



# New Bostonians Demographic Report



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# **New Bostonians' Demographic Report**

## **Executive Summary**

The *New Bostonians' Demographic Report* seeks to provide a better understanding of the city's immigrant communities. Information on New Bostonians is not easy to gather because most data on immigrants are not categorized as such. This report compiles available information on New Bostonians from a number of sources. It is not an in depth study of specific immigrant communities, but provides a general overview of New Bostonians to enable Boston residents, organizations, city departments, and individuals to learn more about the New Bostonian community, their contributions and the important roles they play in the city of Boston.

The information in this report was gathered through various sources. However, most of the information is derived from to the 2000 Census, unless otherwise stated. The New Bostonian's Demographic Report includes some state and national information while concentrating on findings for the city of Boston.

Below is a summary of the various topics and key findings explored in the *New Bostonians' Demographic Report*. These topics include general demographics, Boston's neighborhoods, English proficiency, immigrant labor contributions, immigrants as an economic booster, immigrant youth, and citizenship and voting trends

### **General Demographics:**

As of 2000, 28.4 million immigrants lived in the United States, a 43% increase since 1990. The percentage of immigrants, 10.4% nationally is the highest percentage in 70 years. On the state level, Massachusetts has the 7<sup>th</sup> largest immigrant population with a total of 772,983 (12.2%) immigrants. Locally, Boston has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of immigrant residents among the 23 largest U.S. cities. As of 2000, more than 25% of Boston's population is foreign-born. The fastest growing communities are Latino and Asian. The top 10 countries of origin of these new Bostonians are Haiti, Dominican Republic, China, Vietnam, El Salvador, Cape Verde, Jamaica, Ireland, Colombia, and Brazil. Due to the diverse origins of these immigrants, more than 140 languages are spoken in Boston.

### **Boston's Diverse Neighborhoods:**

All of the Boston neighborhoods have experienced an increase in diversity and in the numbers of New Bostonians. The neighborhoods that have experienced the most dramatic change in the last 20 years are: East Boston, Roslindale, Allston/Brighton, Hyde Park, and Dorchester. For example, East Boston's non-white population grew from 4% to 50% from 1980 to 2000.

### **Boston's Multilingual Richness and English Proficiency:**

Boston speaks 140 languages. Only 66.6 % of Boston residents speak only English. The other most spoken languages include Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Portuguese/Cape Verdean Creole, Vietnamese and French.

According to the 2000 Census, 46,000 Boston residents speak English less than well. Every neighborhood in Boston has at least 1-10% of adults who speak English as a second language. In 2004, there are at least 3,500 people waiting to get into English

classes in the city of Boston. These numbers represent a 6-month to 3-year wait to get into an ESOL class.

### **Immigrant Youth:**

Nearly one-quarter of all Massachusetts children are either immigrants or the children of immigrants. In Boston Public Schools, 54.5% of students speak English only. As of 2004, 20% of Boston's schoolchildren speak a language other than English in their homes. Additionally, there are over 10,000 students in programs for English Language Learners in Boston Public Schools.

### **Immigrant Labor Contributions:**

Immigrants fill both the high-skill and low-skill jobs of the labor market. According to Mass Inc., immigrants have accounted for 82% of Massachusetts' labor growth since the mid-1980s. Nationally, new immigrants made up more than half of the growth of the nation's entire civilian workforce between 1990 and 2001. According to ex-Congressman Steve Gunderson, the retirement of the baby boomers will cause a discrepancy between labor supply and demand. As a result, the economy will increasingly depend on immigrants to fill the gap in the domestic labor supply.

### **Immigrants as an Economic Booster:**

Immigration is considered an economic booster for cities. Large immigrant communities in cities generate waves of technology start-ups, small neighborhood proprietorship, real estate investment and international trade. In addition, the Wall Street Journal observed that 90 cents out of every dollar earned by immigrants stays in their adopted communities, creating a huge boost to local economies.

### **Citizenship and Voting Trends:**

One in ten Boston residents is a naturalized citizen, up from one in fourteen in 1990. Voter turnout among eligible immigrants is lower than that of native-born Americans. However, once registered to vote, immigrants are more likely to vote than native-born citizens. In recent city and general elections, Boston's minority neighborhoods experienced the greatest increase in voter turnout. Furthermore, these elections demonstrated that the turnout gap between voters of color and white voters is decreasing.

The Mayor's Office of New Bostonians would like to thank everyone that contributed to the creation of the *New Bostonians' Demographic Report*, with very special thanks to the **Boston Redevelopment Authority**.



# Immigrants in the U.S.

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- **28.4 million** immigrants live in the US, a 43% increase since 1990. (Center for Immigration Studies, "Immigrants in the United States 2000: A Snapshot of America's Foreign-born")
- Immigrants account for more than **1 in 10 residents** (11.1%), the highest percentage in 70 years. (US Census)
- Between 1990 to 2000, immigrants accounted for 41% of the growth of the nation's population and 48% of the growth of the nation's labor force.
- The nation's fastest growing immigrant groups are Latinos and Asians. (Census 2000)



# Immigrants in Massachusetts

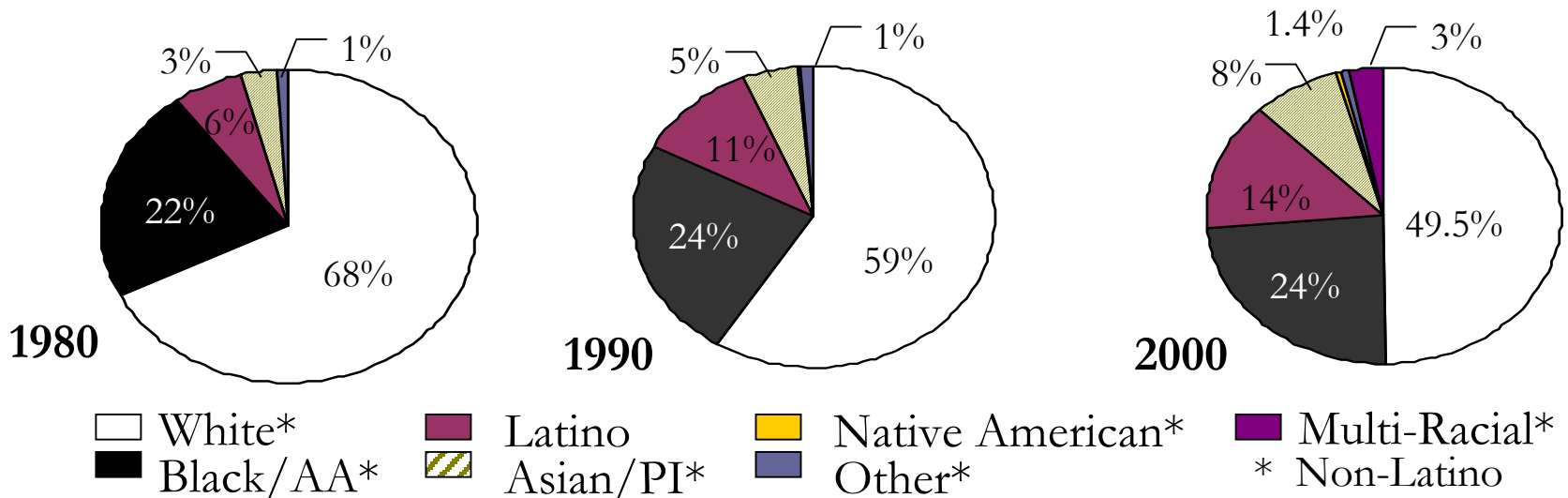
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- MA has the 7<sup>th</sup> largest immigrant population with a total of **772,983 (12.2%)** immigrants.
- As of 2000, The Asian population increased by 67.5%, while the Latino population increased by 49.1%.

# Boston Demographics

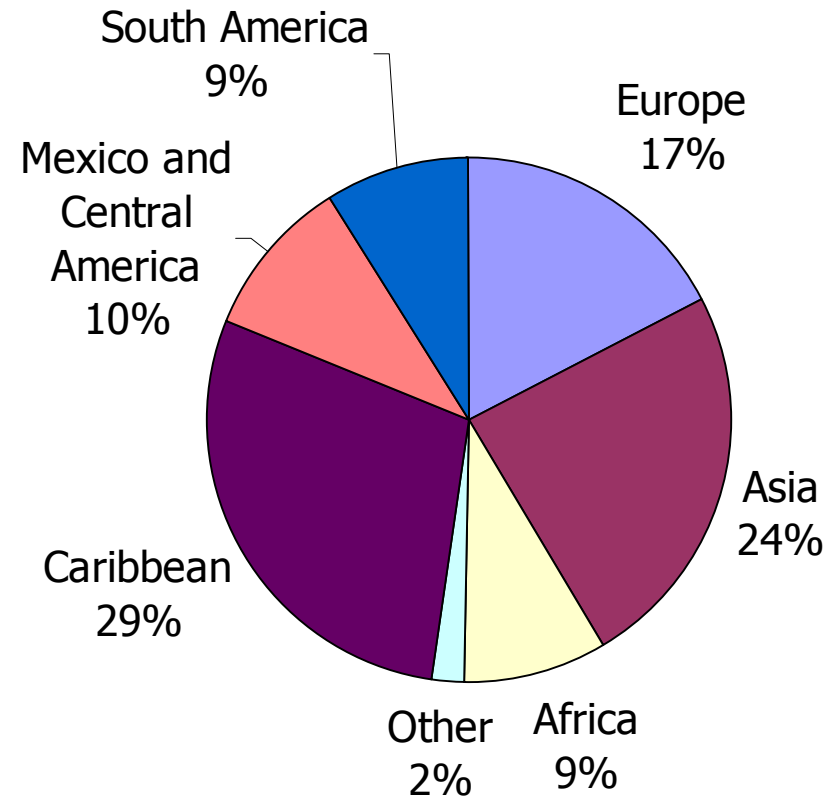
(BRA Report #541)

- Boston's "minority" has become the "majority," representing 50.50% of the city's total population.
- The three largest "minority" groups in Boston are: African Americans (23.8%), Latinos (14.4%), and Asians (7.5%).
- Since 1990, the Latino population has increased by 37.3% and the Asian population by 46.7%.



