



2020 Census Redistricting Data for Boston

BPDA Research Division, August 13th, 2021



**boston planning &
development agency**



Why the Census Matters:

1. **Representation:** Determines how many seats each state has in the US House of Representatives and therefore influence in the Electoral College
2. **Redistricting:** Congressional districts, state legislative districts, and local city council districts are redrawn for the next ten years
3. **Federal Funding:** \$16 Billion in Federal Funding for Massachusetts (health care, education, food and nutrition programs, housing, and child care for low-income families)

Preparation for 2020 Decennial Census

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

In 2017, the City of Boston and BPDA Research & GIS worked together to review and update the Census Bureau's confidential residential address list to ensure accuracy and completeness of the Census.

Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)

In 2019, BPDA Research & GIS, City of Boston DoIT and Election Department provided the U.S. Census, through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), with information regarding recent development and suggestions for improvements to revise tract and block group boundaries.

Public Outreach

In 2020, widespread efforts from everyone from IGR to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement to the Boston Public Schools worked to promote and facilitate completion of the 2020 Census forms during a challenging time.

2020 Decennial Census

Conducted every ten years on April 1st

Attempts a complete count of everyone in the United States

Data collected:

Sex

Age

Hispanic Origin

Race

Occupied vs. Vacant Housing Units

Household vs. Group Quarters Population

Owner vs. Renter Household

2020 Census Redistricting Data Summary File

Released August 12th, 2021

Does not allow for all possible cuts and combinations of Census data

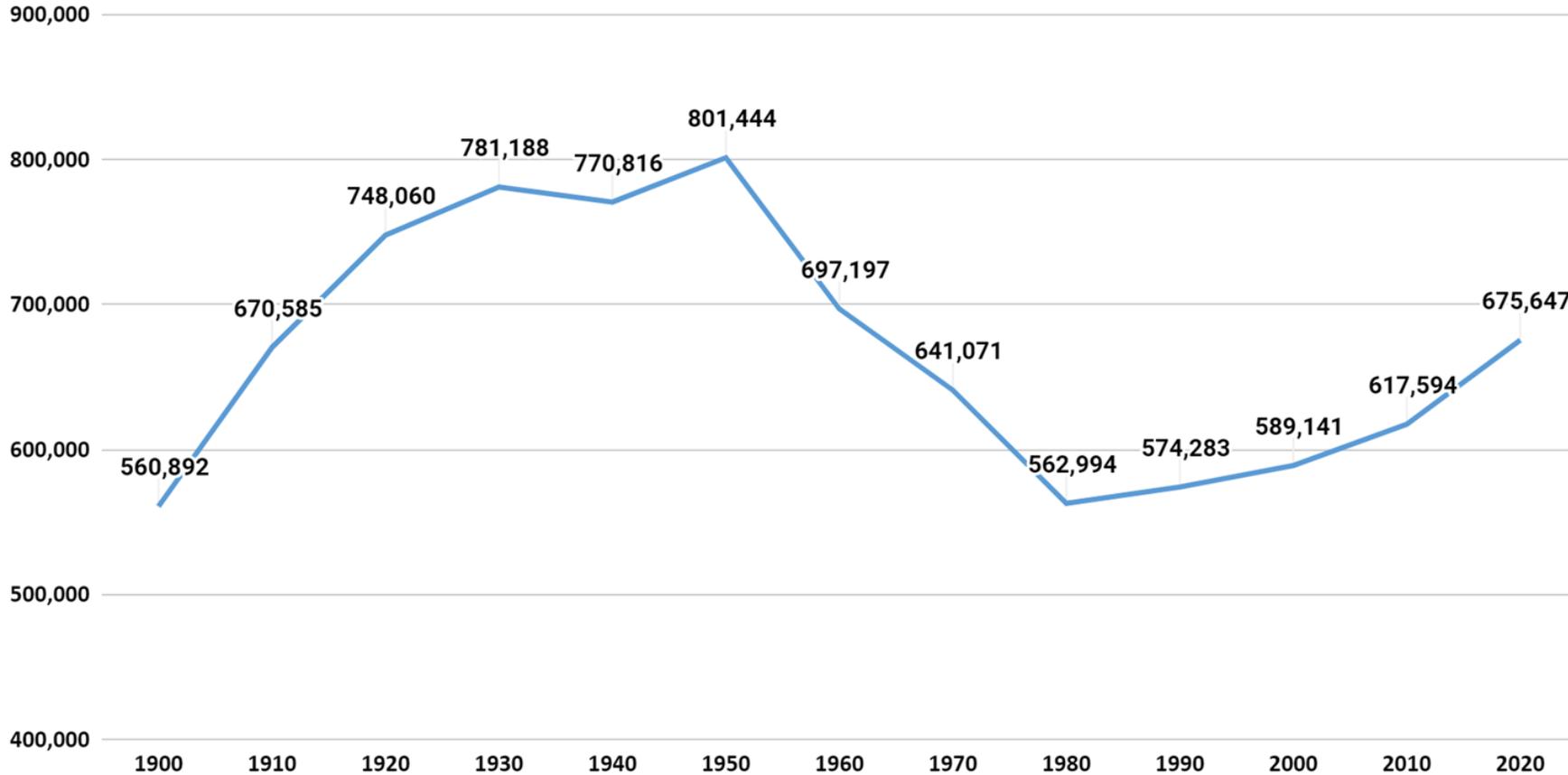
Only includes <18 and 18+ age breakdowns

No Sex data breakdowns

Full 2020 Census data release will be in 2022

2020 Census Boston Citywide Trends

Boston's Population by Decade, 1900-2020

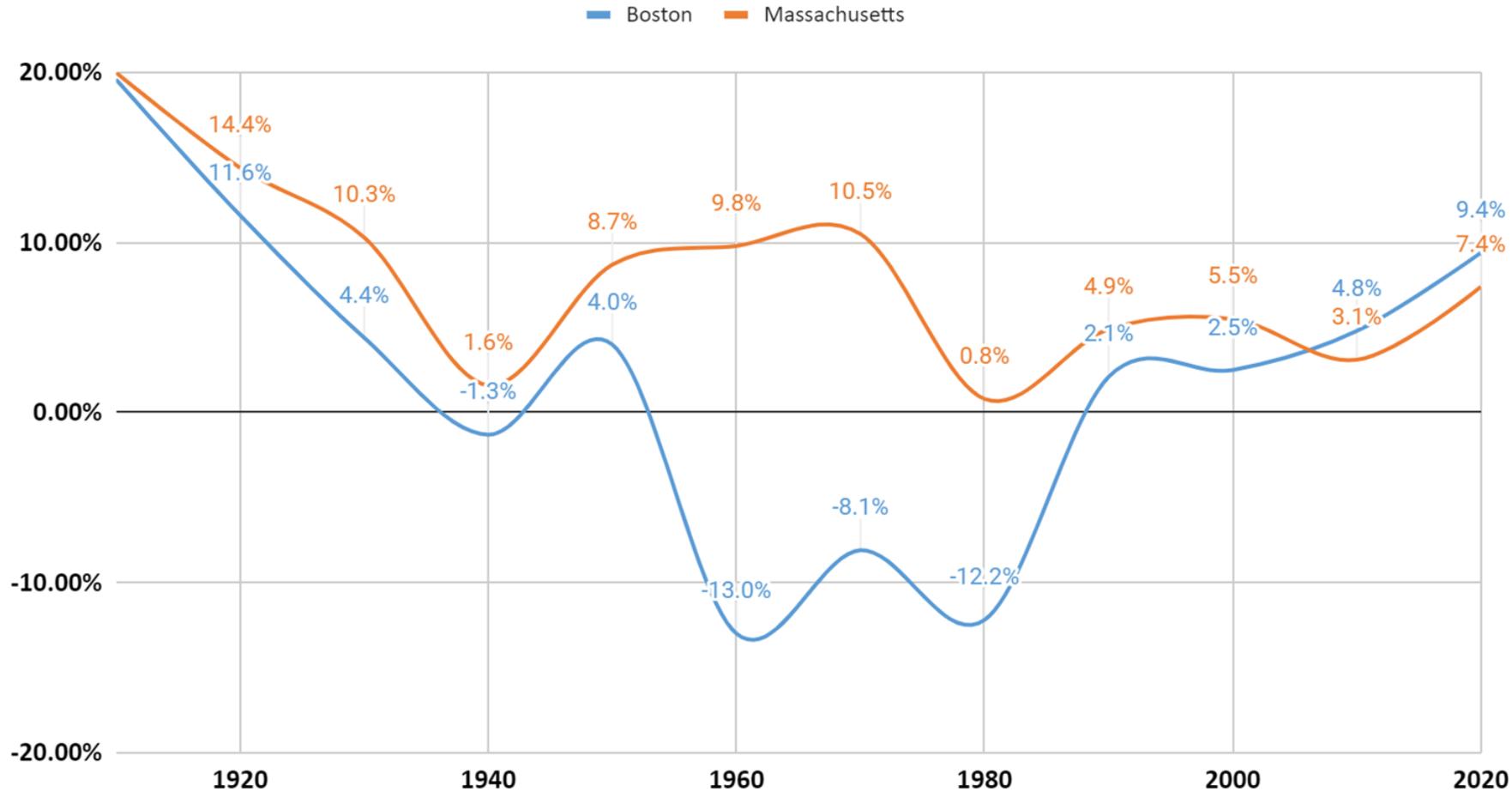


Boston's population in 2020 hit 675,647.

