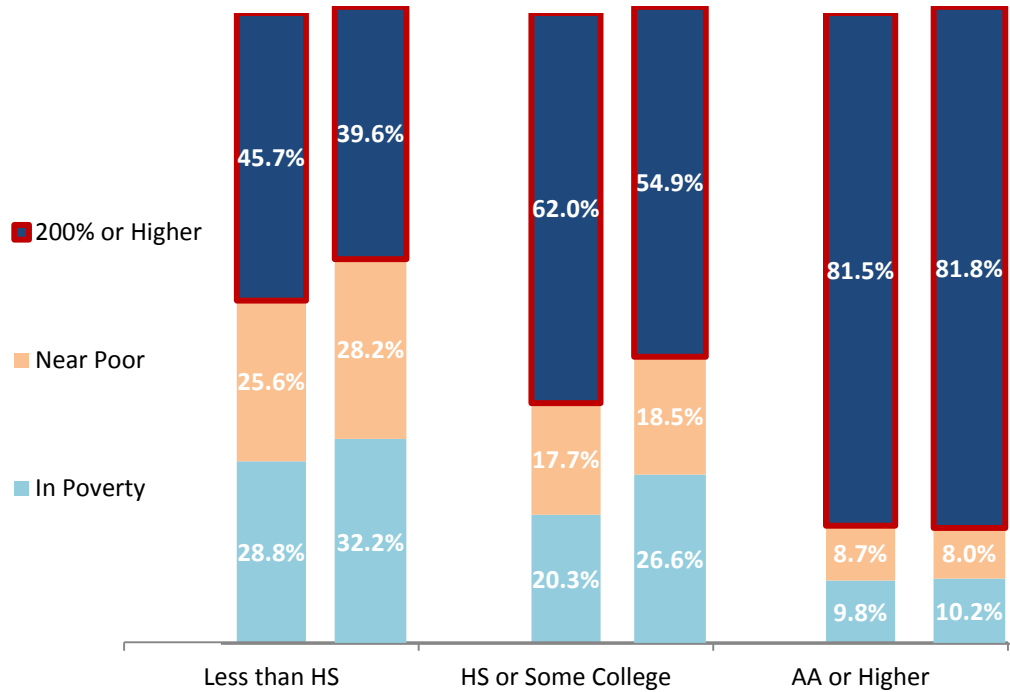
Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Data



# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## Poverty & Economic Security by Educational Attainment 2000 & 2014

