



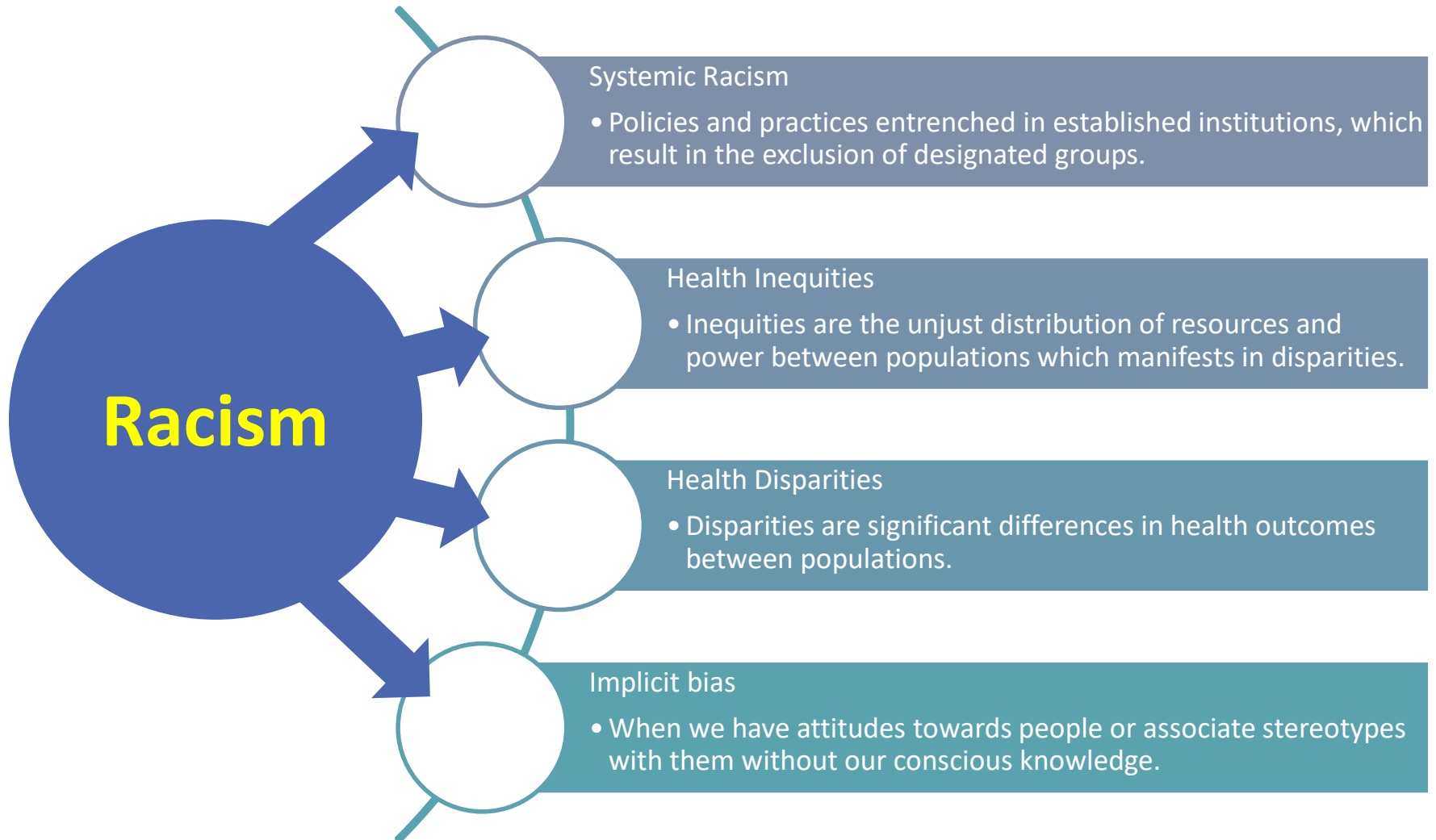
The City of
WORCESTER

The City of Worcester COVID-19 Equity Taskforce

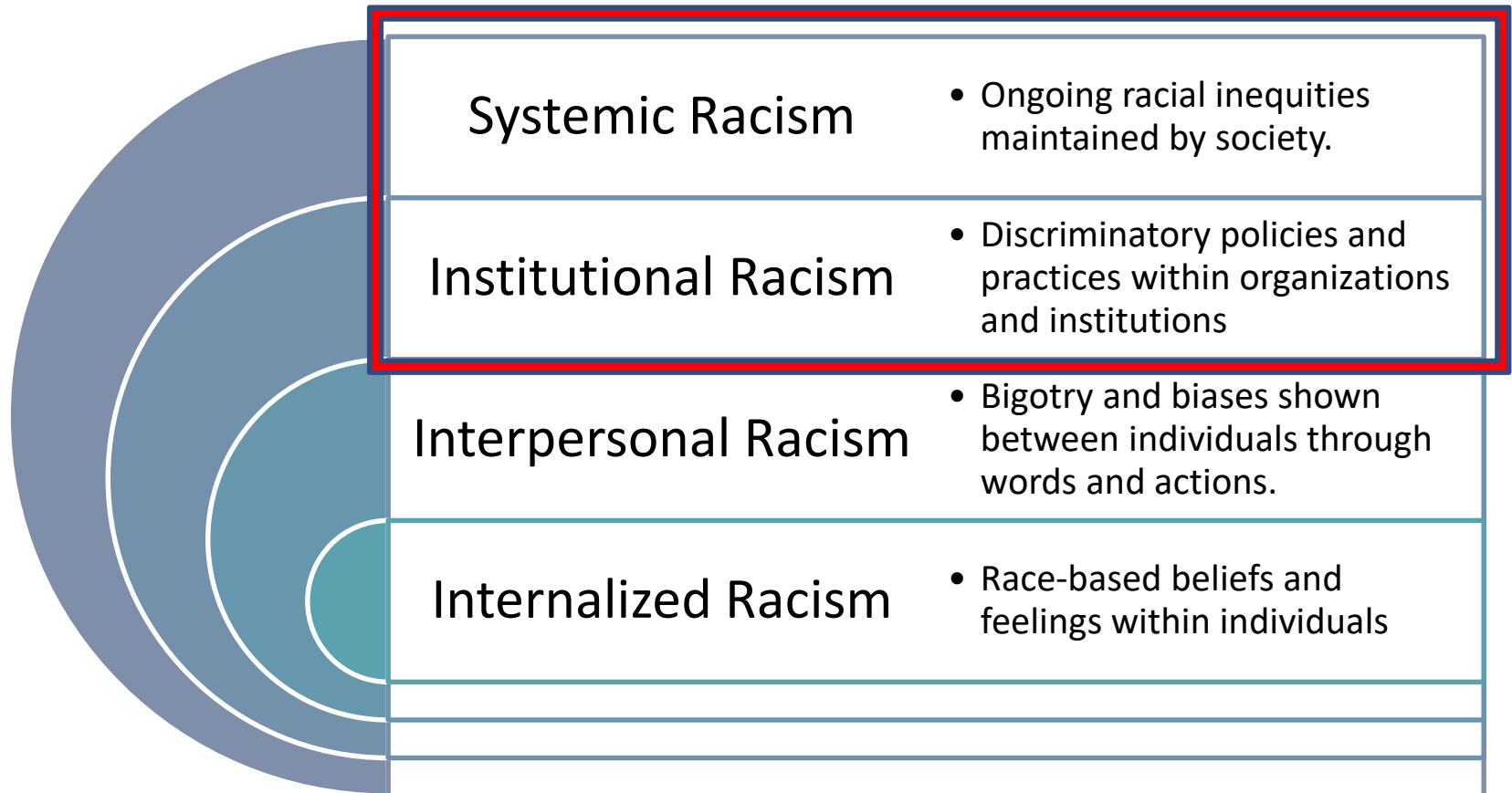
Co-chaired by the City of Worcester Department of Health and
Human Services (HHS) and UMass Memorial Health Care
(UMMHC)

July 20, 2020

What is the root cause of health inequities for communities of color?



How does racism play a role in impacting the social determinants of health?



Indicators of systemic racism in Worcester:

Latinos in Worcester have a poverty rate **2x greater** than White counterparts¹

Latino Worcester residents are **3.6x less likely** than White residents to obtain a Bachelor's Degree¹

Black and Latino WPS students experience discipline **2x the rate** of White students²

In 2017, Black and Latino youth were arrested at rates 3.2x and 2.4x higher than white youth⁸

In Worcester, the Infant Mortality Rate for Latino and Black women are **3x and 2x greater** than their White counterparts³

Black and Latino communities make up **30%** of Worcester's total population, but **53%** of DCF children under 18⁴

66% of homeless youth in Worcester identify as Latino, Black or Multiracial⁵

BIPOC make up **43%** of the Worcester's total population, but only **16%** of the City of Worcester's full-time employment in 2019⁶