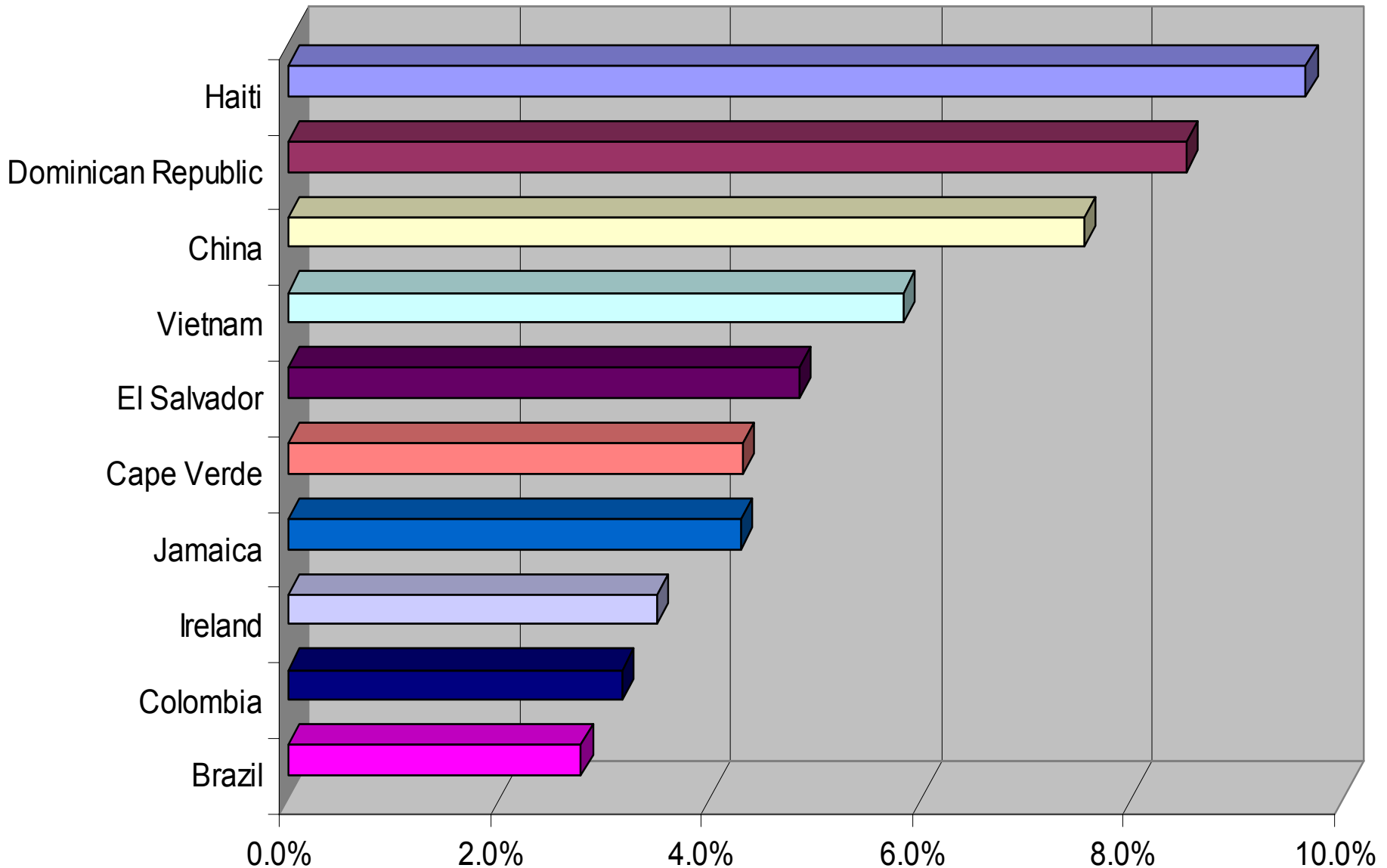
# New Bostonians Countries of Origin

- Boston has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of foreign born residents among the 23 largest U.S. cities. (Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, Boston in Focus: A profile from the Census 2000)
- 25.8% or 151,836 of Boston's population is foreign born, up from 20% in 1990. (Census 2000)
- Half of foreign born came from the Americas(50%), followed by Asia(23%), Europe(17%), and Africa (9%). (Census 2000)



# New Bostonians Top 10 Countries of Origin

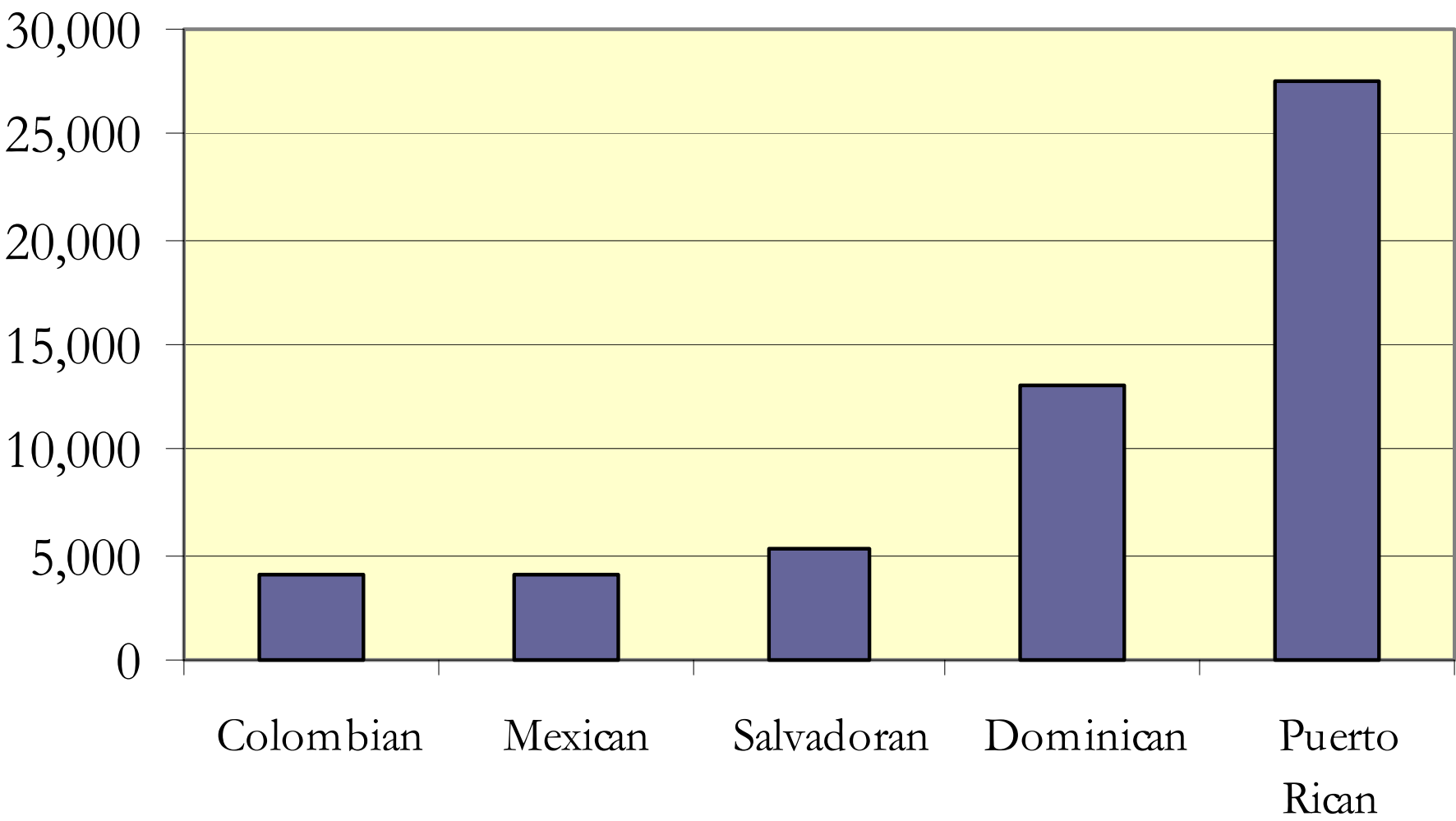
[Census 2000 PUM (Public Use Microdata) 5% Sample]





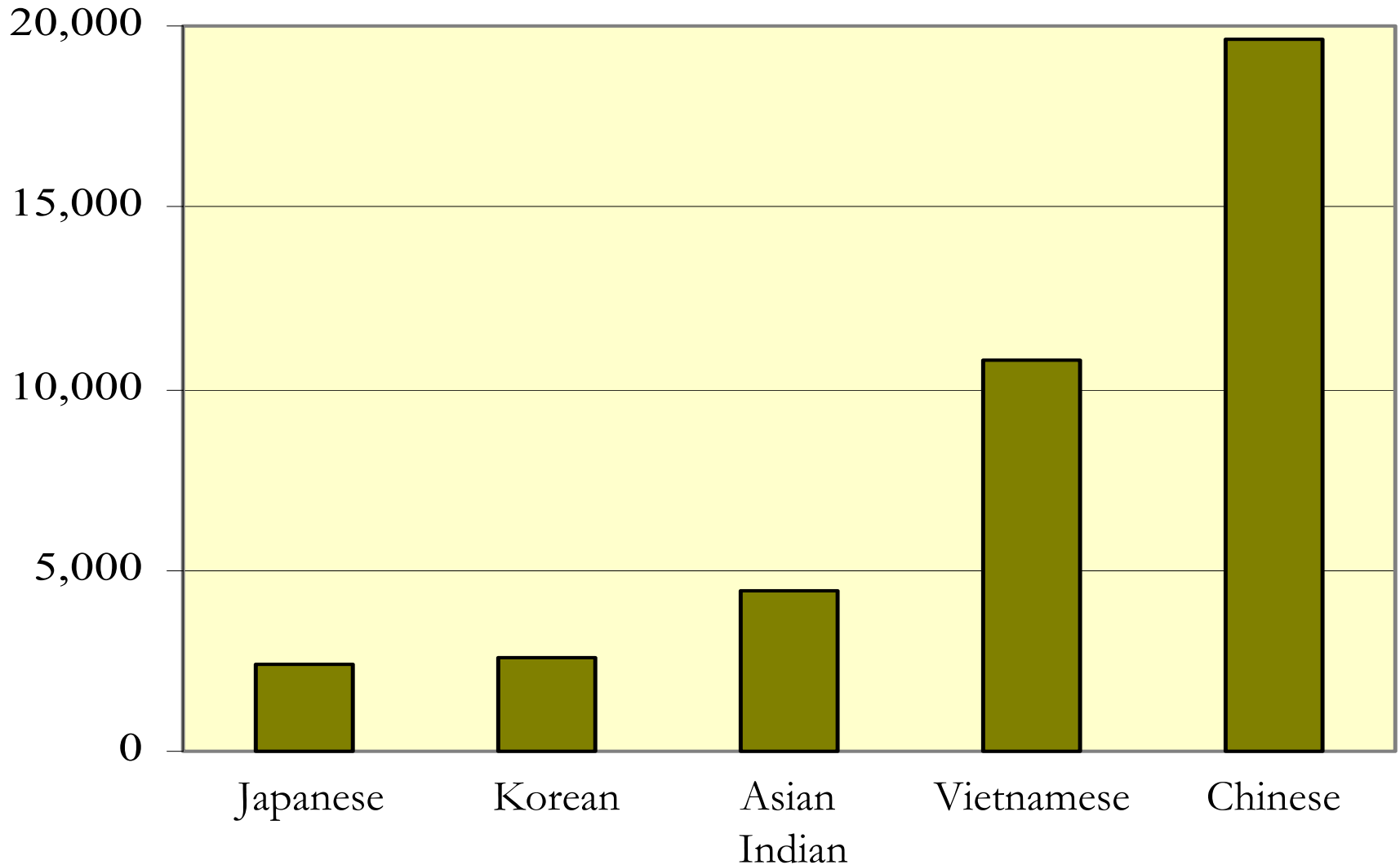
# Five Largest Latino Ethnic Groups in Boston, 2000