Boston has continued its growth trend from a low point in 1980.

The 2020 Census count is lower than recent Census population estimates (691,531 for July 1, 2020).

Population Growth for Boston and Massachusetts by Decade (1910-2020)

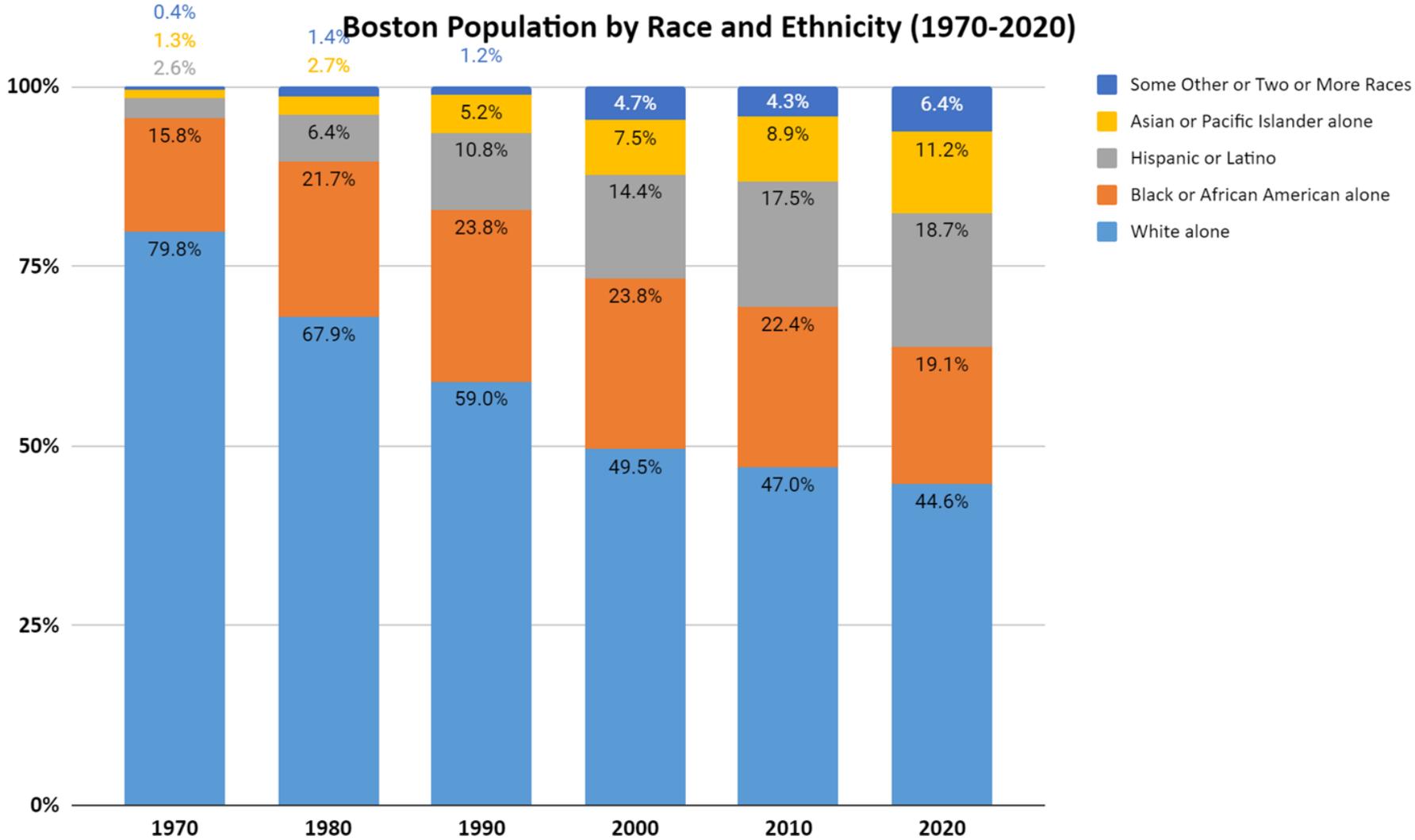


Boston grew by 9.4% from 2010 to 2020.

Massachusetts grew 7.4% since 2010 to 7,029,917.

The United States as a whole also grew at 7.4% from 2010 to 2020.

Boston Population by Race and Ethnicity (1970-2020)



Boston continues to become more diverse, adding Hispanic and Asian residents.

Hispanic:

- 16.9 percent growth
- 18.7 percent population share

Asian/Pacific Islanders:

- 38 percent growth
- 11.2 percent population share

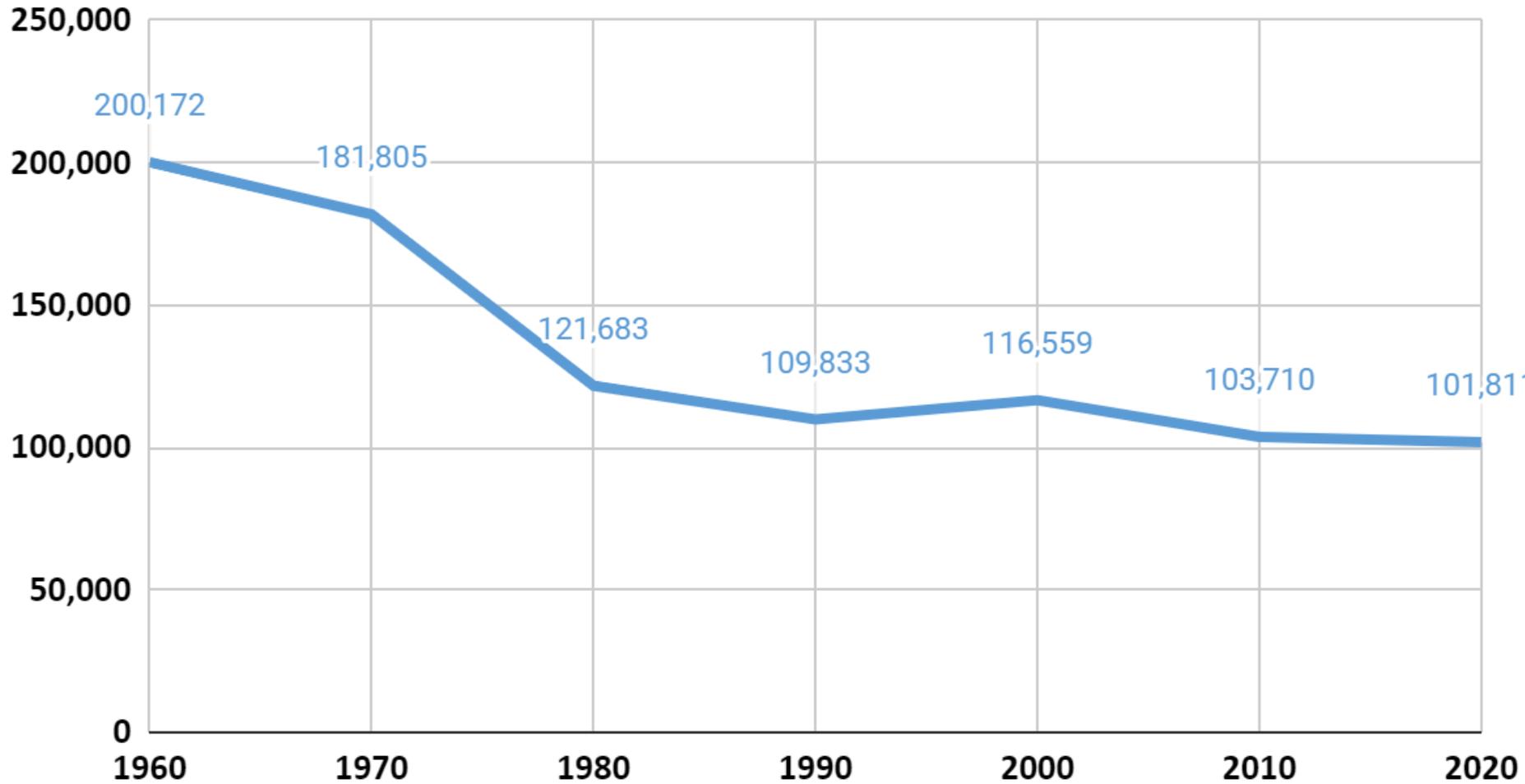
Non-Hispanic Whites:

- 3.8 percent growth
- 44.6 percent population share

Non-Hispanic Black/African-Americans:

- 6.4 percent decline
- 19.1 percent population share

Boston Under 18 Child Population (1960-2020)