Black and Latino individuals make up **6%** of UMass Medical School's Executive and Managerial leadership and **13%** of total faculty.⁷

Sources:

¹US Census 2018 ACS 5-Year Survey

²Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. 2019. Worcester.

³Worcester Healthy Baby Collaborative. 2014-2016 IMR Data.

⁴Mass.gov. 2020. MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES QUARTERLY PROFILE -- FY'2020, Q3 (01/01/20 - 03/31/20)

⁵Massachusetts Youth Count data for Worcester County (data collected between April 23 and May 13, 2018).

⁶The City of Worcester Diversity & Inclusion Division. 2019. Diversity & Inclusion Demographic Analytics - City of Worcester's Workforce. The City of Worcester.

⁷Umass Medical School. 2013. Organizational Profile. <https://www.umassmed.edu/globalassets/diversity-and-equality-opportunity-office/documents/aap-dci-tables-22.pdf>. Umass Medical School.

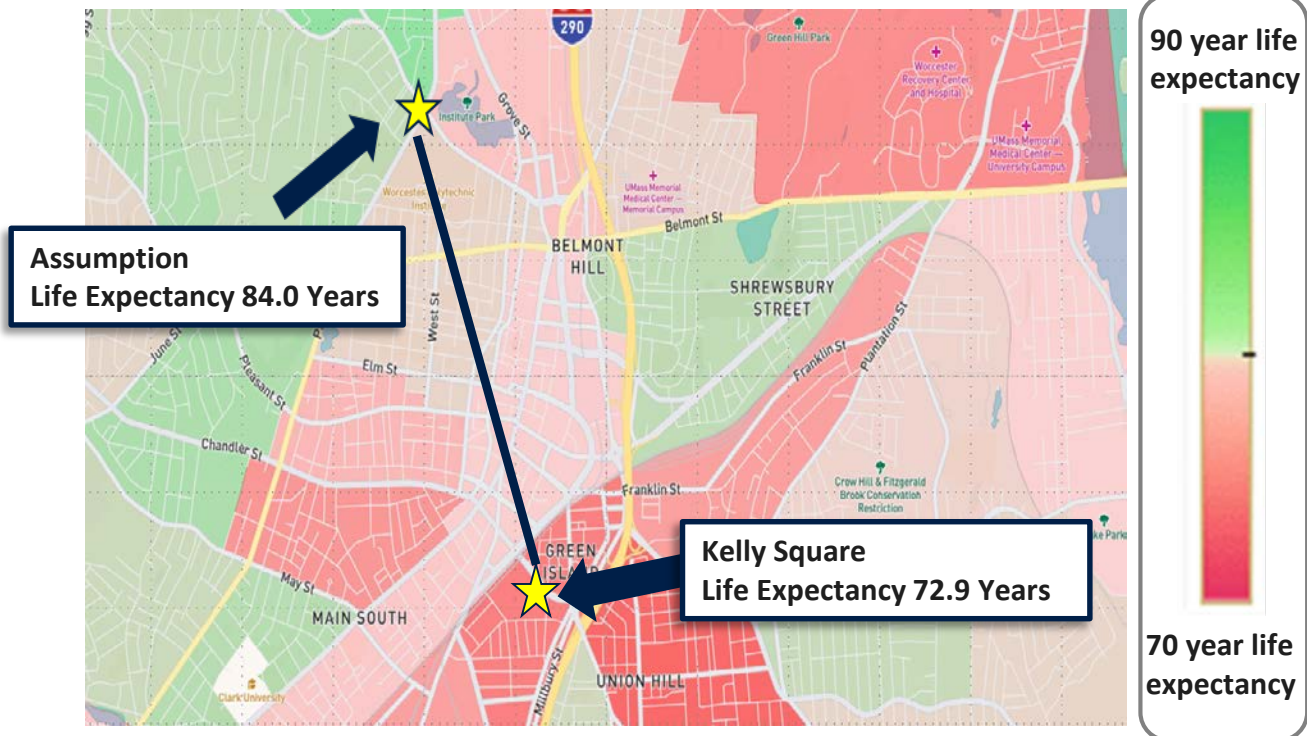
⁸Ross, L. 2018. WORCESTER RR YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE Results • Date and 2018 Community Assessment. Clark University. <http://www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/d8/29/d8294dfe2b77552450fa850061eb2128/youth-violence-prevention-initiative.pdf>