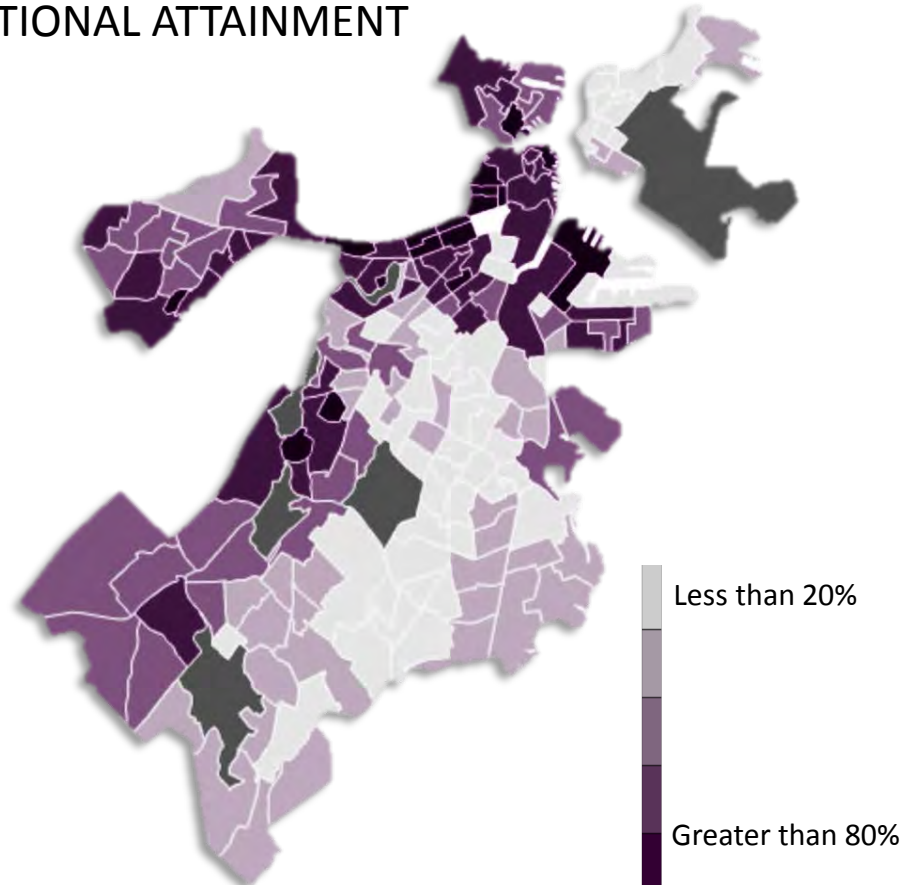


Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2014 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Data

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

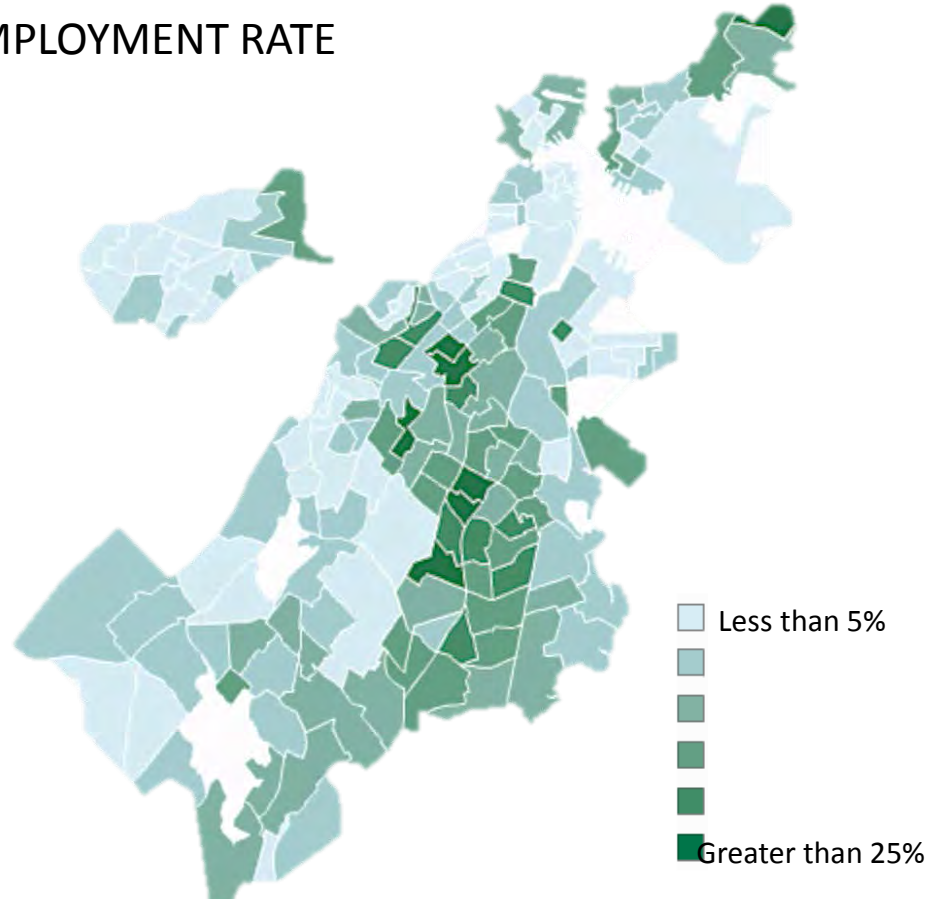


Source: American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year estimates