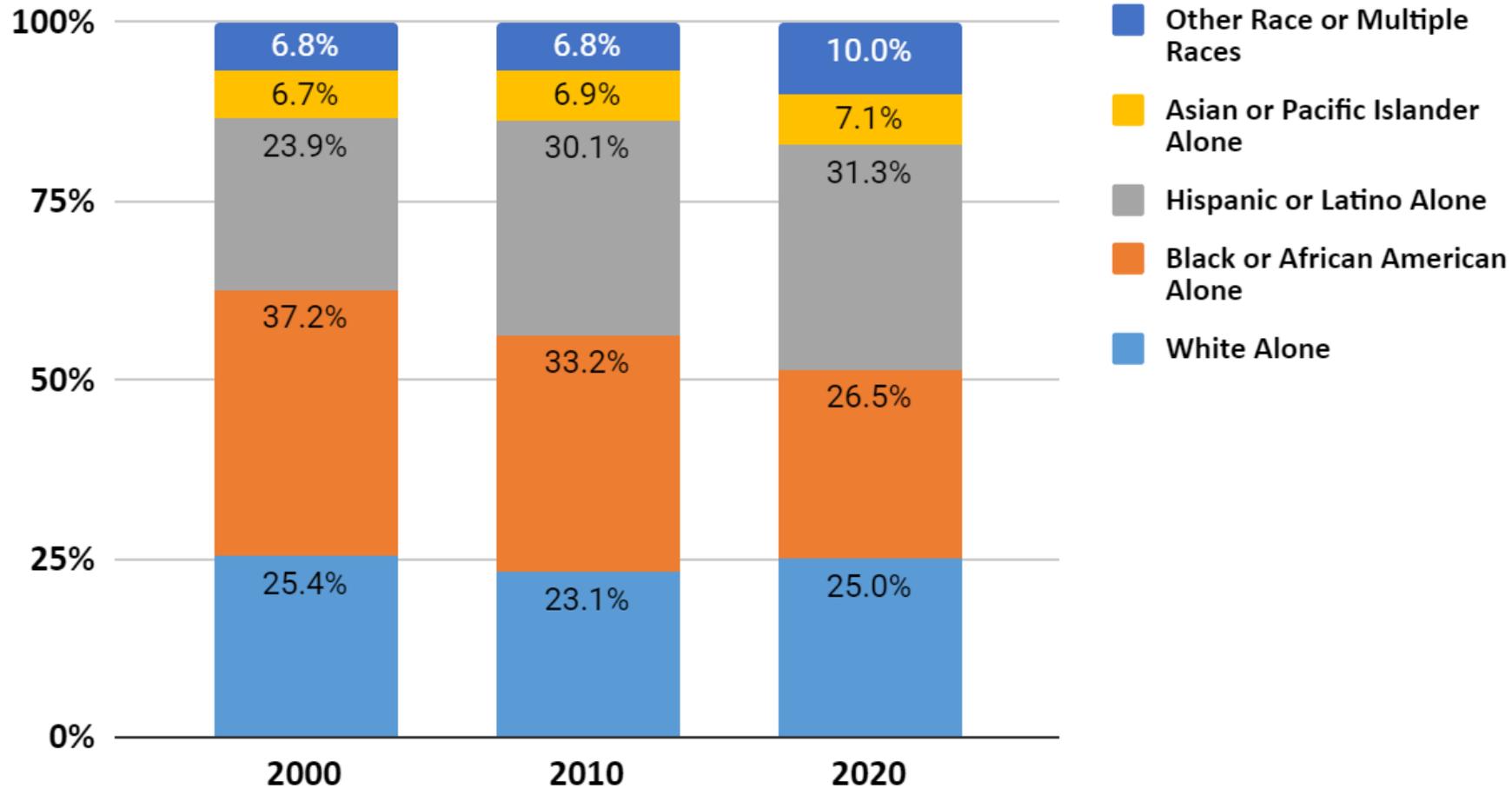


Boston had 101,811 children under age 18 in 2020, a fall of 1.8% from 2010.

Boston's child population fell by 49% from 1960 to 2020.

Children under 18 made up 29% of Boston's population in 1960, 17% in 2010, and 15% in 2020.

Boston Child Population (0-17) by Race/Ethnicity



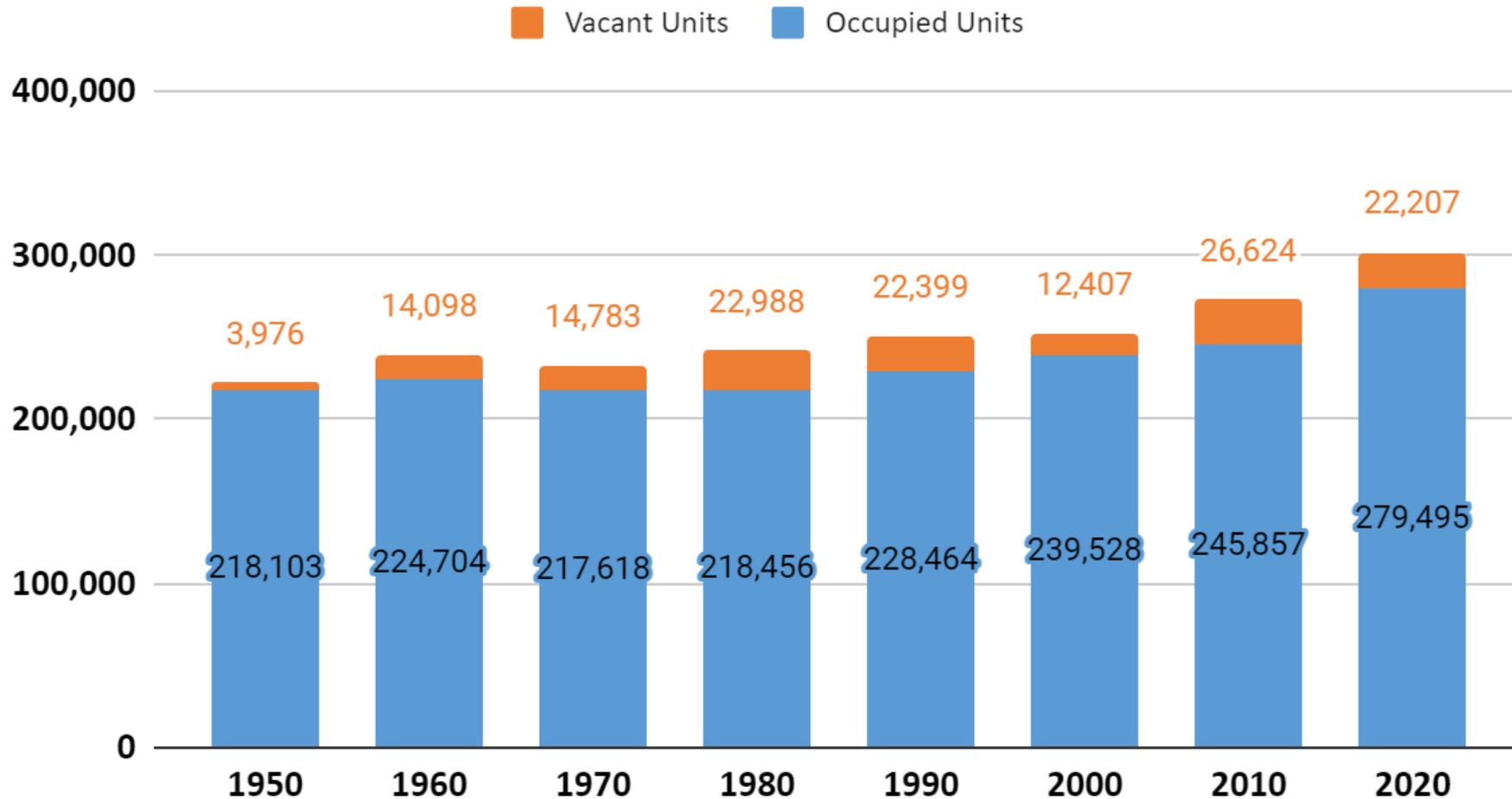
Boston's child population is more diverse than the adult population.

10% of the child population in 2020 was identified as multiracial or some other race.

The Hispanic child population share increased to 31.3%.

The absolute number of Black/African-American children in Boston declined 22 percent.