(BRA Report #551)



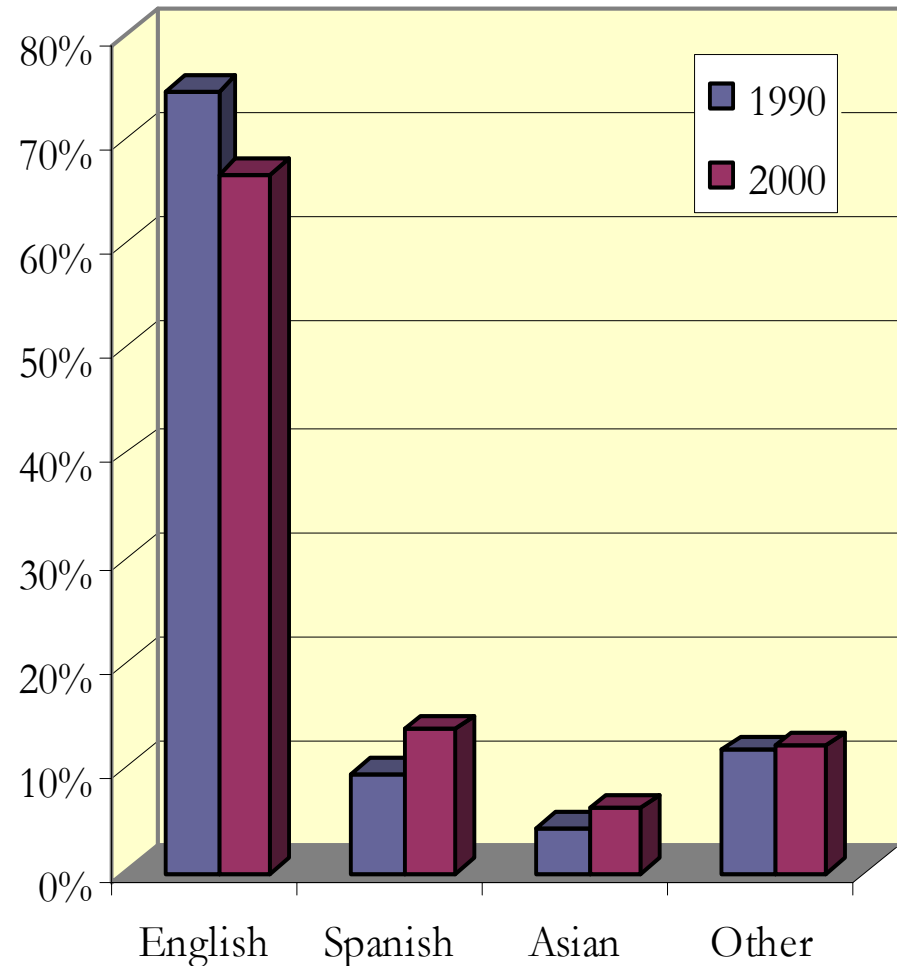
# Five Largest Asian Ethnic Groups in Boston, 2000

(BRA Report #551)



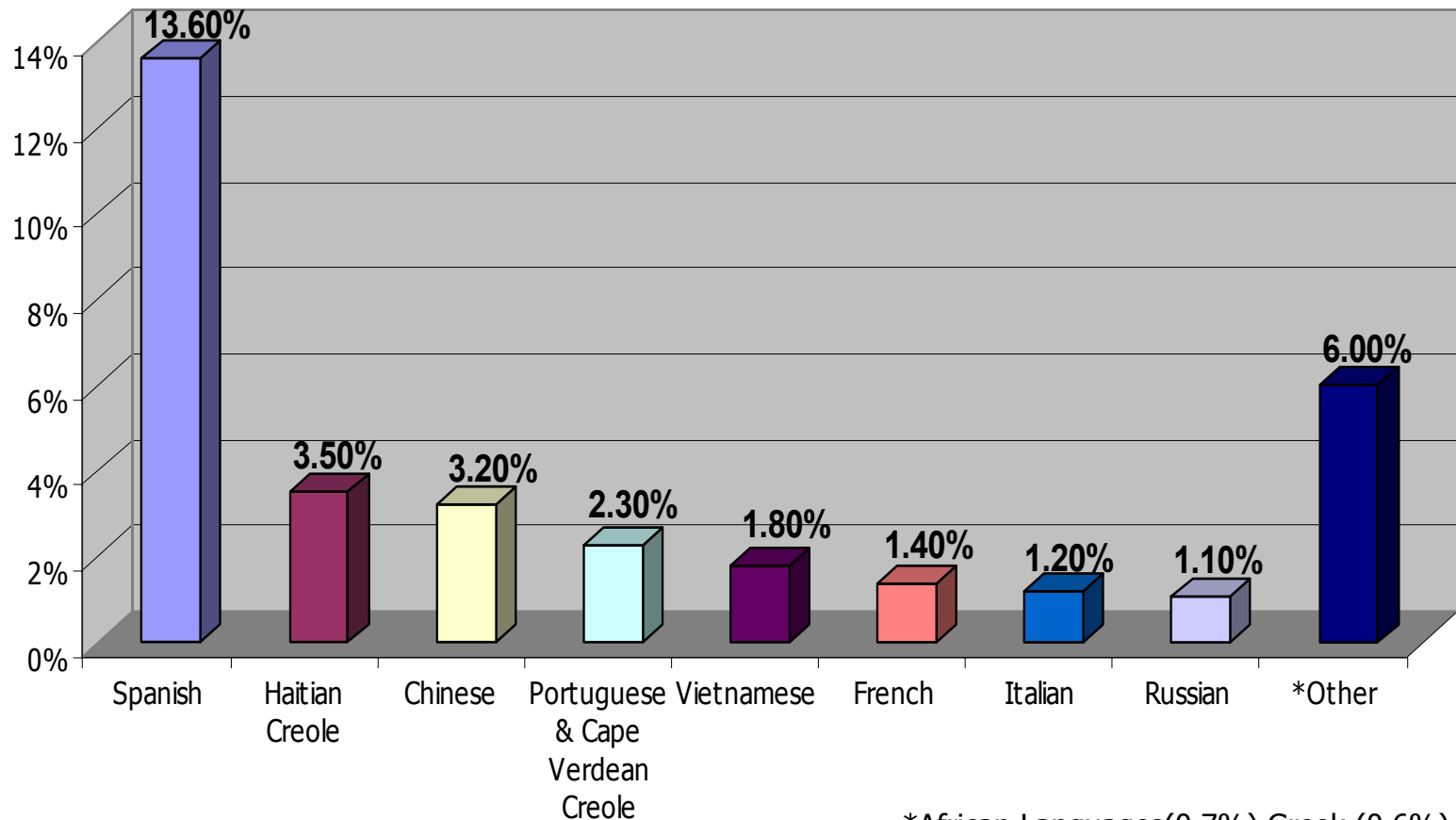
# Boston's Multilingual Richness

- Over 140 languages are spoken in Boston.
- In 2000, over 33% of residents spoke a language other than English at home, up from 26% in 1990.
- Almost 14% of residents speak Spanish at home up from 10% in 1990.
- Over 6% speak an Asian language at home, up from 4% in 1990.



# Top Languages Spoken (Census 2000)

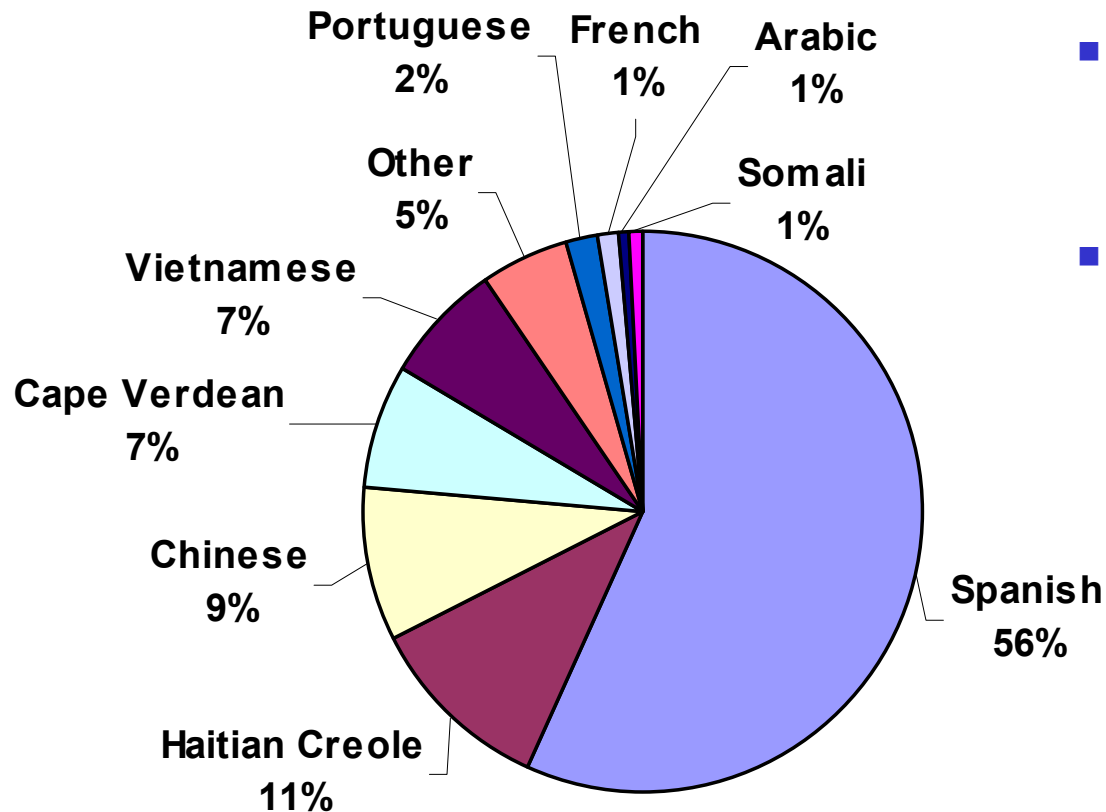
- 66.6% of Boston residents speak only English, 33.4% speak another language.
- The most spoken languages include: Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Portuguese/Cape Verdean Creole, Vietnamese, and French.