Health Justice



- Poor conditions prevent people from practicing healthy behaviors **and achieving good health.**

Two Miles Apart, 11.1 Years of Life Expectancy Difference



	Life Expectancy at Birth
Massachusetts	80.7
USA	78.5
Albania	76.4
Vietnam	76.3
Honduras	75.2
Worcester- Main South 1	74.1
Venezuela	74.1
Worcester- Kelly Square	72.9
Bangladesh	72.7
Libya	71.9
Worcester- Union Hill	71.6

Life Expectancy in Context

The COVID-19 Equity Task Force will leverage resources to address systemic barriers to health equity and provide access for all, through a cross-sectoral partnership.

Mission: This Task Force aims to deeply review the systemic racial and other inequities that inflict our healthcare system and are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to address these systemic barriers, the Task Force calls to elevate equity-focused solutions in response to short and long-term needs.

Transparent Data
Working Group

Outreach &
Education
Working Group

Testing Working
Group

Access Working
Group

Working Group Activities and Accomplishments

Education & Outreach	Testing	Access	Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify, reduce, and eliminate health disparities by providing materials and resources for preventative measures -Collaborate with UMMHC's Care-Mobile for community outreach -Launch social media campaign and PSA -Collaborate between LEI, CoW and UMMHC for youth ambassador community outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop equitable testing strategies -Applied for and acquired \$35,000 from Worcester Together Fund for community testing -UMass Memorial provided an additional \$20,000 - Research additional funding sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Propose solutions that mitigate challenges to communities of color with their healthcare: -Training health workers and office staff on cultural sensitivity -Coordination and dissemination of available community and clinical services -Mobile Healthcare Service Expansion -Increase testing access and availability -Community health worker expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collecting and providing analysis using race, ethnicity, language gender, sexual orientation, social determinants of health -Provide data analyzation support for all working groups -Completion of MOUs for EMK and FHC for more holistic data view

How can this model be replicated for preventative testing or screenings?

Holistic Community “Closed Loop” Prevention and Care Model:

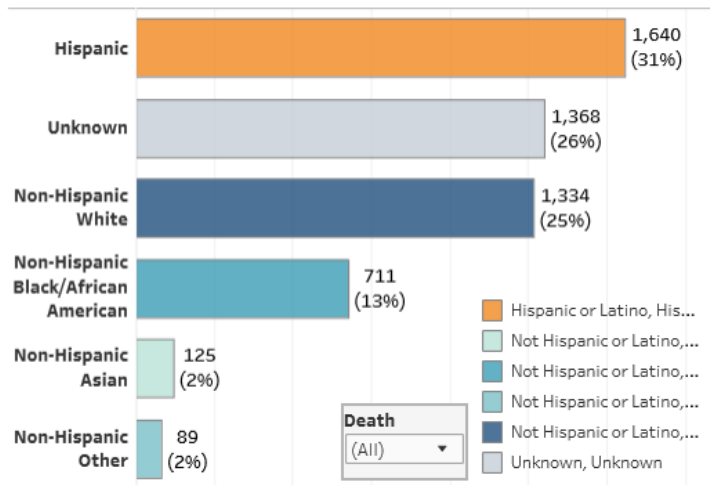
- **Data informed:** Neighborhoods with highest positivity rate and lowest number of tests
- **Community Testing:** Family Health Center
- **Education & Outreach:** UMMHC Ronald McDonald Care Mobile and Youth from the Latino Institute provide neighborhood-based prevention measures, PPE and resource kits
- **Access:** Community location; MassHealth enrollment; Connection to care