Boston Housing Units by Occupancy (1950-2020)

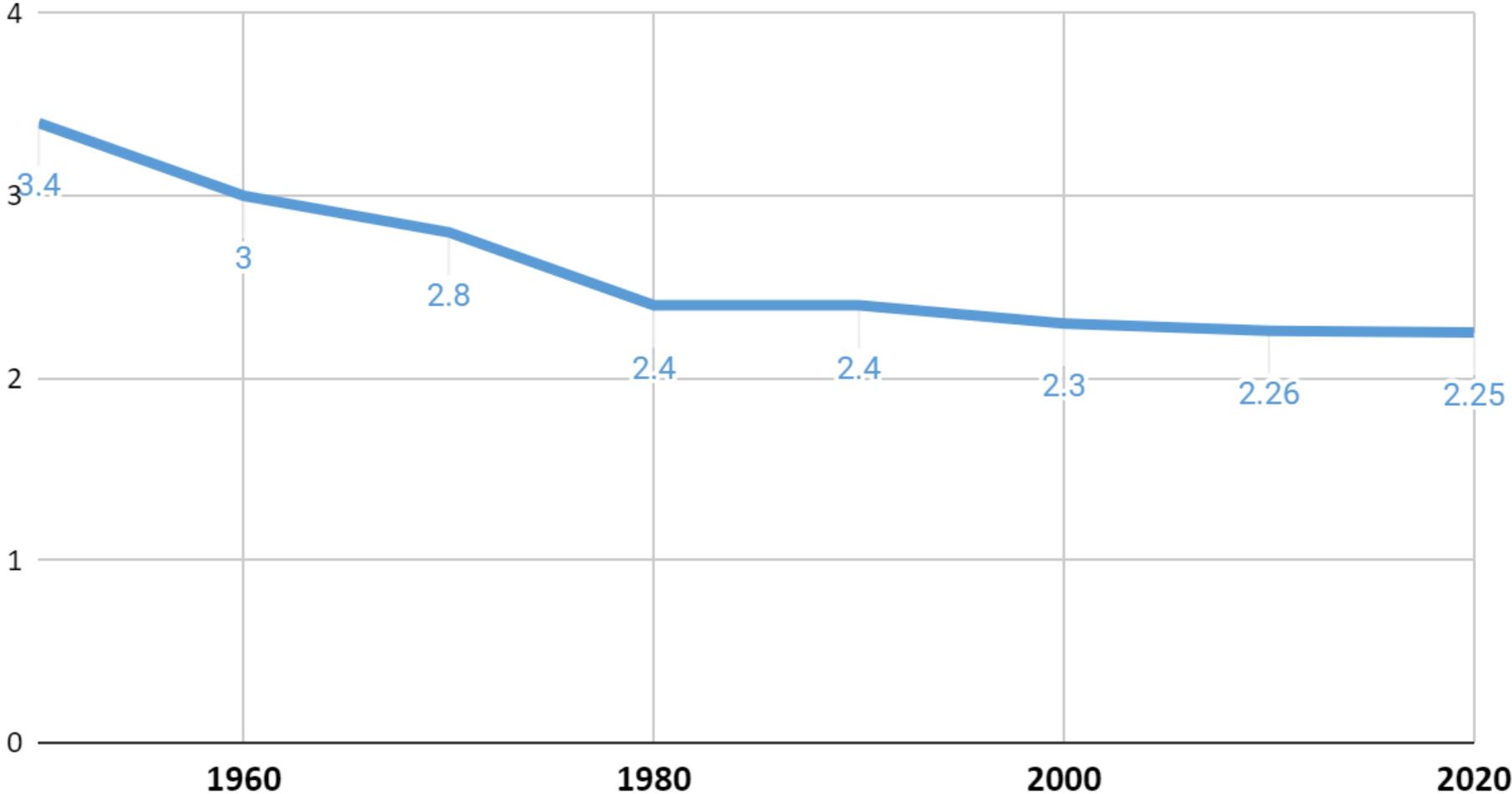


Boston had 301,702 total housing units in 2020, an increase of 10.7% from 2010.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 7.4% of Boston housing units were vacant in April 2020, down from 9.8% in 2010.

There were 279,495 occupied housing units (aka households) in Boston in 2020.

Average Household Size - Boston (1950-2020)

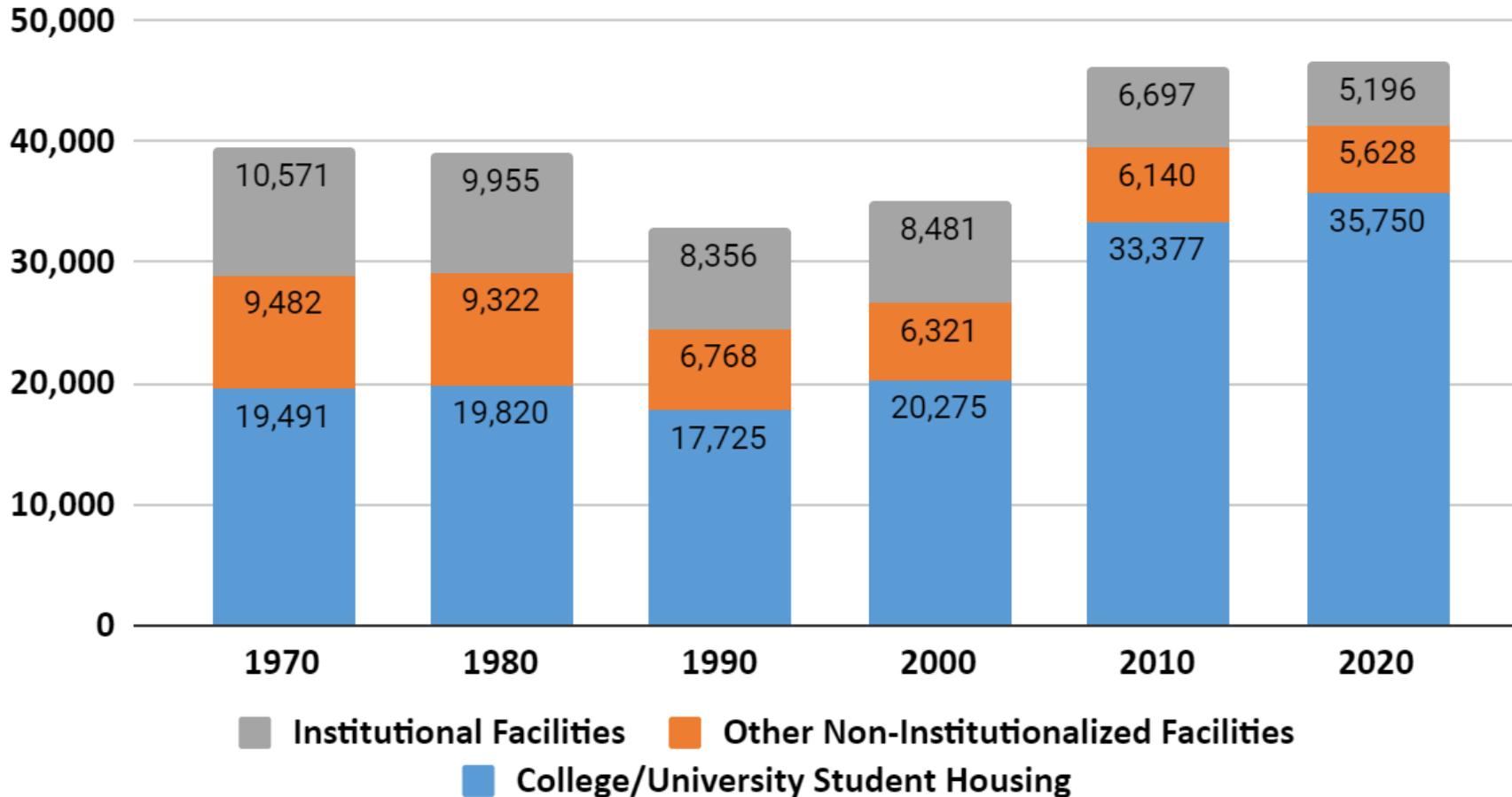


Boston's average household size fell slightly to 2.25.

Boston's average household size is consistently below the national average.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950-2020 Decennial Censuses, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Boston Group Quarters Population



In 2020, 35,750 Boston residents lived in College/University Student Housing, up 7.1% from 2010.

Colleges reported students to the U.S. Census despite campus evacuation, but there may have been problems with the count.

Institutional facilities include correctional facilities, nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, etc.

Non-institutionalized group quarters include college dorms, military barracks, worker housing, etc.

2020 Census Boston Neighborhood Trends

2010-2020 Population Growth by Neighborhood

The city of Boston grew 9.4% from 2010 to 2020.