\*African Languages(0.7%),Greek (0.6%), Arabic(0.5%)

# Languages in Boston Public Schools

## Other Languages Spoken (43%)



- 54.50% of students in Boston Public Schools speak English only.
- 43.8% or 26,535 students speak another language.



# Immigrant Youth

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- With their children, immigrants make up 20% of the U.S. population, a 43% increase since 1990. (NPR, Jan 2001)
- Nearly one-quarter of all Massachusetts children are either immigrants or the children of immigrants. (Mass Inc. Report Feb. 2001)
- 20% of Boston's schoolchildren speak a language other than English in their homes. (BPS Home Study Language 2004)
- In 2004 there are 10,150 students in Boston Public Schools' programs for English language learners. (BPS)
- Every year, approximately 200-300 high school age immigrants enter Boston Public Schools, usually in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. (BPS)



# Boston's Diverse Neighborhoods

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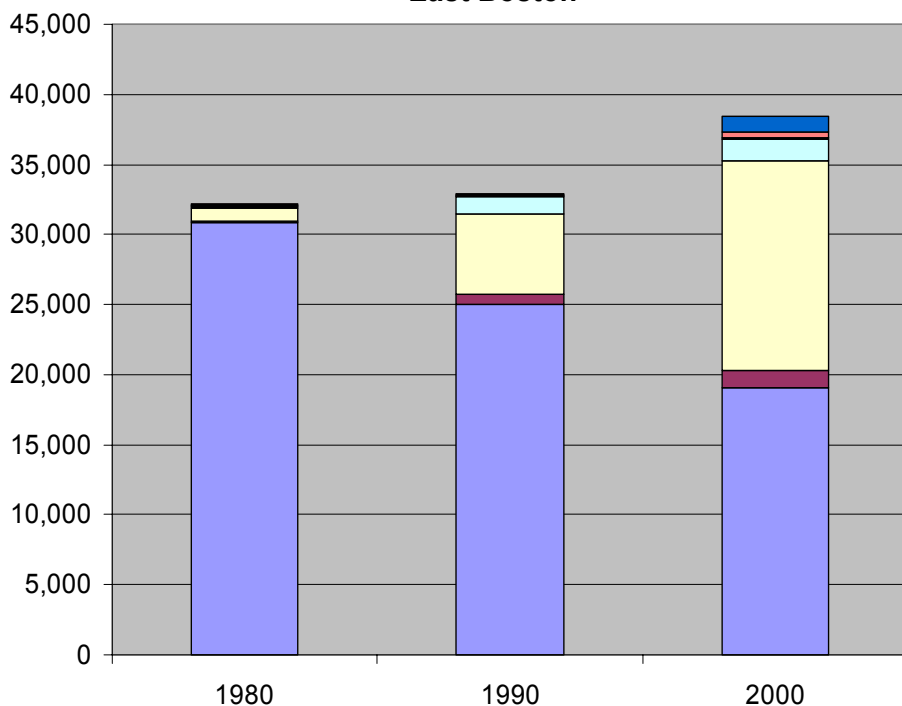
- All of the Boston neighborhoods have experienced an increase in diversity.
- The neighborhoods that have experienced the most dramatic change are: East Boston, Roslindale, Allston/Brighton, Hyde Park, and Dorchester.

# East Boston and Roslindale

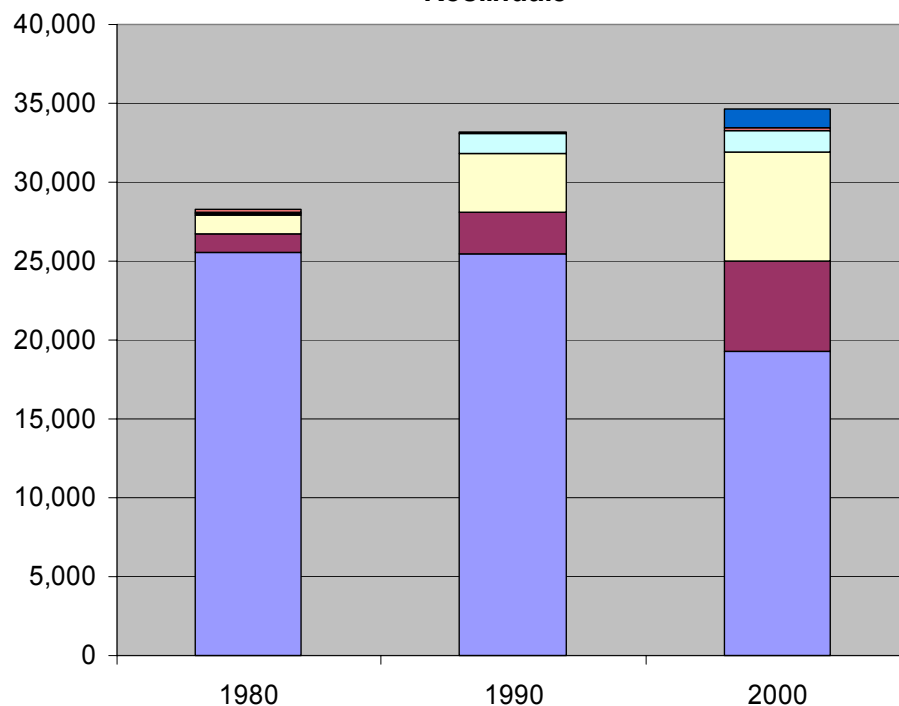
(BRA Report #541)

- From 1980 to 2000, East Boston's non-white population grew from 4% to 50%.
- As of 2000, Latinos make up 39% of East Boston's population.
- From 1980 to 2000, Roslindale's non-white population grew from 9% to 44%.
- Roslindale's population is very mixed, but has a large number of Latinos.

East Boston



Roslindale



White Black/African American Hispanic  
Asian/Pacific Islander Native American Other Single Race  
Multi Racial

White Black/African American Hispanic  
Asian/Pacific Islander Native American Other Single Race  
Multi Racial

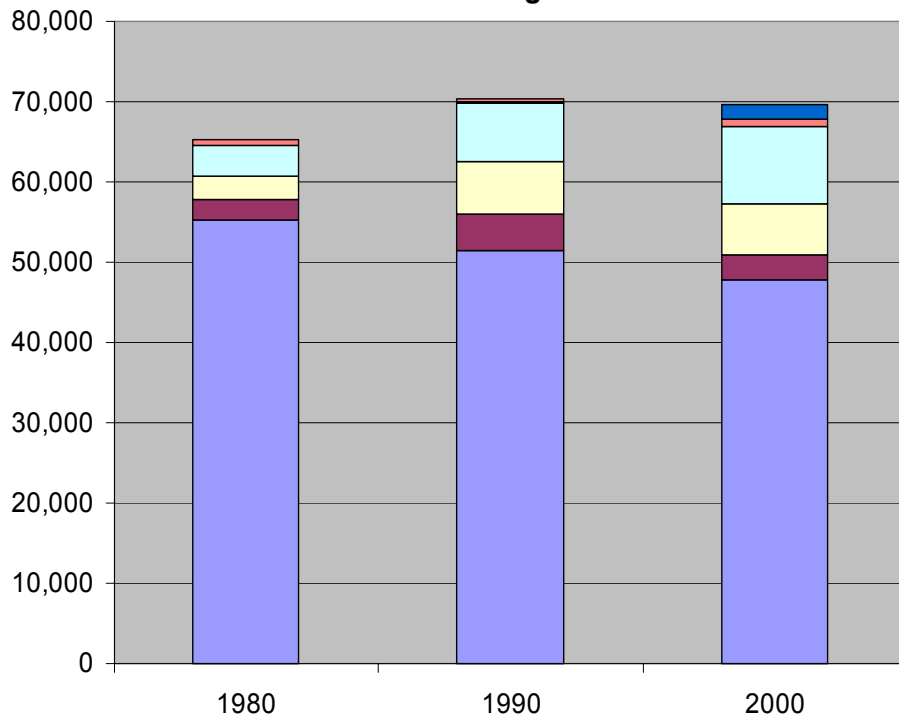


# Allston/Brighton and Hyde Park

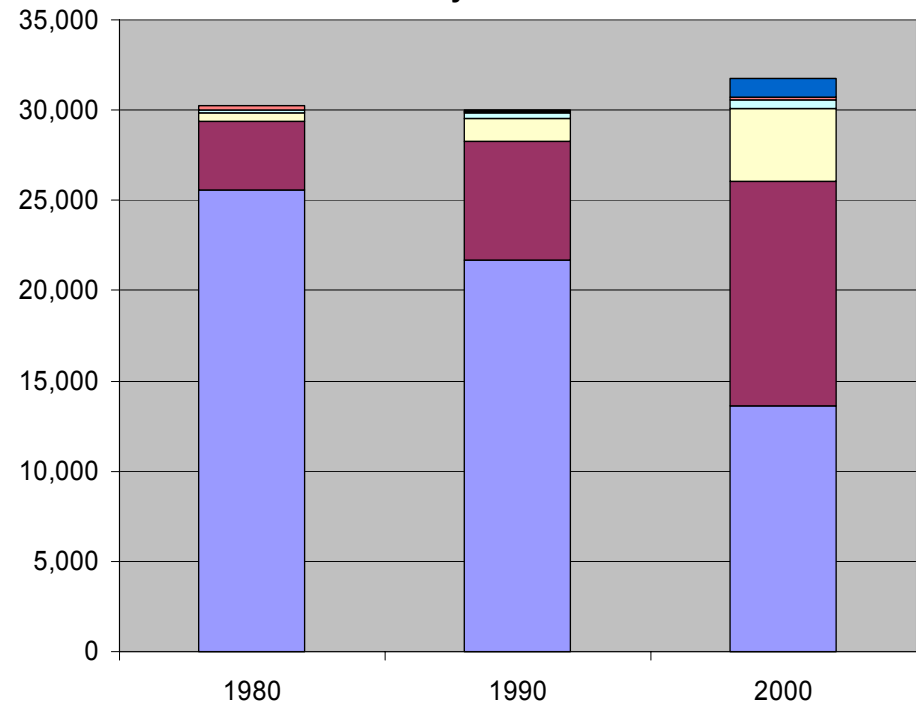
(BRA Report #541)