COVID-19 Prevalence in the City of Worcester

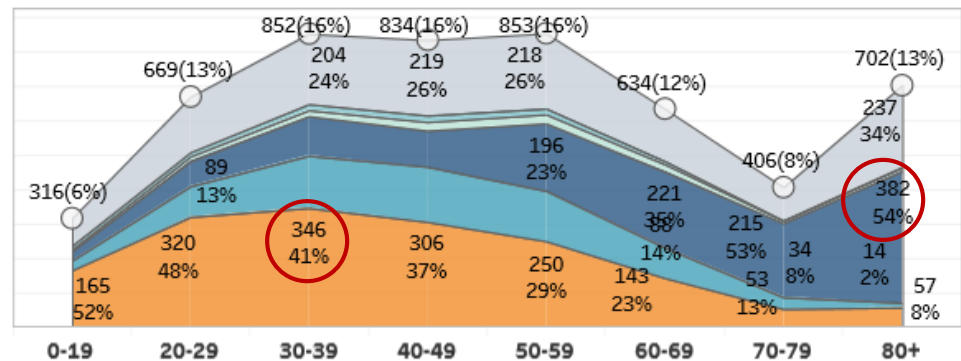
City of Worcester reported 5,267 Positive COVID-19 cases to date. Hispanics are the largest group testing positive at 31% which is much greater than the Hispanic mix in the City at 21%

Ethnicity	Race	% of Worcester County by Race/Ethnicity	% of Worcester City by Race/Ethnicity	Number of COVID-19 Positive Patients 7/7/20	% of COVID-19 Positive Population by Race/Ethnicity 7/7/20
Hispanic	All	11%	21%	1,640	31%
Not Hispanic	White	77%	57%	1,334	25%
Not Hispanic	Black/African American	5%	12%	711	13%
Not Hispanic	Asian	5%	7%	125	2%
	Other/Unknown	2%	3%	1,457	28%
Total				5,267	

Total COVID+ by Race and Ethnicity

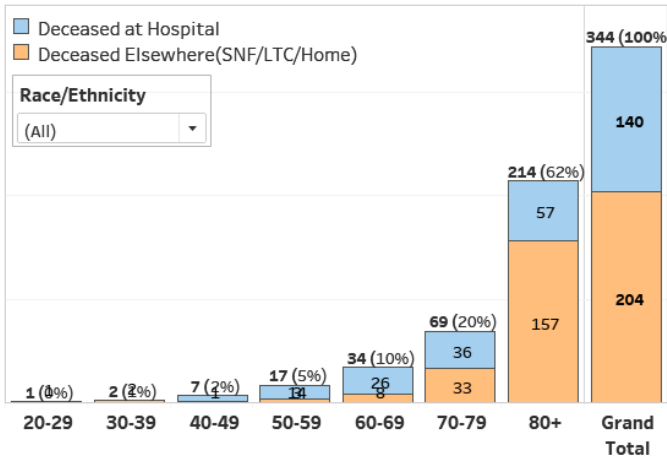


Total COVID+ by Age Group and Race Ethnicity



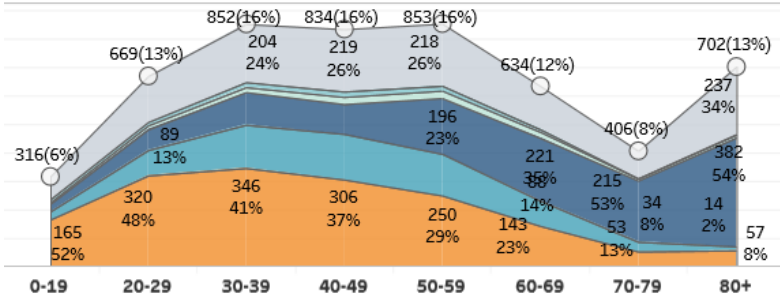
Hispanic COVID-19 positives are younger than Non-Hispanic positives with the largest group at 30-39 years old compared to the White race largest group at 80+ years old.

COVID-19 Mortality Rates in the City of Worcester are Low and Highest Among White Race

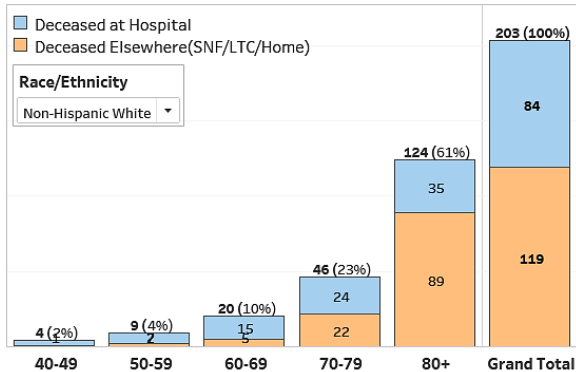


Worcester City Only (MAVEN Data as of 7/7/2020)							
Race/Ethnicity	% of Population by Race/Ethnicity	Population	# COVID+	# COVID+ Deaths	# COVID/10k	# COVID Deaths/10k	COVID Mortality Rate
Hispanic	21%	35,468	1,636	36	461	10	2%
Black/African American	12%	20,267	702	14	346	7	2%
White	57%	96,269	1,332	203	138	21	15%
Asian	7%	11,823	121	8	102	7	7%
Other	3%	5,067	87	2	172	4	2%
Unknown			1,389	81			6%
Total		168,893	5,267	344	312	20	7%

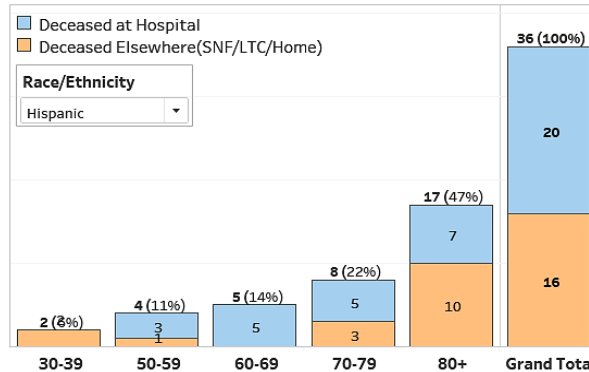
Total COVID+ by Age Group and Race Ethnicity



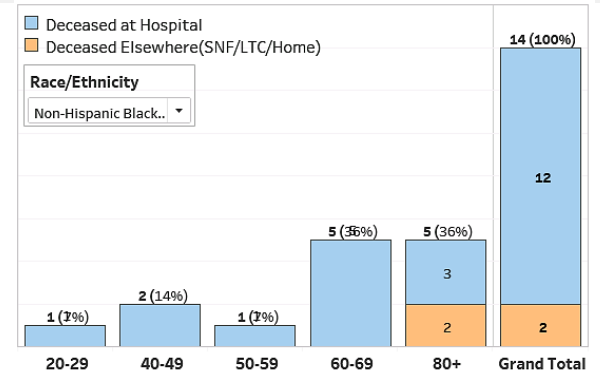
Mortality in the City of Worcester mainly occurs in White Race and among patients residing in nursing homes.. Likely this is due to the age of those testing positive and most of the nursing home patients were white. Hispanics test positive at lower ages than Non Hispanic populations and therefore have lower overall covid-19 mortality rates; however at age ranges 50-69 Hispanic rates are higher.