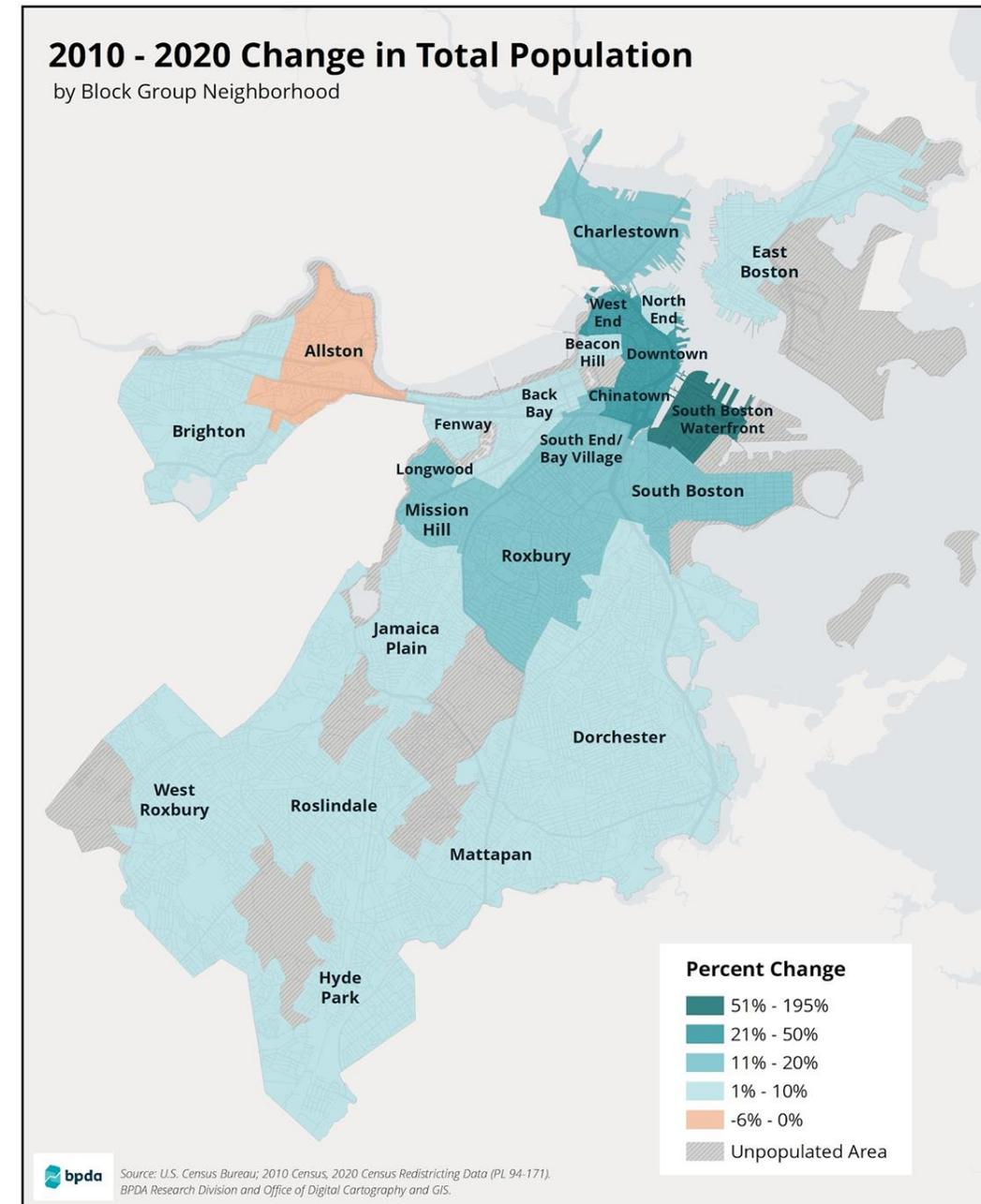
South Boston Waterfront is the Boston neighborhood that grew the fastest, growing 195 percent from just 1,889 in 2010 to 5,579 in 2020.

Chinatown (+49%), Downtown (+42%), and the West End (+33%) also grew rapidly.

Dorchester continues to be Boston's largest neighborhood, adding the most new residents, 7,942.

According to the 2020 Census, Allston lost population, down 6% from 2010 to 2020, with the group quarters population falling by 40 percent. Was the college dorm population counted correctly in the wake of the pandemic evacuation?

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Decennial Censuses, BPDA Research Division Analysis Note: Uses consistent 2020 block group-defined neighborhood boundaries. Map by BPDA Office of Digital Cartography and GIS



2010-2020 Child Population Growth by Neighborhood

Citywide, the child population fell by 1.8 percent 2010 to 2020.

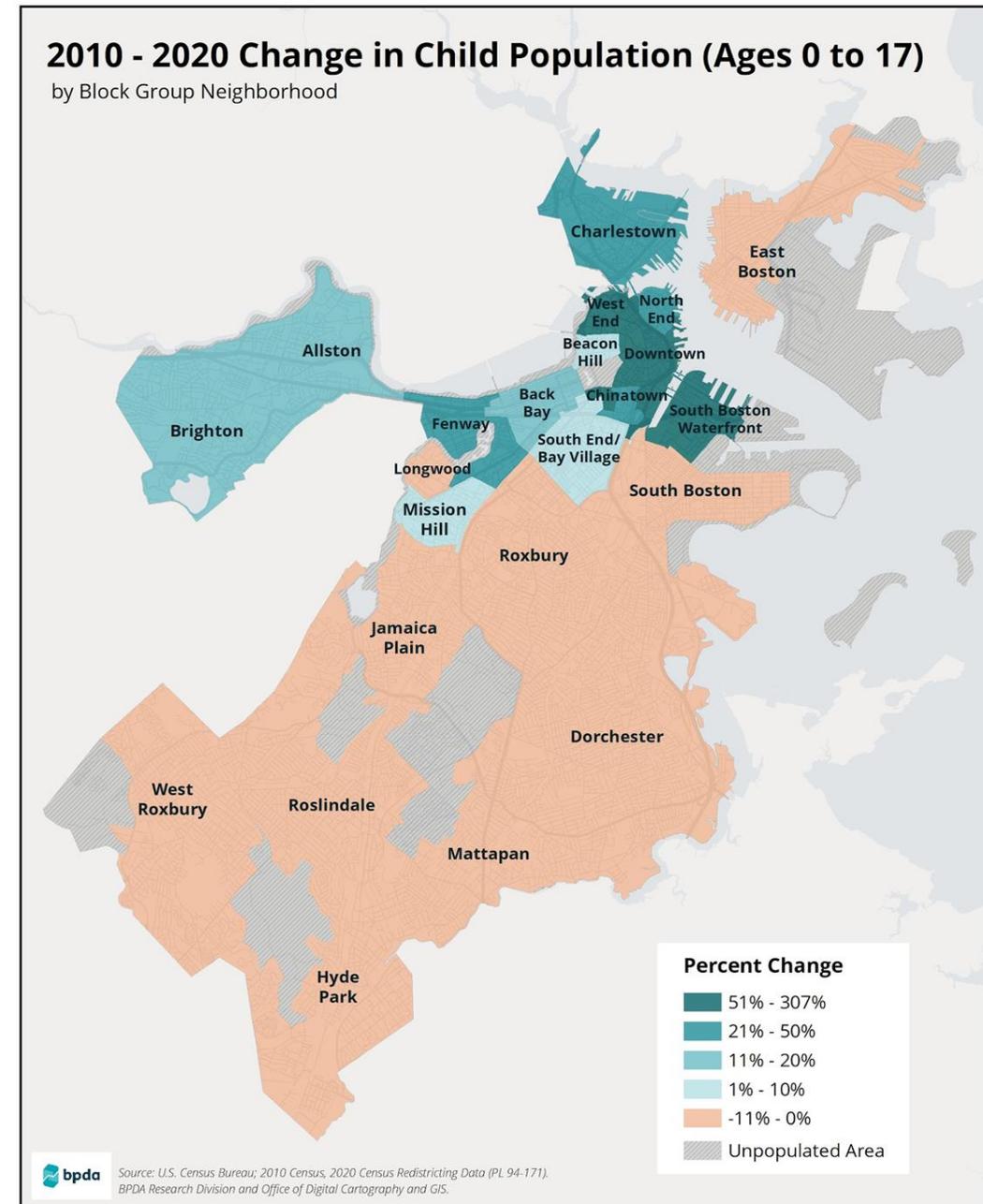
The South Boston Waterfront, the North End, the West End, Downtown, and Chinatown have still small, but rapidly growing, child populations.

Charlestown added the most children: 774.

The child population declined the fastest in Hyde Park (-11%) and Roslindale (-9%).