- As of 2000, people of color and immigrants made up 31% of Allston/Brighton's population, including Brazilians, Asians, and Russians.
- Minorities make up more than half of Hyde Park's current population (57%), compared to 15% in 1980.
- Hyde Park is home to a large population of Black/African Americans (including Caribbeans) and Latinos.

Allston/Brighton



Hyde Park



White Black/African American Hispanic  
Asian/Pacific Islander Native American Other Single Race  
Multi Racial

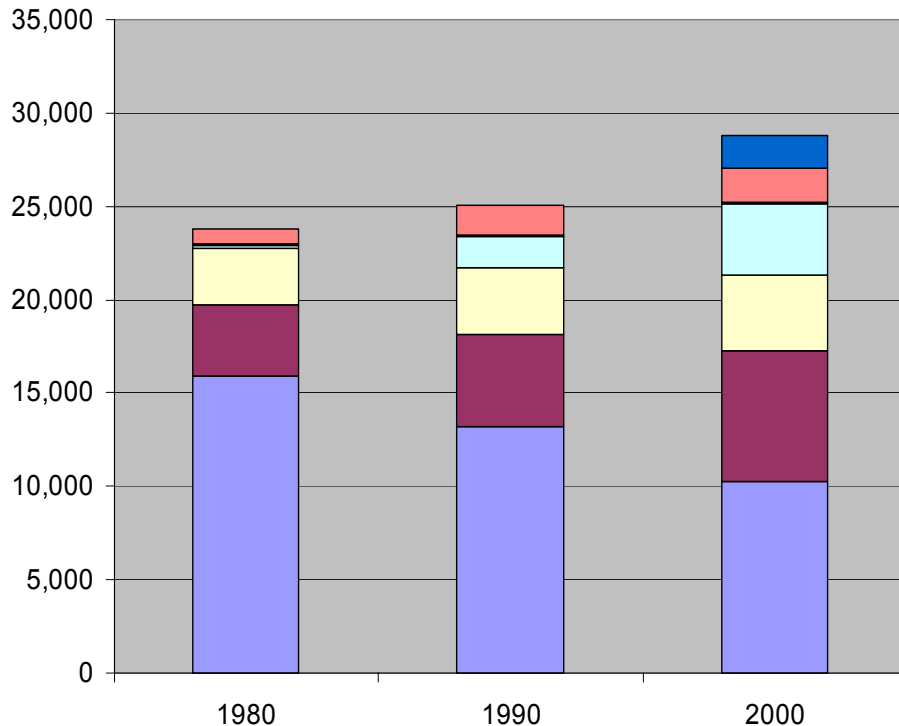
White Black/African American Hispanic  
Asian/Pacific Islander Native American Other Single Race  
Multi Racial

# North and South Dorchester

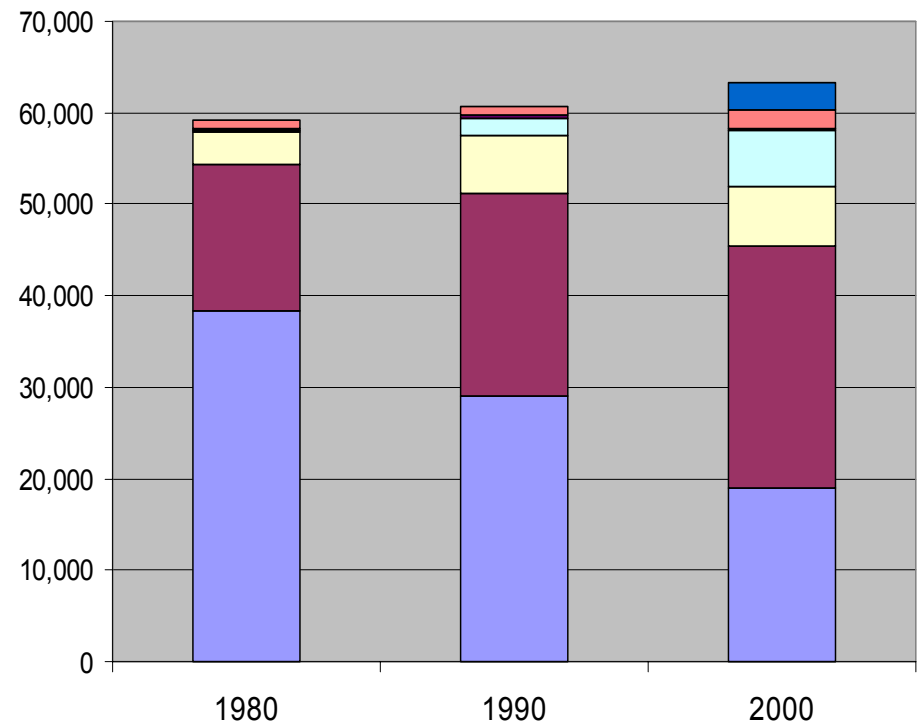
(BRA Report #541)

- As of 2000, Non-Whites made up more than half of the population of North and South Dorchester (64% - 70%).
- The largest groups in these neighborhoods are Black/African American, Caribbean, and Vietnamese.
- Out of the 10,000 Vietnamese in Boston, nearly 8,000 live in Dorchester.

**North Dorchester**



**South Dorchester**

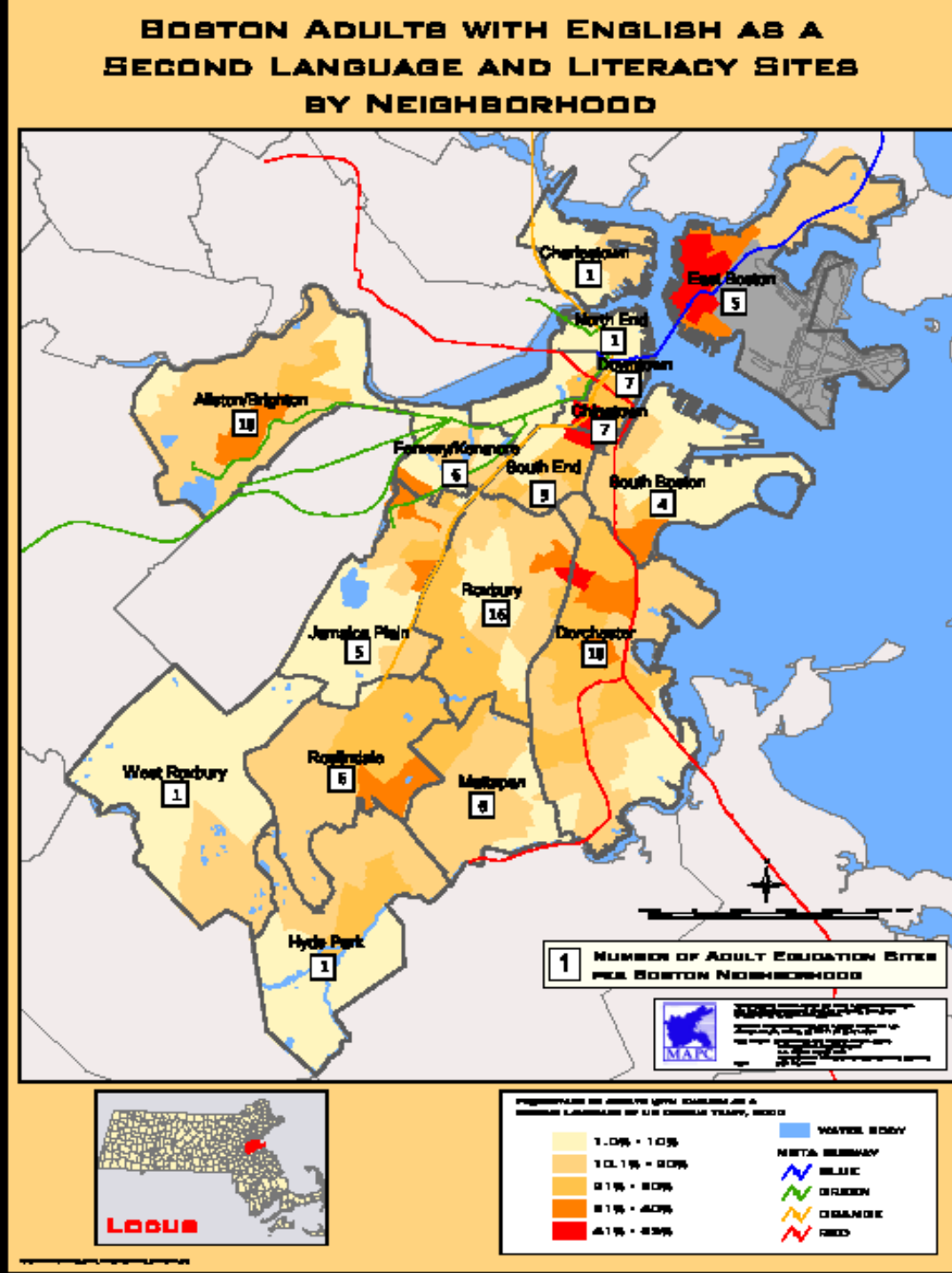


White  
Black/African American  
Hispanic  
Asian/Pacific Islander  
Native American  
Other Single Race  
Multi Racial

White  
Black/African American  
Hispanic  
Asian/Pacific Islander  
Native American  
Other Single Race  
Multi Racial

# Boston's Language Diversity

- In every Boston neighborhood at least 1-10% of adults speak English as a second language.
- East Boston and Chinatown have the highest concentration of adults that speak English as a second language (41%-62%).
- The neighborhoods that follow are Roslindale, Dorchester, Roxbury, and Allston/Brighton.