White race has highest mortality likely due to higher age of covid-19 positive patients

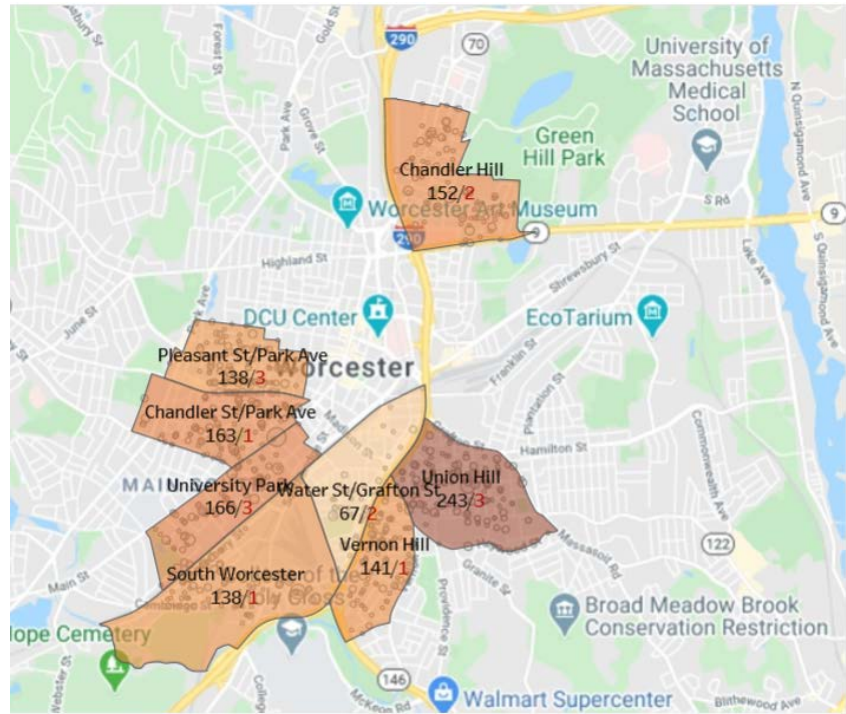
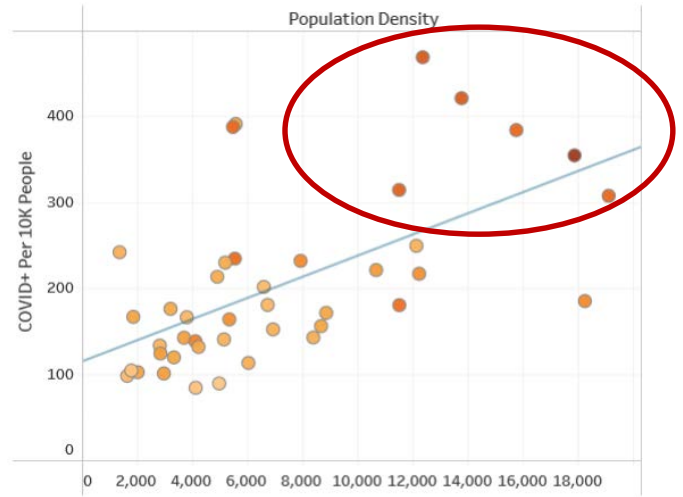


Hispanic has low mortality likely due to lower age of covid-19 positive patients

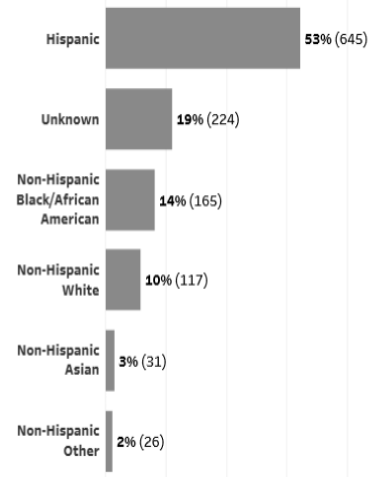


Black/AA has low mortality due to lower covid-19 positive numbers overall

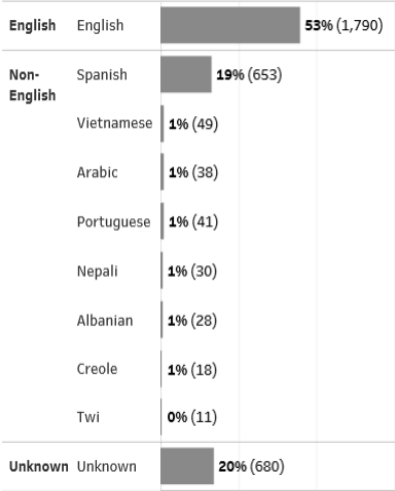
COVID-19 Highest Positives in High Population Dense Neighborhoods



COVID+ by Race and Ethnicity



COVID+ by Language (top 10 non-English Languages)