Children make up the highest share of population in Mattapan (22.3%).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Decennial Censuses, BPDA
Research Division Analysis Note: Uses consistent 2020 block group-defined neighborhood boundaries. Map by BPDA Office of Digital Cartography and GIS



2010-2020 Housing Growth by Neighborhood

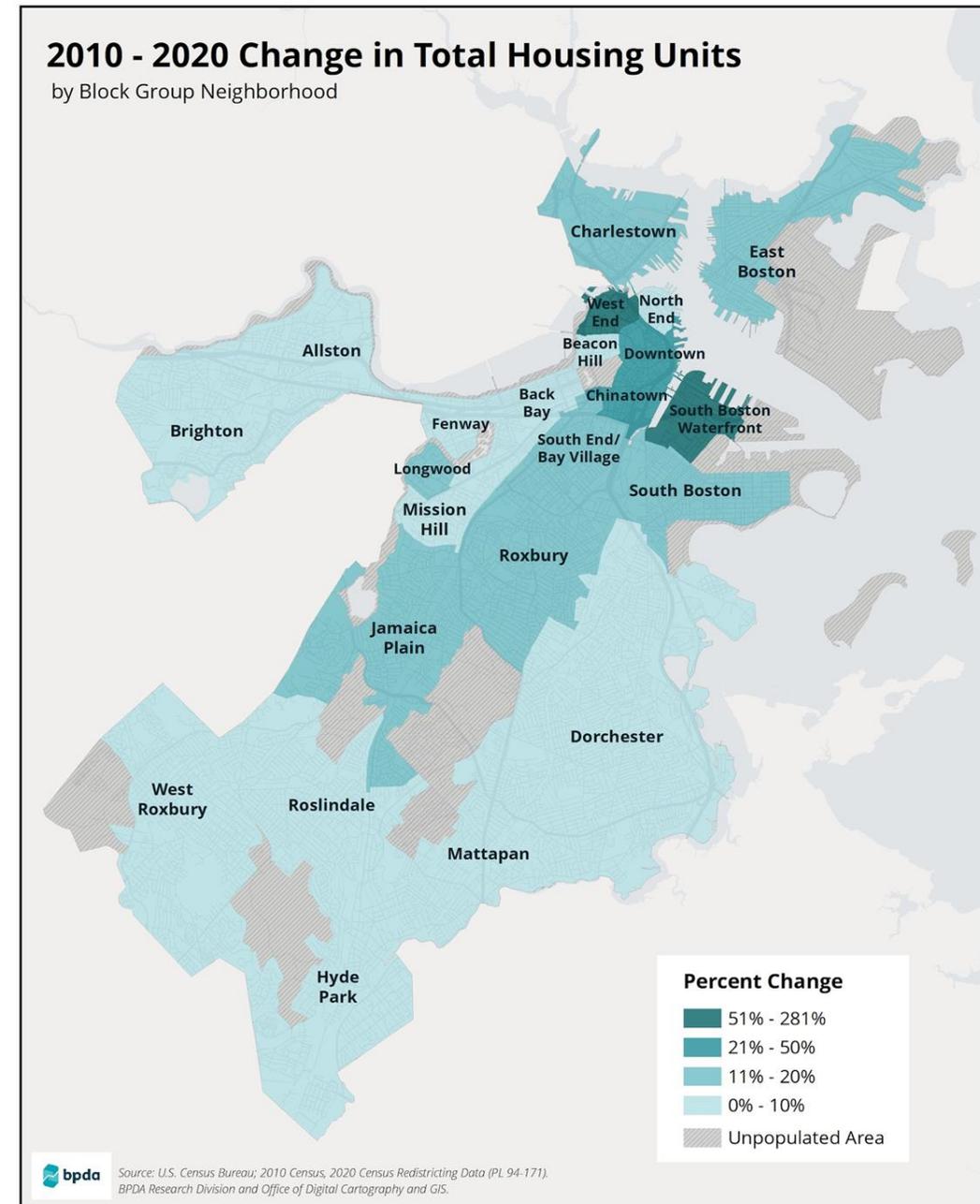
All Boston neighborhoods saw housing growth.

The number of housing units grew fastest in South Boston Waterfront, 281% since 2010, with the most new units 3,408.

The West End (61%) and Chinatown (49%) also saw rapid housing growth.

South Boston Waterfront had the largest share of housing units marked as vacant by the U.S. Census: 21.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Decennial Censuses, BPDA Research Division Analysis Note: Uses consistent 2020 block group-defined neighborhood boundaries. Map by BPDA Office of Digital Cartography and GIS



2010-2020 Growth in Non-Hispanic Black/African-American Population by Neighborhood

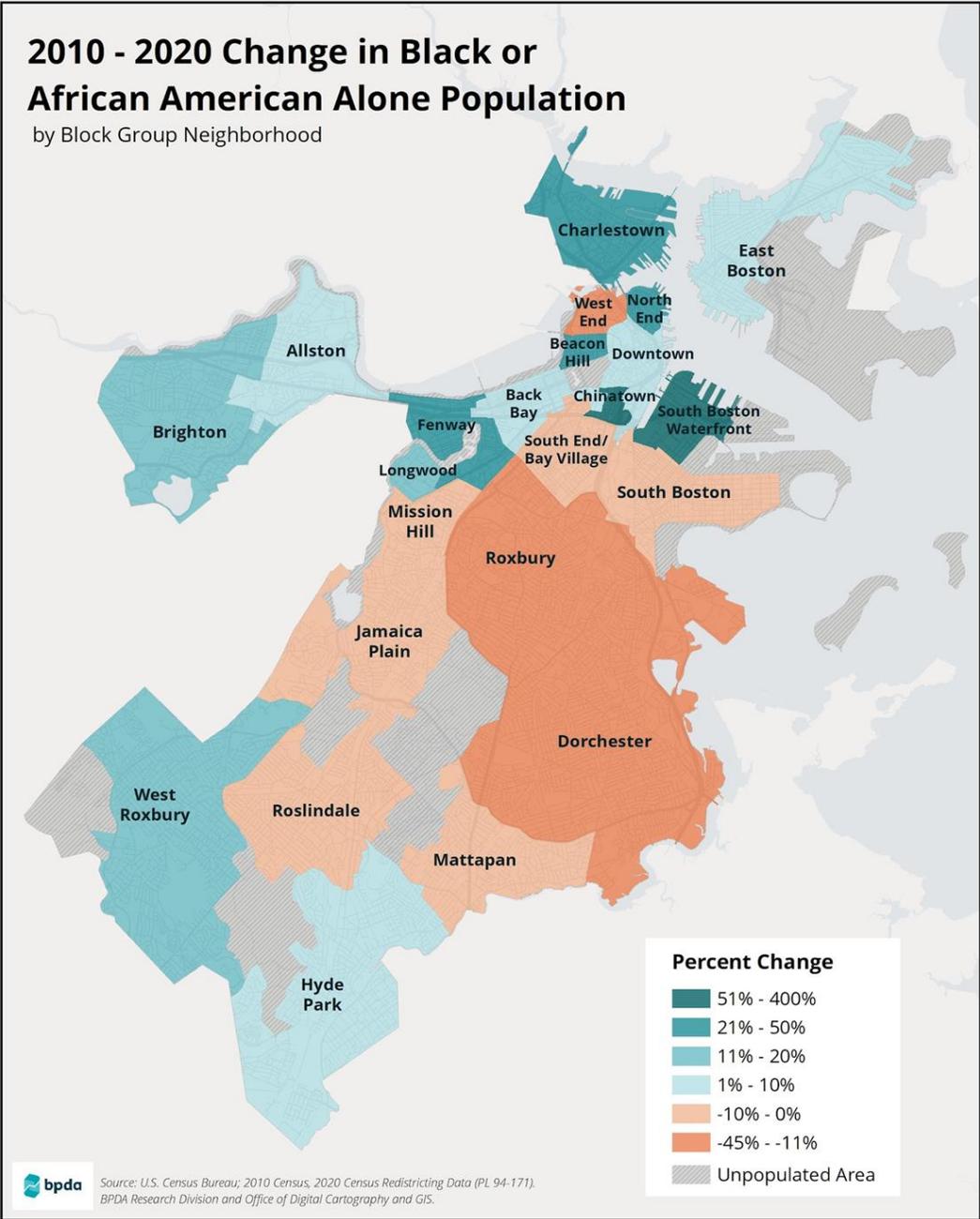
The Black/African-American population citywide fell by 6.4 percent from 2010 to 2020.

The Black/African-American population fell the fastest in the West End (-45%), Dorchester (-13%), and Roxbury (-12%) since 2010.

Fenway added the most Black/African-American population: 610.

Mattapan had the largest share of Black/African-American residents in 2020: 68.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Decennial Censuses, BPDA Research Division Analysis Note: Uses consistent 2020 block group-defined neighborhood boundaries. Map by BPDA Office of Digital Cartography and GIS