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



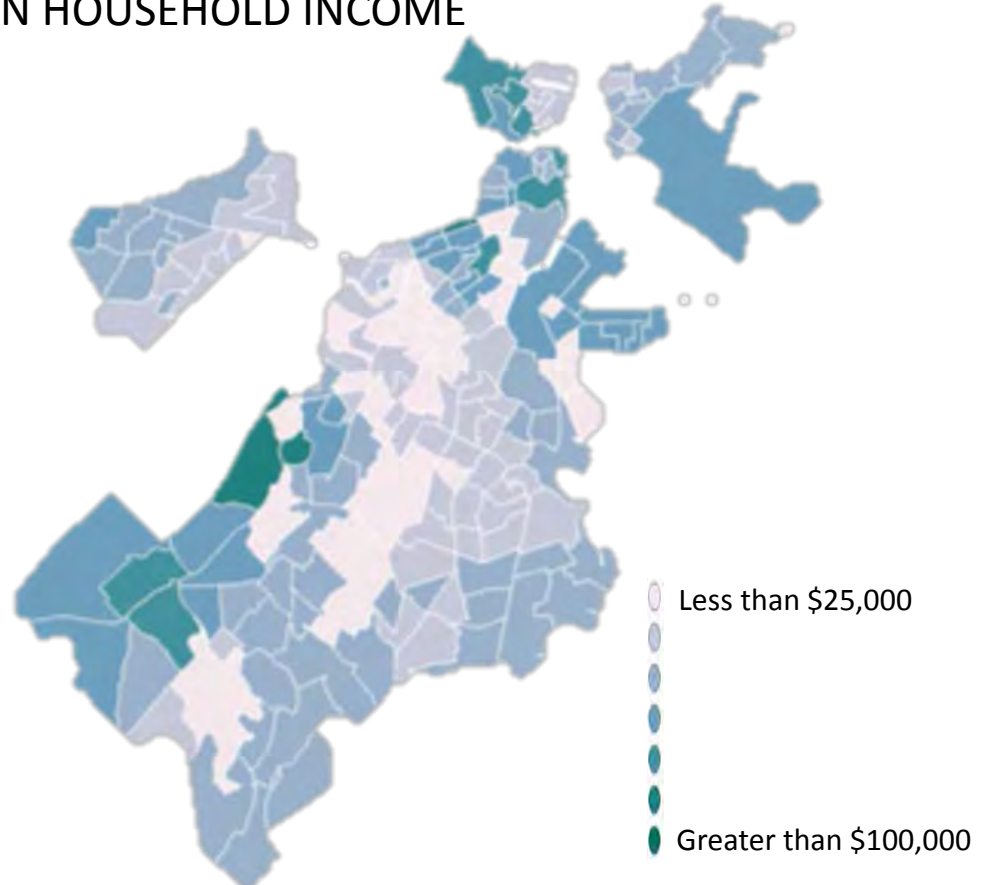
Source: American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year estimates



# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



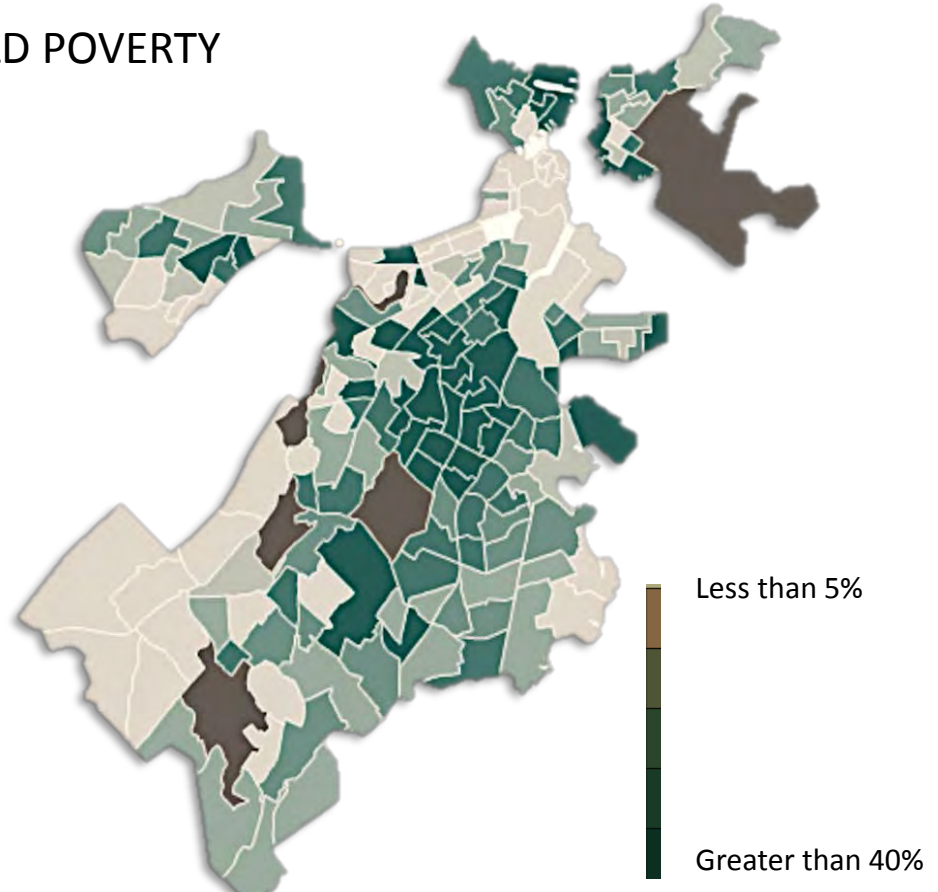
Source: American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year estimates



# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



## CHILD POVERTY

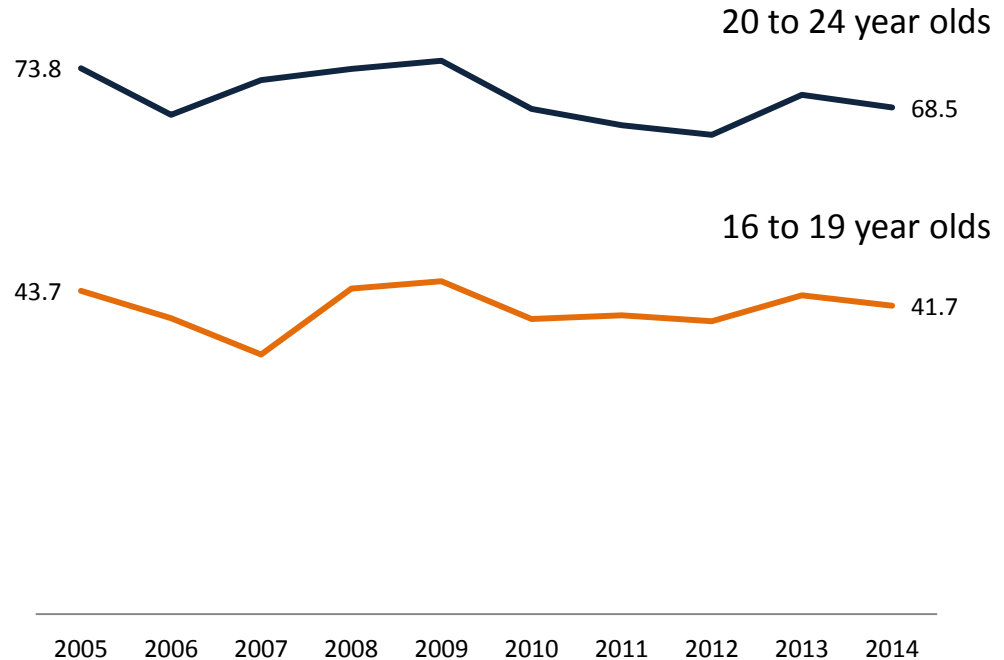


Source: American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year estimates