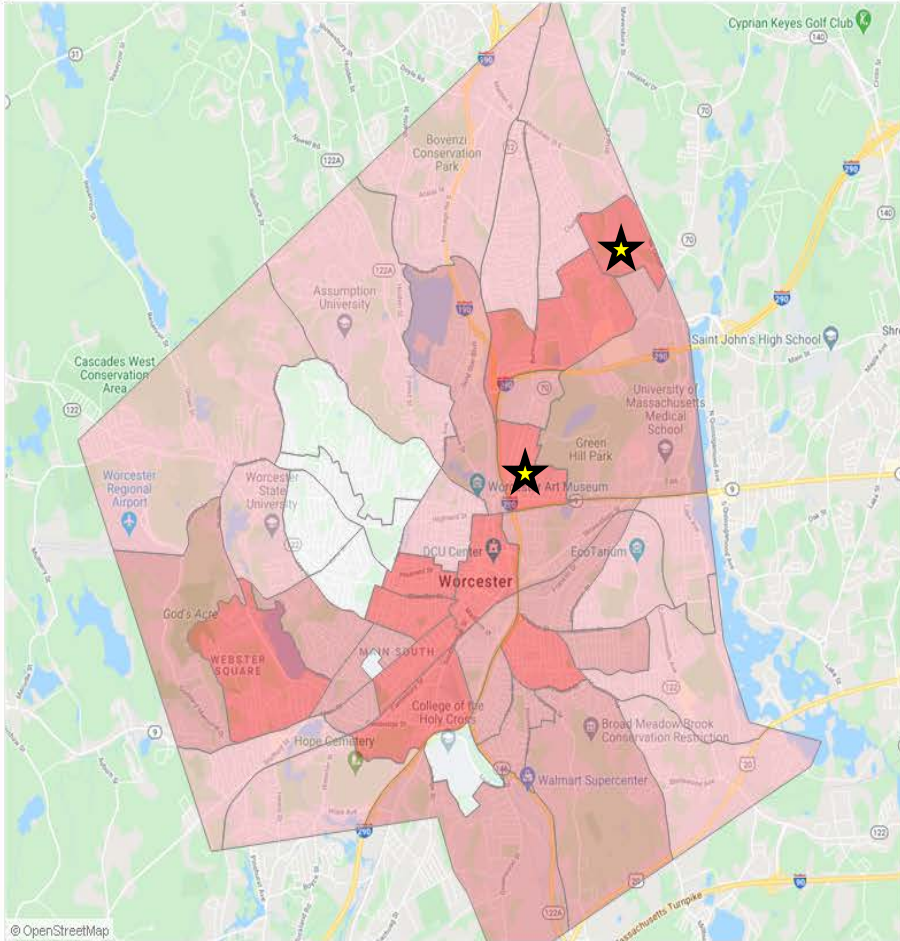


Neighborhoods with highest cases are those with highest population density. Rate of Hispanic positivity in these neighborhoods jumps to 53% and Black to 14% with the White race positivity at 10% of all cases in these neighborhoods

CDC Social Vulnerability Index 2018

City of Worcester

Overall SVI



Overall SVI Percentile
 Red: Top 10%
 Orange: Top 25%
 Yellow: Top 50%
 Green: Bottom 50%

Socioeconomic Measures Percentile
 Dark Green: Top 10%
 Medium Green: Top 25%
 Light Green: Top 50%
 White: Bottom 50%

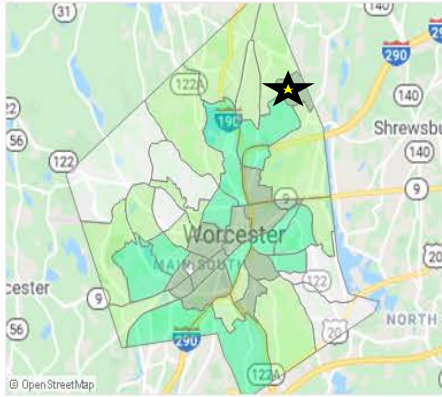
Household Comp. & Disability Measures Percentile
 Yellow: Top 10%
 Orange: Top 25%
 Light Yellow: Top 50%
 White: Bottom 50%

Minority Status and Lang. Measure Percentile
 Dark Blue: Top 10%
 Medium Blue: Top 25%
 Light Blue: Top 50%
 White: Bottom 50%

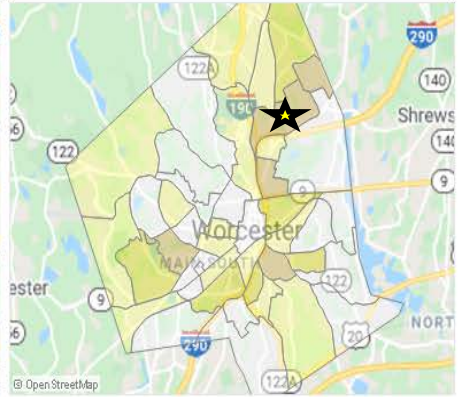
Housing and Transportation Measure Percentile
 Purple: Top 10%
 Dark Purple: Top 25%
 Light Purple: Top 50%
 White: Bottom 50%