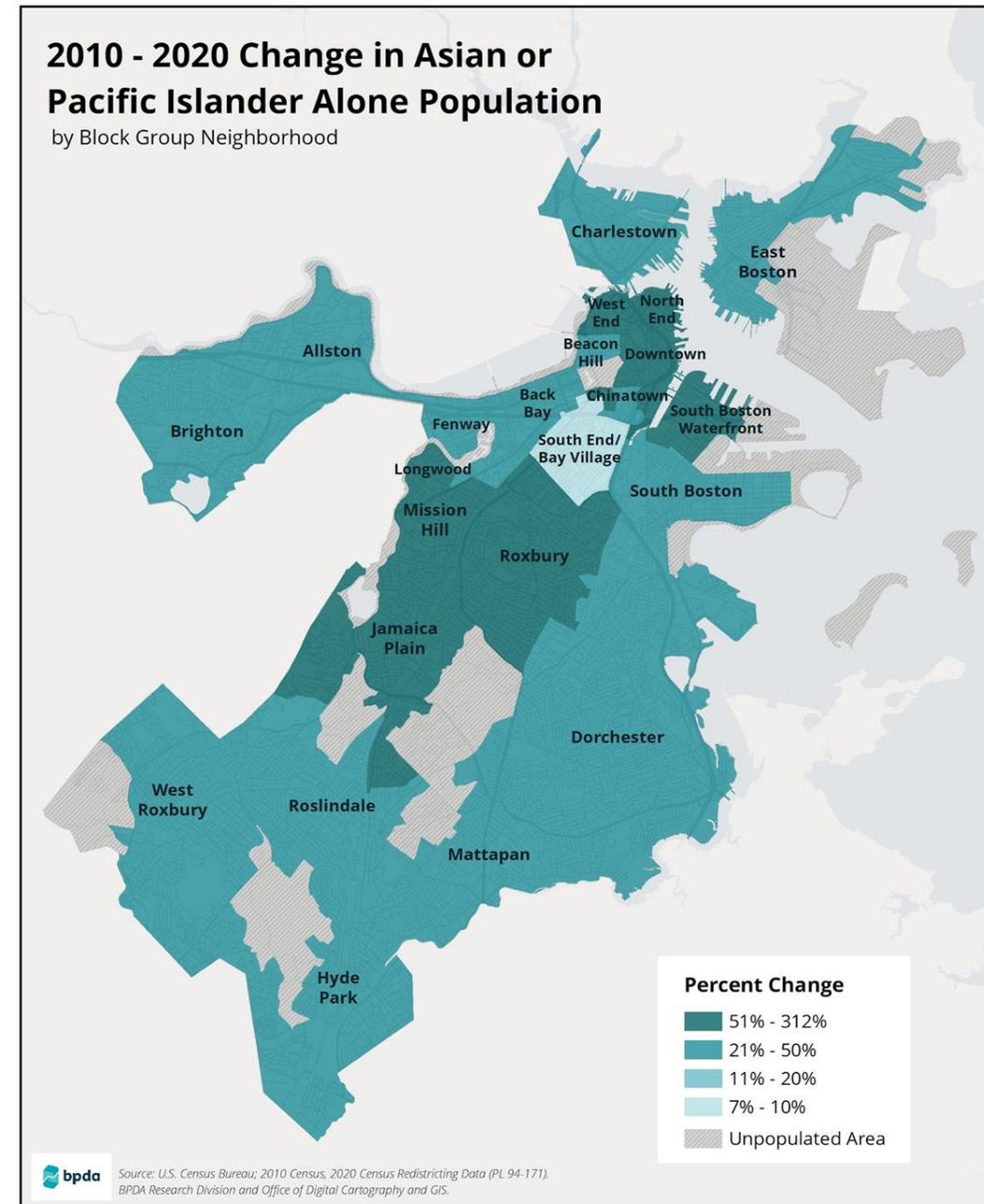
2010-2020 Growth in Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander Population by Neighborhood

Citywide, the Asian/Pacific Islander population grew by 38% from 2010.

The Asian/Pacific Islander population grew 312% in the South Boston Waterfront and 147% in Roxbury.

Dorchester added the most Asian/Pacific Islander population: 2,723.

Chinatown had the highest share of Asian/Pacific Islander residents in 2020: 59.9%



2010-2020 Growth in Hispanic Population by Neighborhood

Citywide, the Hispanic population grew by 16.9% from 2010 to 2020.

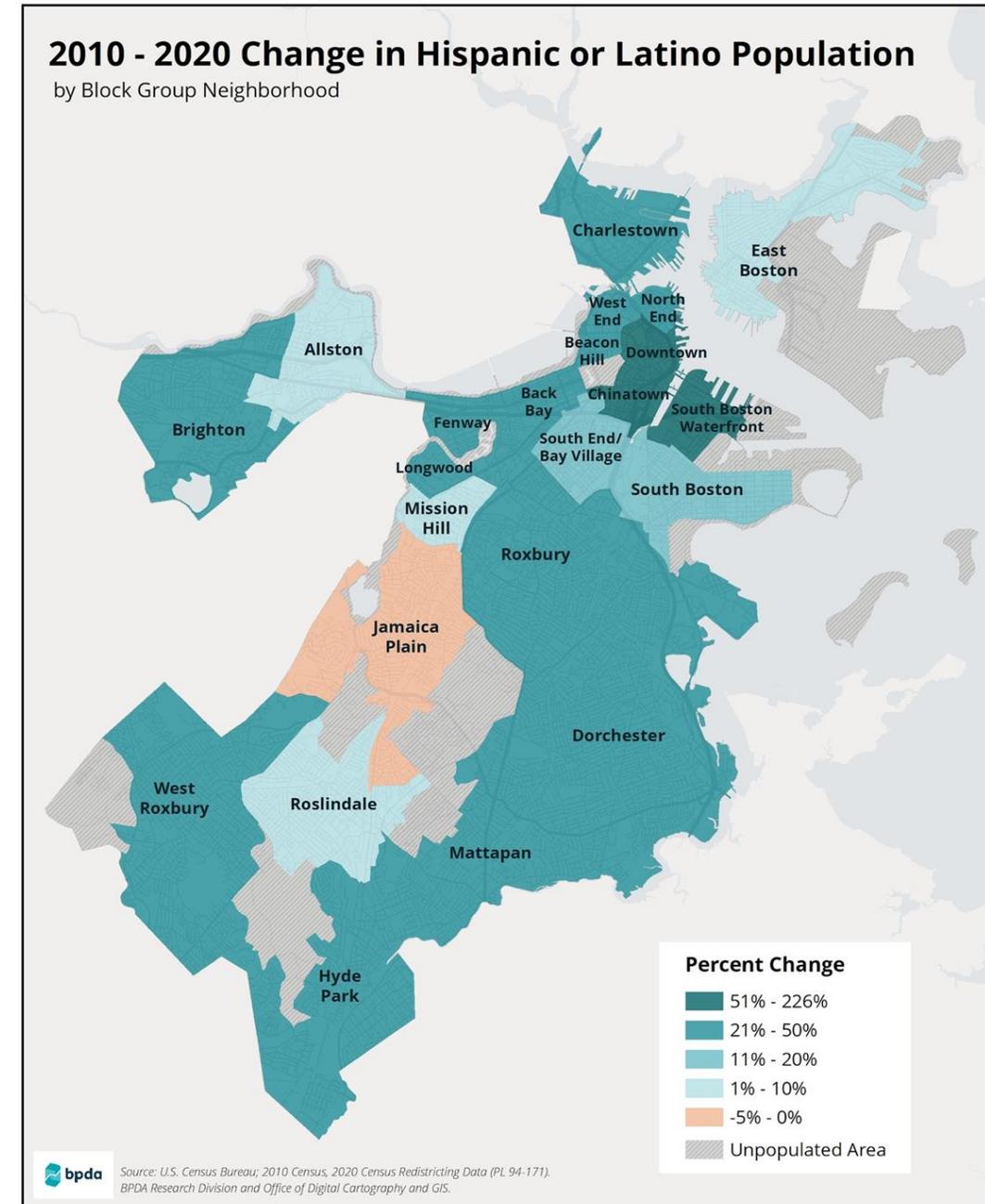
The Hispanic population grew 226% in South Boston Waterfront and 181% in Chinatown.

Dorchester added the most Hispanic residents - 5,878.

The Hispanic population fell in Jamaica Plain, down 5% since 2010.

East Boston had the largest share of Hispanic residents in 2020: 50.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Decennial Censuses, BPDA Research Division Analysis Note: Uses consistent 2020 block group-defined neighborhood boundaries. Map by BPDA Office of Digital Cartography and GIS



2010-2020 Growth in Non-Hispanic White Population by Neighborhood

Citywide, the non-Hispanic White population grew by 3.8% from 2010 to 2020.