# New Bostonian's English Proficiency

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- 195,000 people in MA Lack English Proficiency. (Mass Inc. Report Feb. 2001)
- 46,000 or 8% of all Boston residents Lack English Proficiency compared to 6% in 1990.
- 26,000 households in Boston are linguistically isolated (living in a household where no adult speaks English).
- About one-quarter of all Spanish speakers do not speak English well.
- Of all Asian language speakers about one-third do not speak English well.



# Boston's demand for ESOL

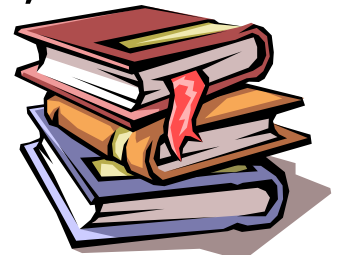
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- In 2004, there are at least 3,500 people waiting to get into English classes in the city of Boston.
- These numbers represent a 6 month to 3 year wait to get into an ESOL class.

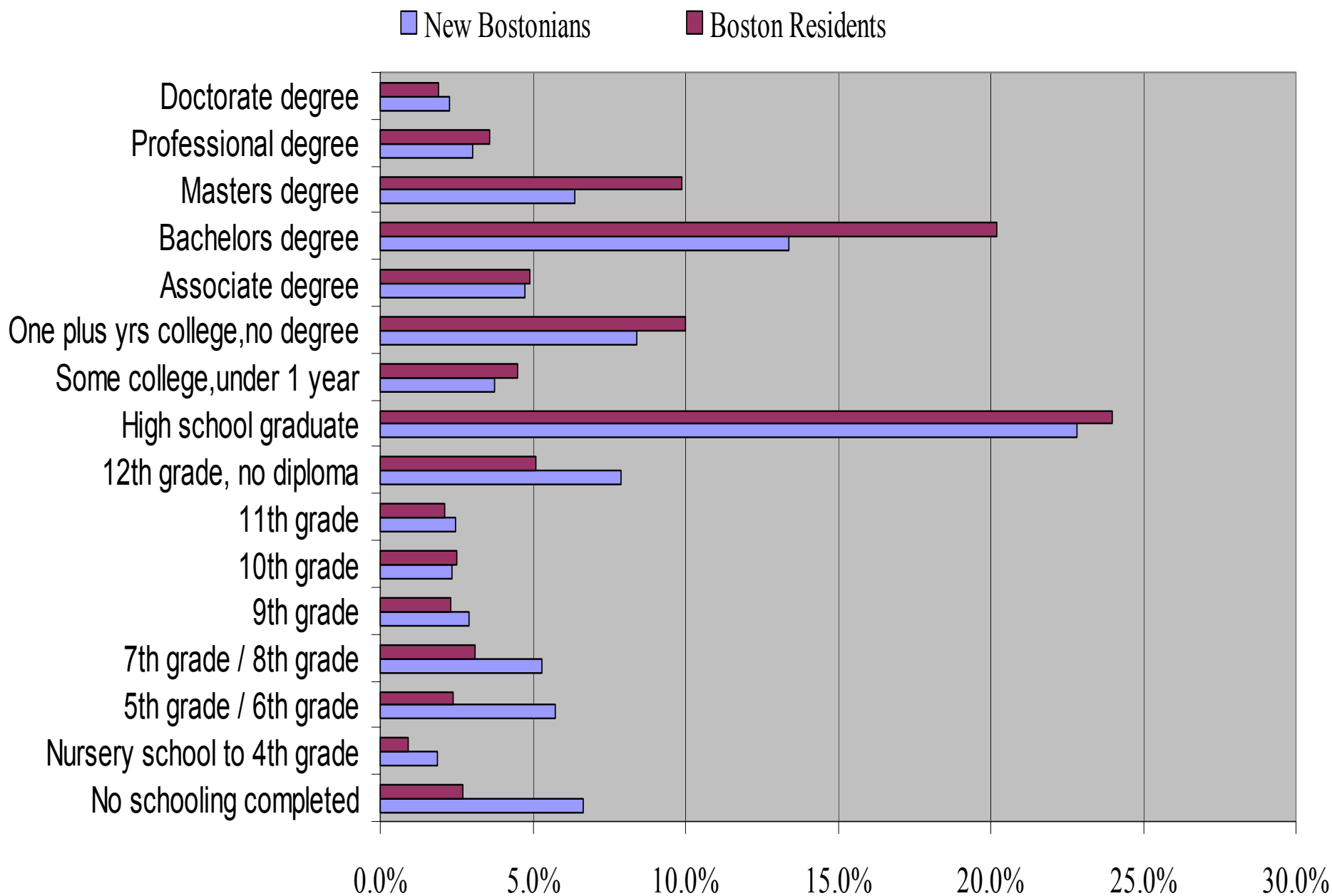
# New Bostonians' Education Level

(25 years old or older)

- One in four (25%) immigrants has a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the city average of 36%.
- 22.8% have a high school diploma, compared to the city's 24%.
- 35.2% have not completed high school, compared to the city's 21.1%
- Prior to 1990, 22% immigrants arriving to MA had a bachelor's or more advanced degree; since 1990, this percentage improved to 33%.



# Education Level: Immigrants and Boston Residents





# Immigrants and the Aging Workforce

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- “The numbers of people in the workforce over the age of 55 will increase from **18.1 million** (12.9%) in 2000 to **26.6 million** (16.9%) in 2010.” (Steve Gunderson, “The Jobs Revolution: How America Will Work”)
- “Projections show that 76 million baby boomers will retire by 2030, while only 46 million people will have entered the workforce. Unless productivity, technology, and immigration fill the void, there will be a significant labor shortage.” (Steve Gunderson, “The Jobs Revolution: How America Will Work”)
- “All these baby boomers are going to be leaving these jobs at once, and increasingly we're going to rely on foreign-born workers to fill them.” (Paul Harrington, Northeastern University’s Center for Labor Market Studies)





# Immigrant Labor Contributions

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- New immigrants made up more than half of the growth of the nation's entire civilian workforce between 1990 and 2001.
- Since the mid-1980s, immigrants accounted for 82% of the state's labor growth. (Mass Inc. Report: The Changing Workforce, 1999.)
- Immigrants filled both the high and low ends of the market statewide: high-skill jobs in engineering, information technology, and the sciences, and low-skill jobs in manufacturing and service. (Mass Inc. Report: The Changing Workforce, 1999)



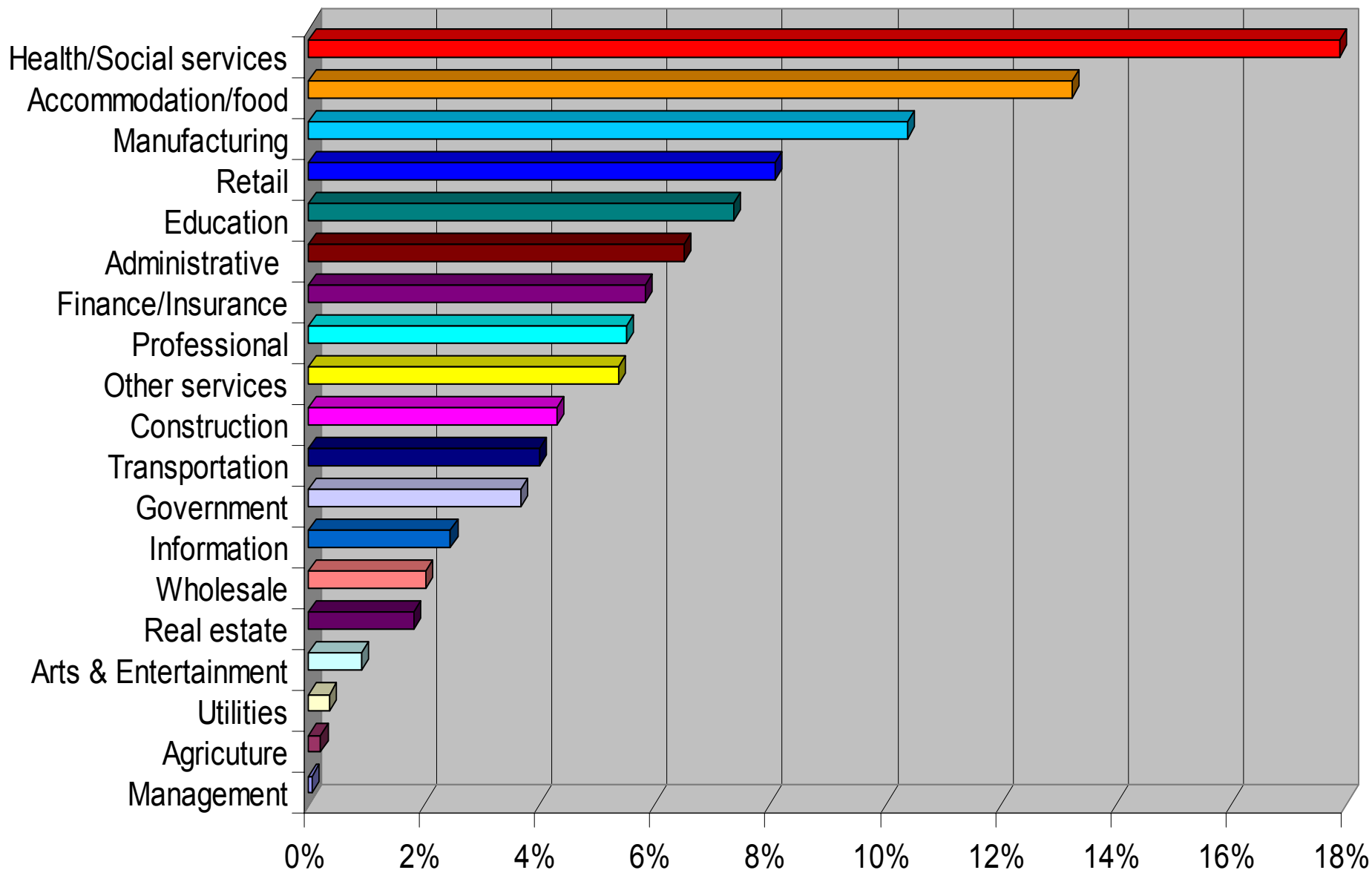
# New Bostonians' Job Placement

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- About 20% of immigrants work in blue collar industries such as manufacturing, utilities, wholesale trade, and transportation/warehousing.
- 46% of naturalized immigrants, compared to 38% non-naturalized immigrants, work in "knowledge-based" industries such as finance, professional services, health services, and education.
- 38% of non-naturalized immigrants work in retail, admin support, accommodation and food service industries compared to 29% citizens.