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



Young Adult Labor Force Participation Rate  
2005 - 2014

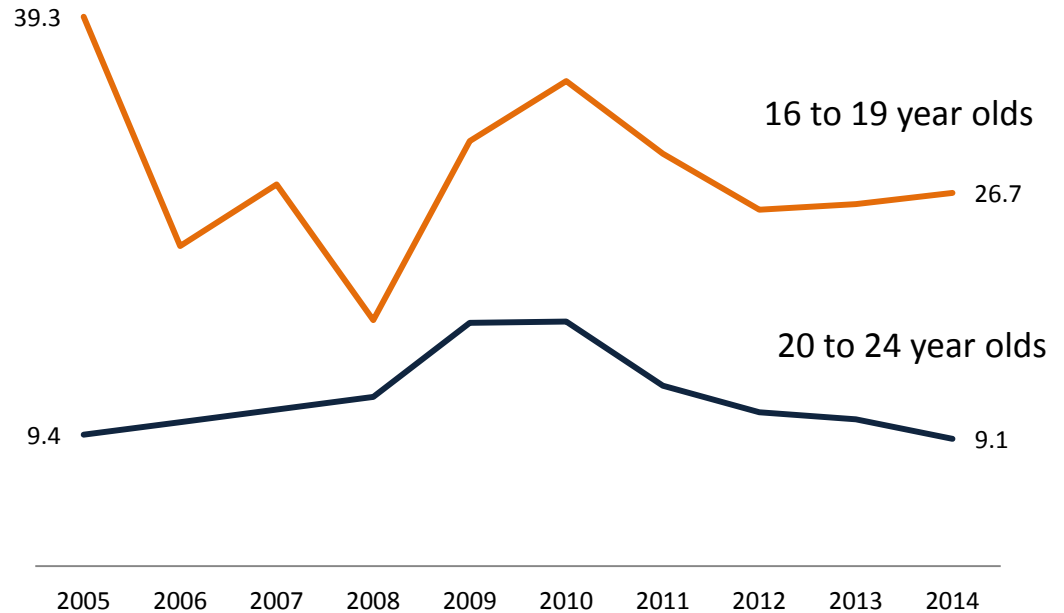


Source: 2005 - 2014 American Community Survey

# INEQUALITY - OPPORTUNITY



Young Adult Unemployment Rate  
2005 - 2014



Source: 2005 - 2014 American Community Survey





  
YouthBuild Boston

  
YouthBuild Boston

PYC





DATA GAPS: *adult education, workforce, longitudinal data, missing topics*



**DATA GAPS:** *adult education, workforce, longitudinal data, missing topics*

**BARRIERS:** *cost of education, student debt, cliff effect, proximity to jobs*



**DATA GAPS:** *adult education, workforce, longitudinal data, missing topics*

**BARRIERS:** *cost of education, student debt, cliff effect, proximity to jobs*

**ASSETS:** *higher education, workforce training, public/private partnerships*





**DATA GAPS:** *adult education, workforce, longitudinal data, missing topics*

**BARRIERS:** *cost of education, student debt, cliff effect, proximity to jobs*

**ASSETS:** *higher education, workforce training, public/private partnerships*

**ON THE HORIZON:** *minimum wage, family leave, benefits*



# The Measure of Opportunity

SEPTEMBER 22: *BIERTH & EARLY CHILDHOOD*

OCTOBER 28: *EDUCATION, SKILLS, JOBS & EMPLOYMENT*

**NOVEMBER 19: *INCOME, INEQUALITY & NEIGHBORHOODS***

*tbf.org/opportunity*



# The Measure of Opportunity