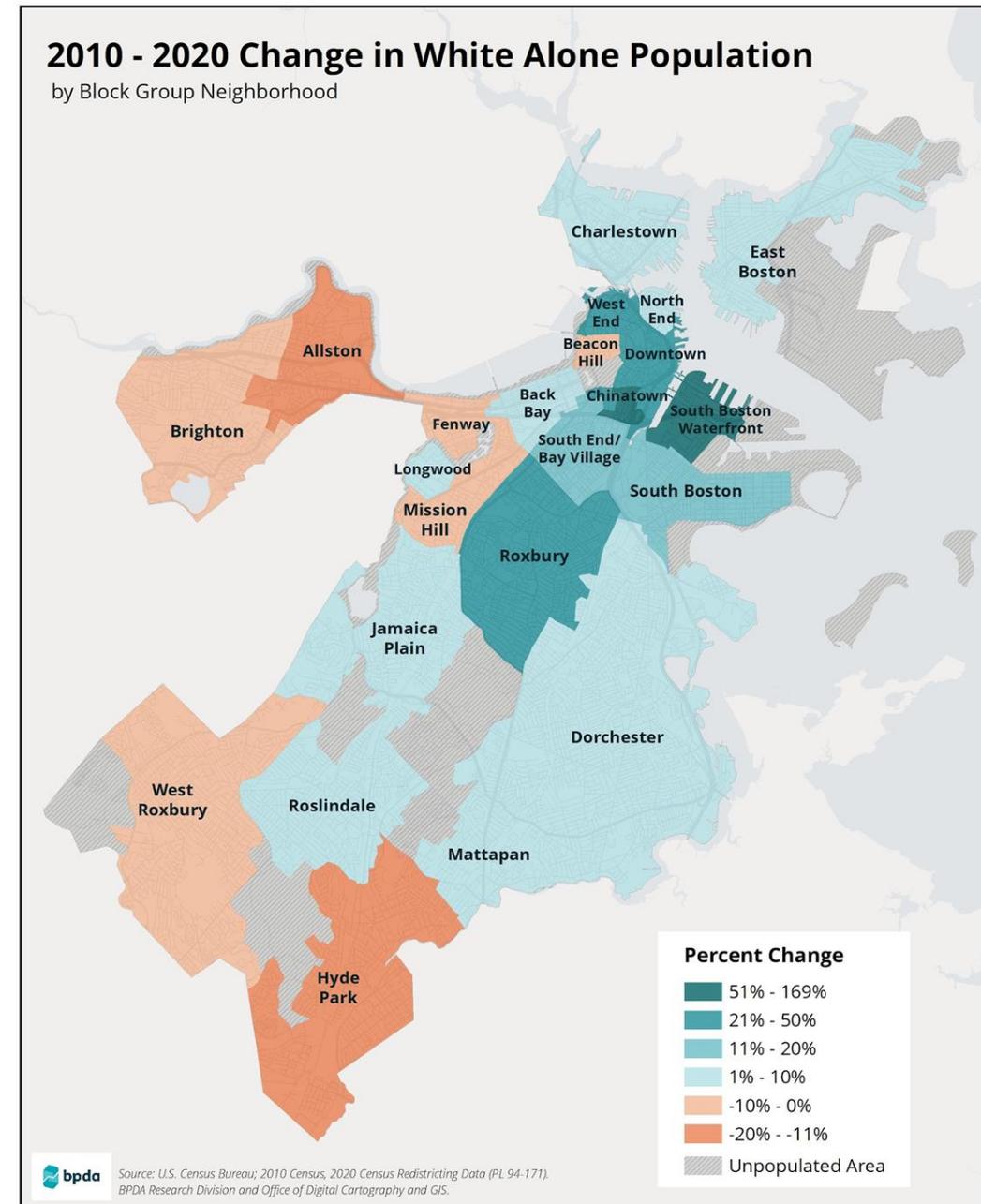
The White population grew 169% in South Boston Waterfront and 107% in Chinatown.

South Boston added the most White residents - 4,206.

The White population fell 20% in Allston and 16% in Hyde Park.

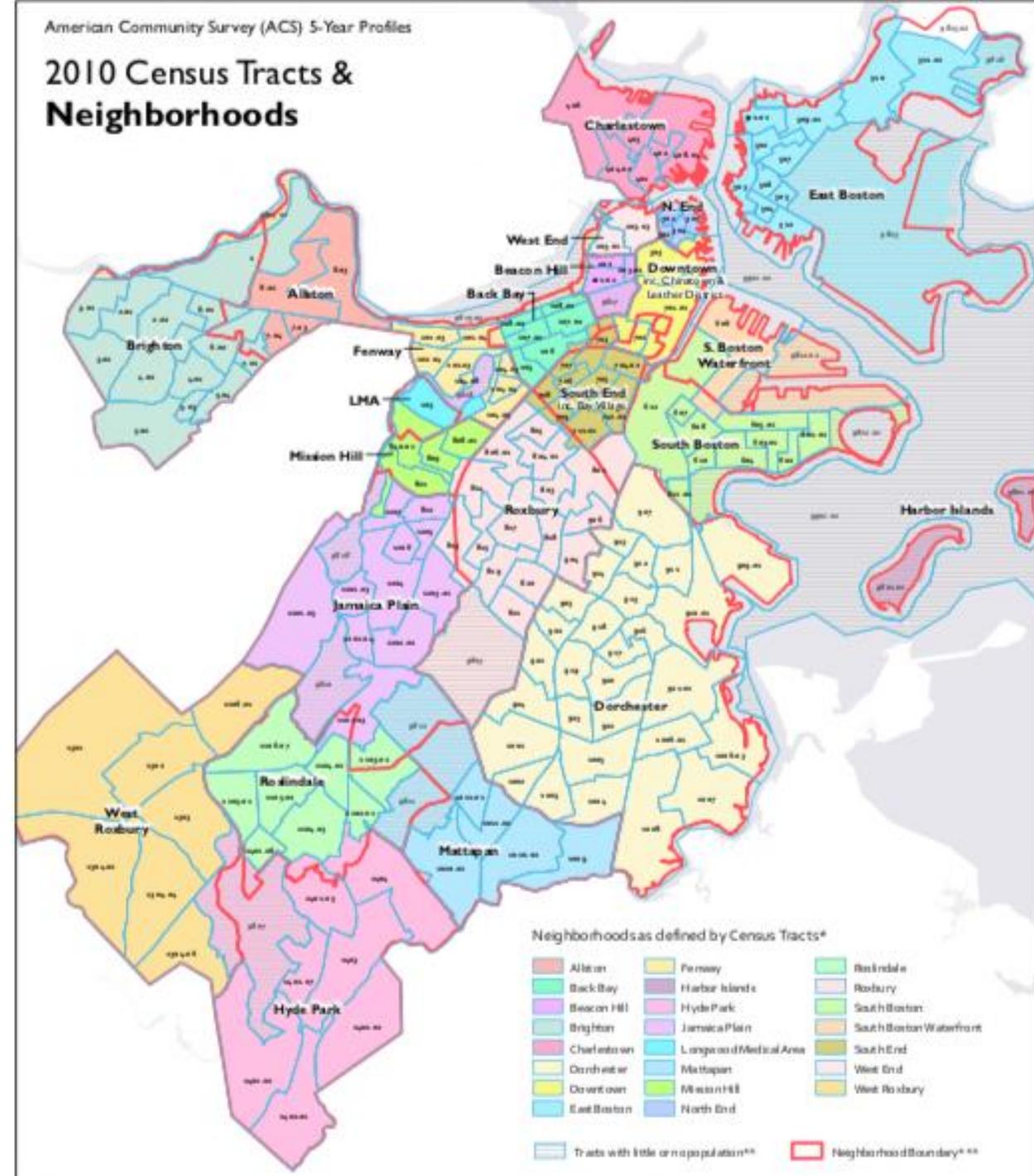
The North End had the highest share of Non-Hispanic White residents in 2020: 86%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Decennial Censuses, BPDA Research Division Analysis Note: Uses consistent 2020 block group-defined neighborhood boundaries. Map by BPDA Office of Digital Cartography and GIS



We currently use aggregations of 2010 Census tracts (colored blocks) to approximate Boston neighborhoods (red outlines) when analyzing data from the U.S. Census.

2010 Census Tracts & Neighborhoods

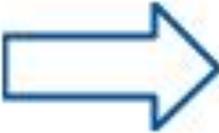


We worked with the U.S. Census to create 2020 census tracts and block groups that will allow a closer approximation of Boston's neighborhoods going forward.



The Longwood approximation will be more accurate

Neighborhood Boundary (red line) and Boundary Approximation based on 2010 Census Tracts

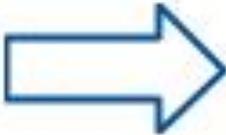


Neighborhood Boundary (red line) and Boundary Approximation based on 2020 Census Block Groups



South Boston Waterfront will be more closely approximated

Neighborhood Boundary (red line) and Boundary Approximation based on 2010 Census Tracts



Neighborhood Boundary (red line) and Boundary Approximation based on 2020 Census Block Groups



- Data on other population characteristics such as educational attainment, income, nativity, and labor force participation are available from the American Community Survey (ACS), which is an annual sample survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- BPDA Research and Office of Digital Cartography and GIS have released a new interactive map tool to visualize ACS data by census tract: bostonplans.org/research/mycensus-viewer
- The data needed for the 2020 Census MyCensus Viewer map will be released on September 30th, 2021, and this map will be available in early October.

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MyCensus Viewer

boston planning & development agency MyCensus Viewer

Welcome to MyCensus Viewer

MyCensus Viewer is an interactive map product that visualizes U.S. Census data for Boston. It includes two maps built upon separate U.S. Census survey datasets: the 2020 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS).

2015-2019 ACS 5-Year Estimate Map

The U.S. Census conducts the American Community Survey (ACS) every year, surveying a sample of households in the United States. The ACS asks a larger set of questions than the decennial census, including questions about education, income, and employment.

[Click to View](#)

2020 Decennial Census (Redistricting Data) Map

The U.S. Census conducts the decennial census every ten years on April 1st to count all residents in the United States and ask a short set of additional questions, such as age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and owner/renter status.

Coming October 2021

Additional 2020 Census Data:

We are working with the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) to make 2020 Census data for Boston available on Analyze Boston (<https://data.boston.gov/>) for the following geographies:

- City
- Neighborhoods
- Wards
- Precincts
- City Council Districts

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