# New Bostonians' Occupations

[Census 2000 PUM (Public Use Microdata) 5% Sample]





# Immigrants' Role in the Economy

- Immigration is considered an economic booster for cities.
- Large immigrant communities in cities generate waves of technology start-ups, small neighborhood proprietorship, real estate investment and international trade.
- Is immigration a real elixir for faltering urban economies? Yes, reply activists in a number of low-immigration cities, among them Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Schenectady, Louisville, and Cleveland, notwithstanding the country's post-9/11 apprehension about immigration.



# Immigrant's Economic Contributions

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- Among some immigrant groups, the rate of entrepreneurship is two to three times that of the U.S. population. Skilled immigrants introduce both intellectual and financial capital. (Neal Pierce Column, "Cities Scramble for Immigrants," 2004 Washington Post Writers Group, May 16, 2004)
- In 2000, Indian and Chinese entrepreneurs alone headed 29 percent of Silicon Valley's technology businesses, collectively accounting for \$19.5 billion in sales and over 77,000 jobs. (Neal Pierce Column, "Cities Scramble for Immigrants," 2004 Washington Post Writers Group, May 16, 2004)
- 90 cents out of every dollar earned by immigrants stays in their adopted communities, creating a huge boost to local economies. (Joel Millman, "Immigrants Spend Earnings in U.S.," Wall Street Journal, May 17, 2004)

# MA Minority-Owned Businesses

- 10% (54,466) of the state's businesses are owned by minorities, out of the state's total of 537,150 businesses.
- Hispanics and Asians are the largest minority business owners in the state, owning 12,000 businesses each.



# New Bostonians' Homeownership

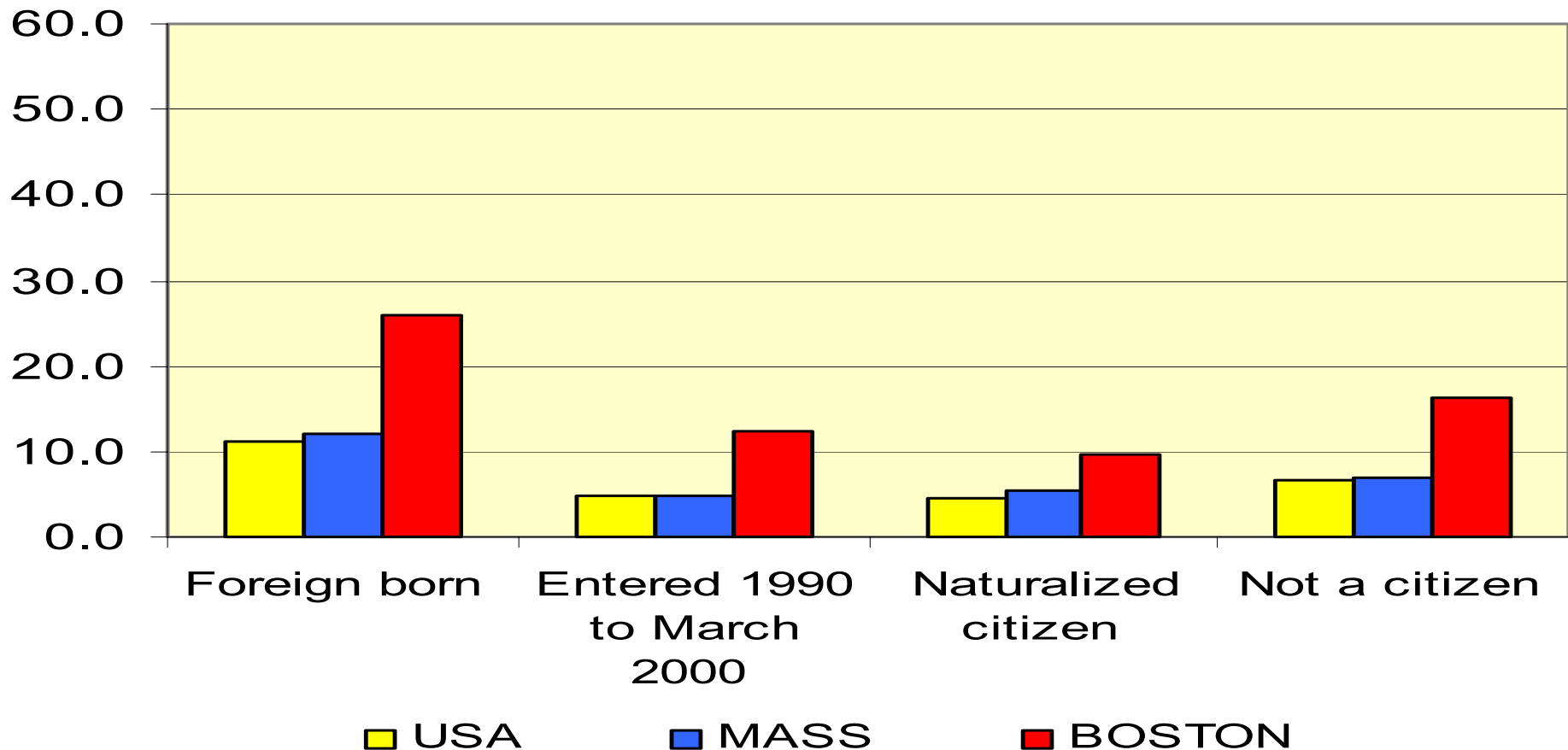
- 30% of immigrants own a home in Boston, compared to the citywide 32% of homeownership.
- Both 68% of Boston residents and 68% of immigrants rent a home in Boston.



# Citizenship

(BRA Federal Reserve Bank Presentation)

- Almost half of US immigrant residents (49%) entered the country in the past 10 years.
- 1 in 10 Boston residents is a naturalized citizen, up from 1 in 14 only ten years ago.







# Massachusetts and Boston: Latino, Asian, and Haitian Political Affiliation

## Boston:

**Asians** (Institute for Asian American Studies)

- 33% Democrat
- 10% Republican
- 56% Independent

**Haitians** (Office of New Bostonians)

- 73% Democrat
- 5% Republican
- 22% Independent

## Massachusetts:

**Latinos** (Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration)

- 18-29 yrs.:
  - 34% Democrat
  - 21% Republican
  - 26% Independent
- 55+ yrs.:
  - 64% Democrat
  - 17% Republican
  - 12% Independent



# Boston's Non-White Voting Trends

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- The greatest increase in voter turnout was in Boston's minority neighborhoods for both city and general elections.
- As demonstrated by the Boston 2003 city election, the turnout gap between voters of color and white voters is decreasing.

# Boston's City Elections

## Increase in Voter Turnout

-- by Neighborhood: City of Boston --

## 2003 vs. 1999 Election

(Chart shows % in number of voters casting ballots in the 2003 November City Election vs. the comparable 1999 City Election)