THEMES

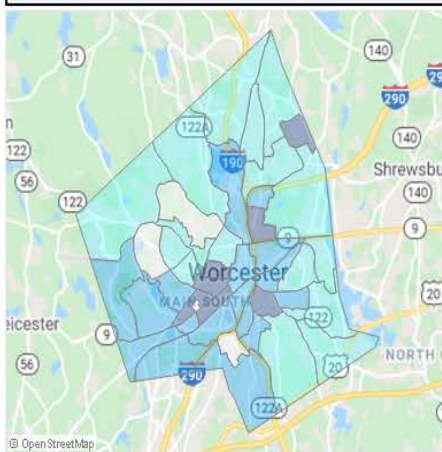
Socioeconomic



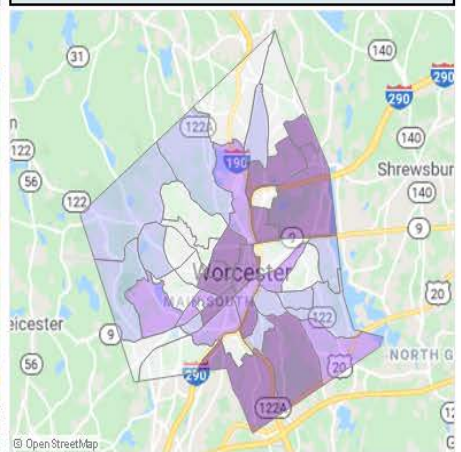
Household Composition & Disability



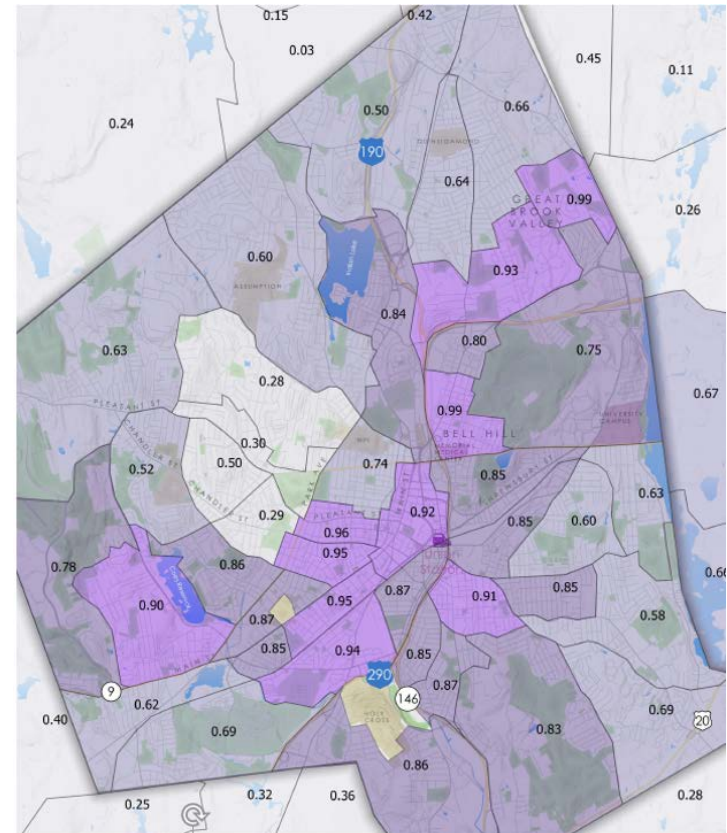
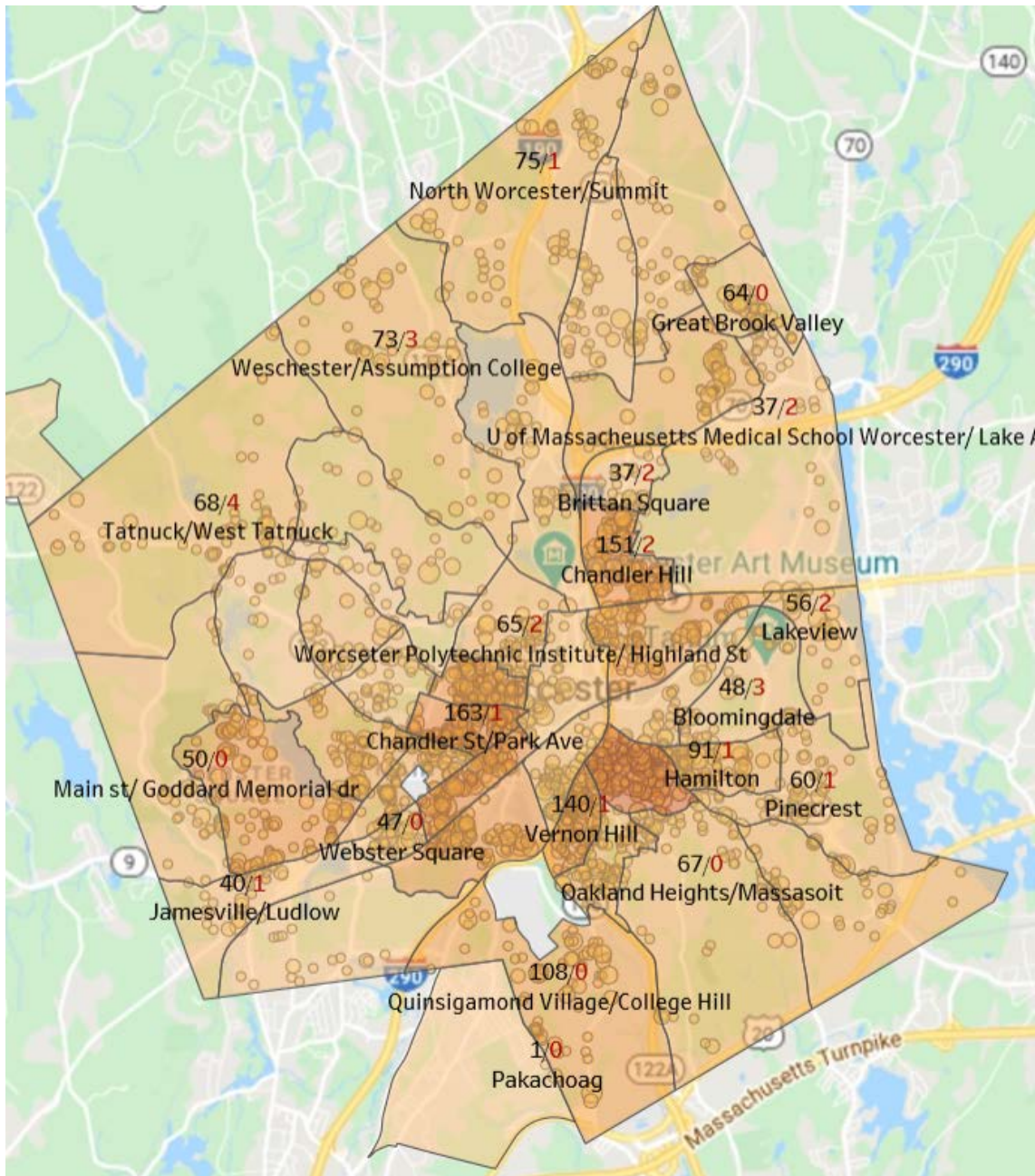
Minority Status & Language