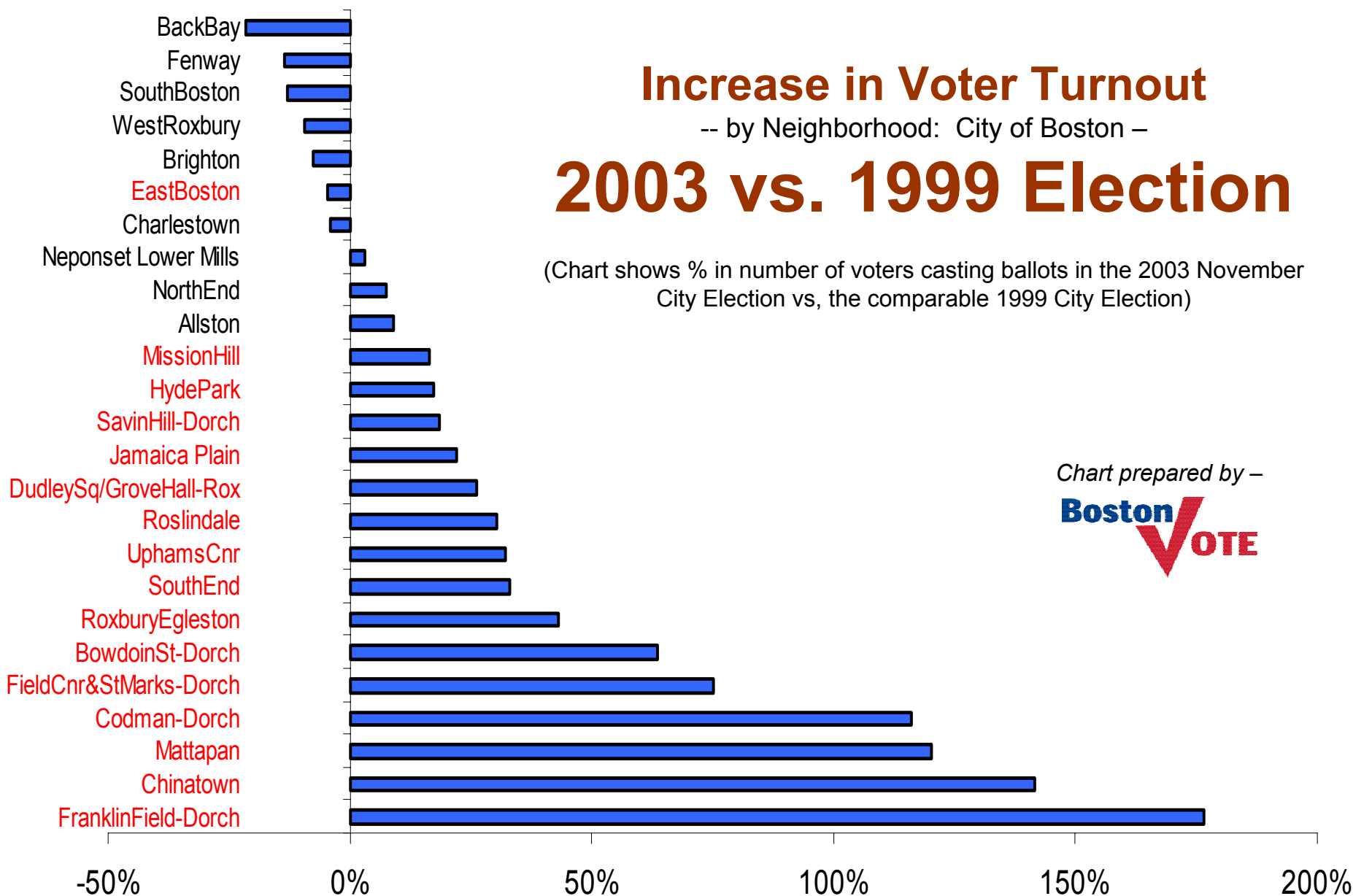
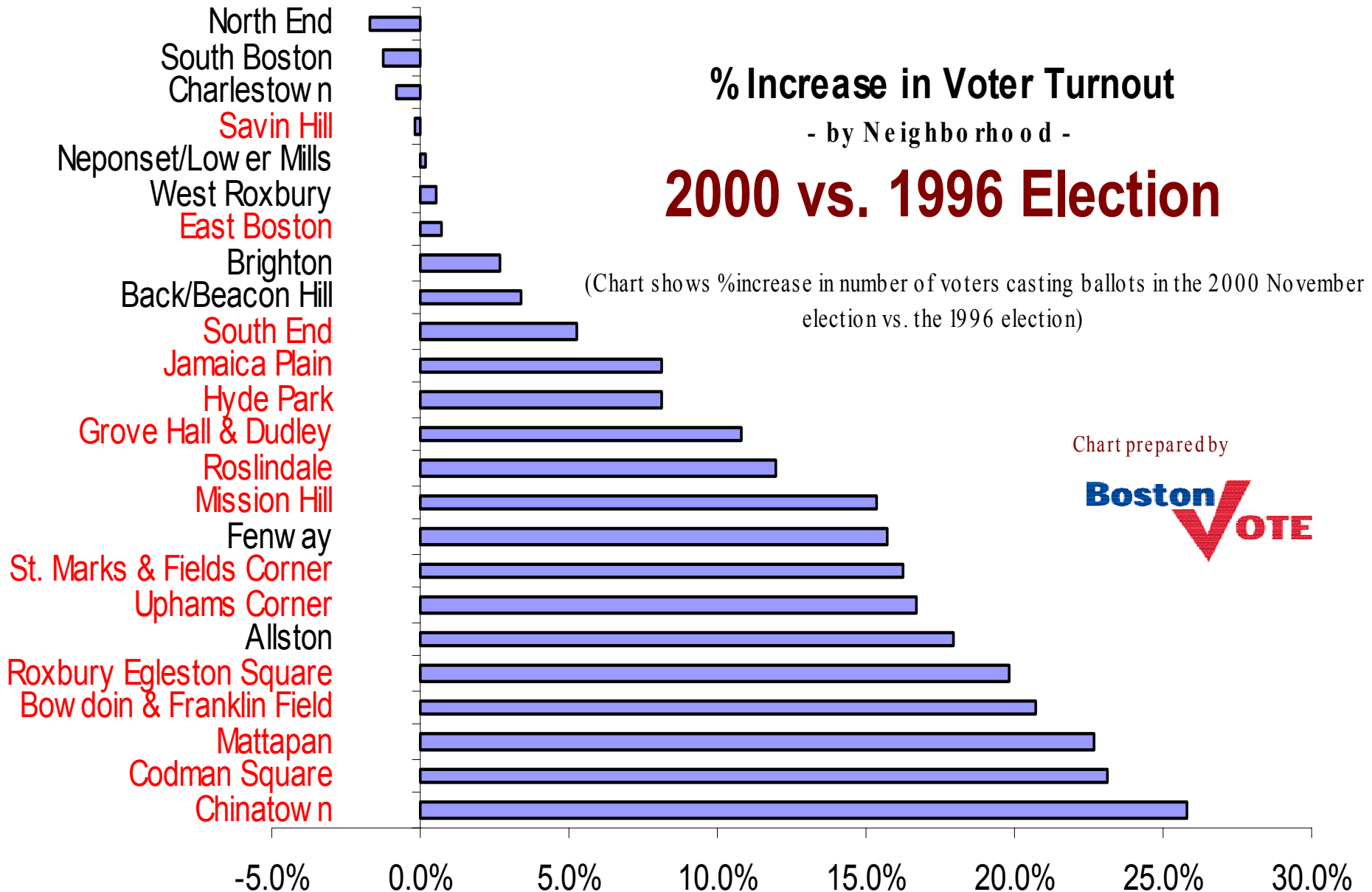


Chart prepared by --

**Boston**  
**VOTE**

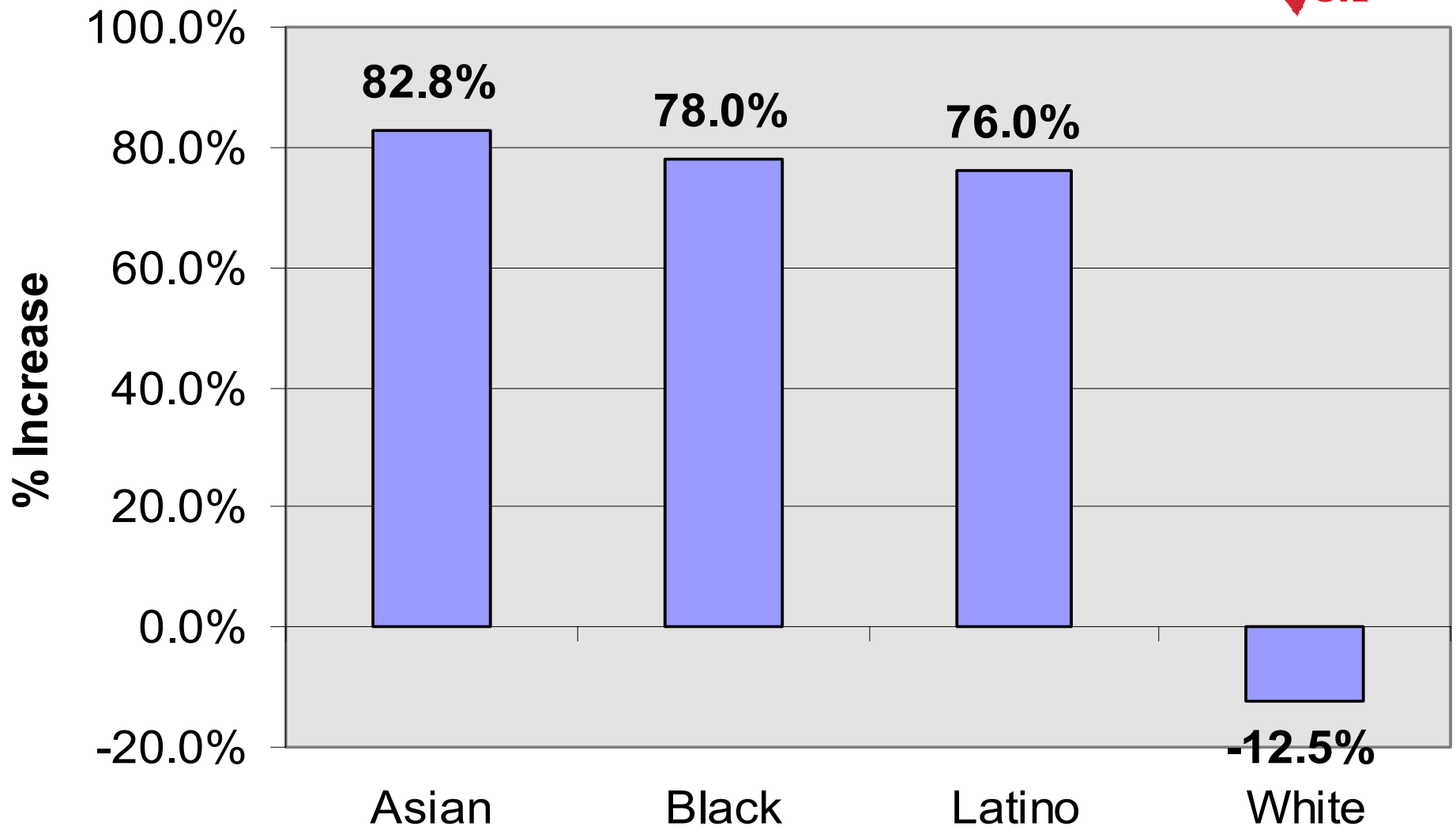
# Boston's General Elections



# Turnout by Ethnicity

## Boston 2003 vs. 1999 City Election

Chart prepared by –  
**Boston**  **VOTE**





# Immigrant Forecast

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- The National immigrant population is projected to reach 45 million by 2020 (14% of total population), compared to 7.9% in 1990 , 11.1% in 2000 (Dougherty, Jon E., "After 9/11 Immigrants continued to flood into U.S.," NewsMax.com, November 10, 2003.)
- Boston's projected population for 2005 is 45% white and 55% non-white (many of whom are immigrants). (Center Economic Development of Umass-Boston)
- "New immigrants will account for an increasing share of the state and region's labor force growth." (Paul Harrington)

# Top 20

## Boston's Ancestries

(Census 2000 and BRA Report #551)

- The Boston population has become extremely diverse.
- This list shows the top 15 ancestries of Boston residents.
- The largest ancestries in terms of nationality in Boston include Irish, Italian, and Puerto Rican

Number	Group	Total #
1	Irish	93,360
2	Italian	49,017
3	Puerto Rican	27,442
4	English	26,384
5	German	24,426
6	Unspecified Latino	19,783
7	Chinese	19,638
8	"American"	19,387
9	Haitian	18,979
10	Polish	13,704
11	Dominican	12,981
12	Cape Verdean	11,060
13	Vietnamese	10,818
14	French	10,960
15	Russian	10,267
16	Jamaican	8,226
17	Scottish	7,340
18	French Canadian	7,186
19	African	5,962
20	Salvadoran	5,333