Housing Type & Transportation



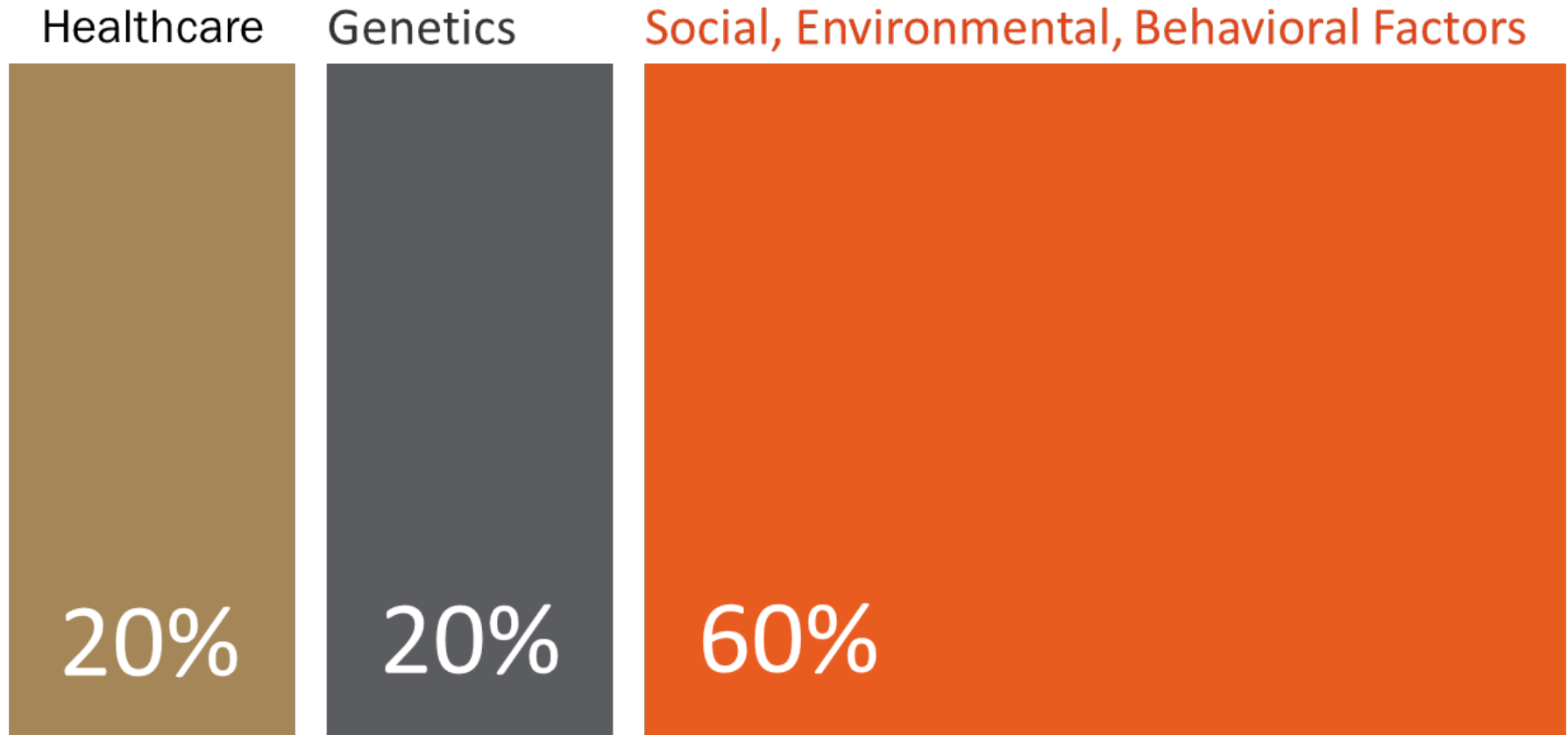
★ - Top 1% Nationally



COVID-19 Positive Cases occur at higher rates in the neighborhoods with high Social Vulnerability

Map excludes 1,089 positive cases occurring at nursing homes in Worcester in order to see neighborhood prevalence

What makes us healthy?



Additional Considerations

Best practice health care delivery

Create broader engagement from other health care organizations, providers and insurers to end racism and create justice in healthcare

Develop best practice standards for culturally sensitive and accessible healthcare in Worcester

Multifaceted approach to community outreach and testing

Continue to implement and sustain community outreach & testing events for COVID-19 tests, antibody tests, and future vaccines

Build trust by outreaching into communities and meeting them in their own neighborhoods

Anti-racist training and programs for all health-related institutions

Partner with health-related institutions to address racism and reduce racial inequities affecting patients and public health

Establish, support and sustain pipeline from youth to medical clinicians, so that healthcare providers reflect Worcester's diverse population equitably

HHS believes in Health Justice

We need to invest money into new housing

Provide thousands of employment opportunities that pay livable wages

Provide equitable funding for schools that meet the needs of youth in Black, Latino and immigrant communities

Invest in pipelines that allows young people from the community to see themselves in high power and well-paid positions

We need equitable healthcare for all. We need appropriate and free public transportation

We need to invest in a public safety model that amplifies community voices, centers lived experience and promotes mental health and well-being

