

# **NEACH Children's Health Care Summit 2011: Addressing Childhood Obesity**

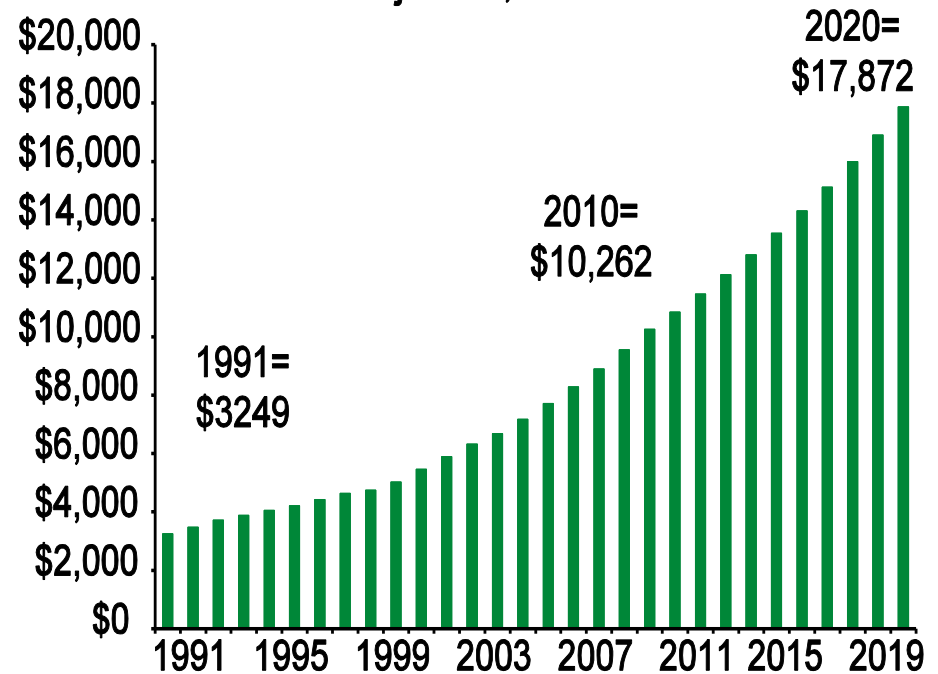
Allison F. Bauer, Senior Program Officer  
The Boston Foundation  
November 9, 2011

# The Problem of Health Care Spending: The RAND Corporation projects that health care spending in MA will increase from \$65 billion/year in 2010 to \$123 billion/year in 2020

“In the absence of policy change, health care spending [in MA] is projected to nearly double...

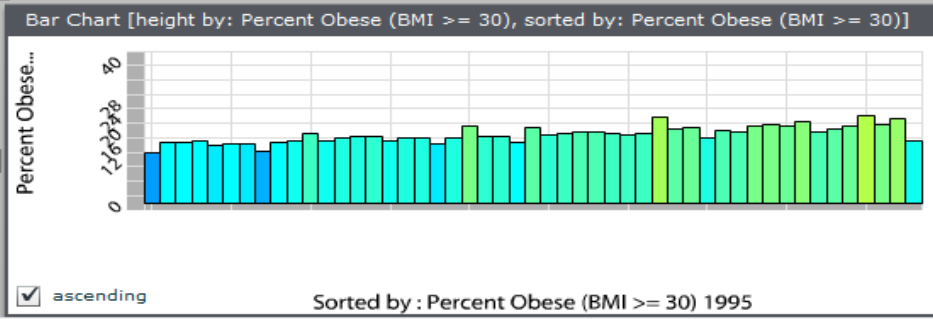
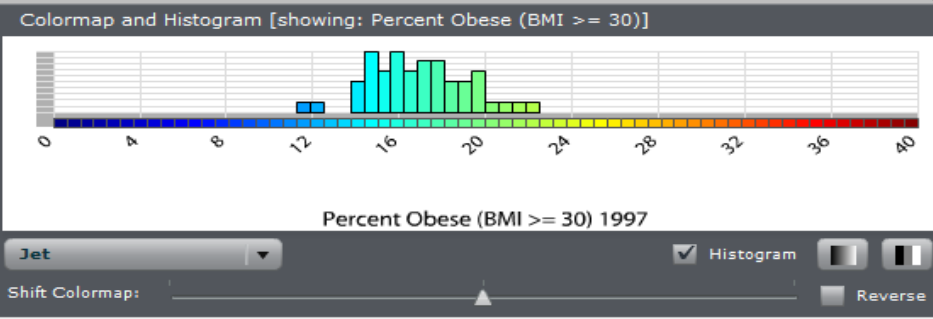
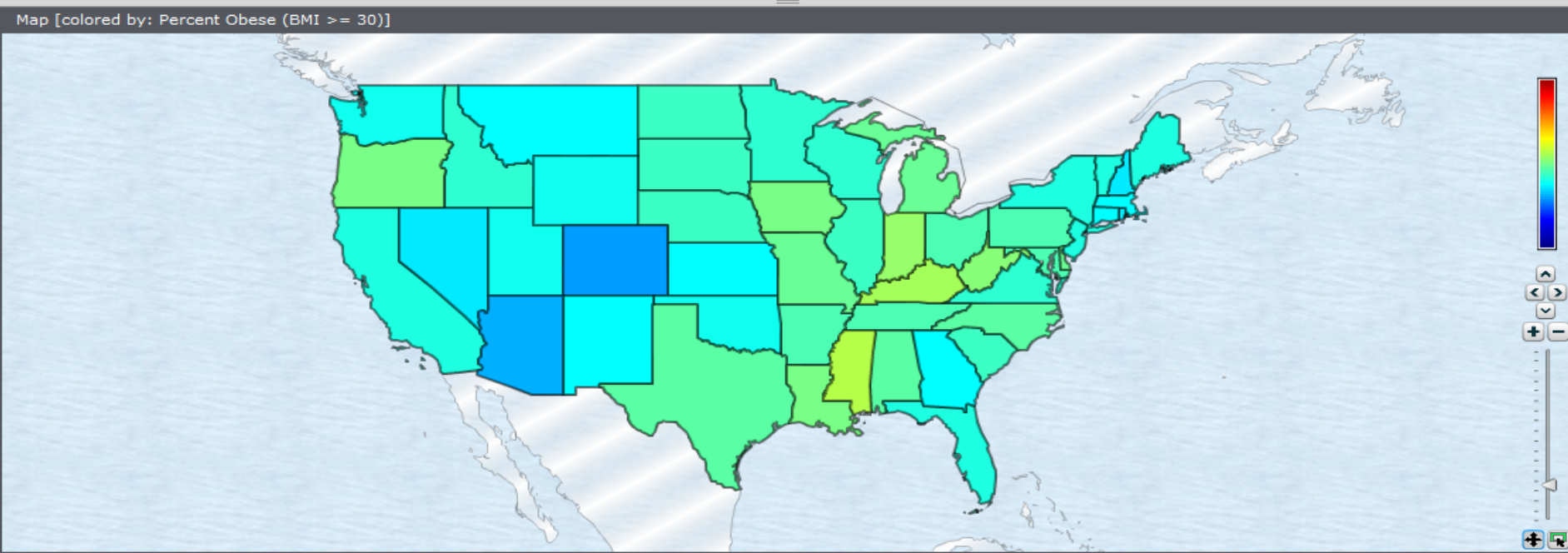
RAND Corporation, “Controlling Health Care Spending in Massachusetts,” for the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, 2009

Per Capita Health Spending, Real and Projected, MA 1991 - 2020



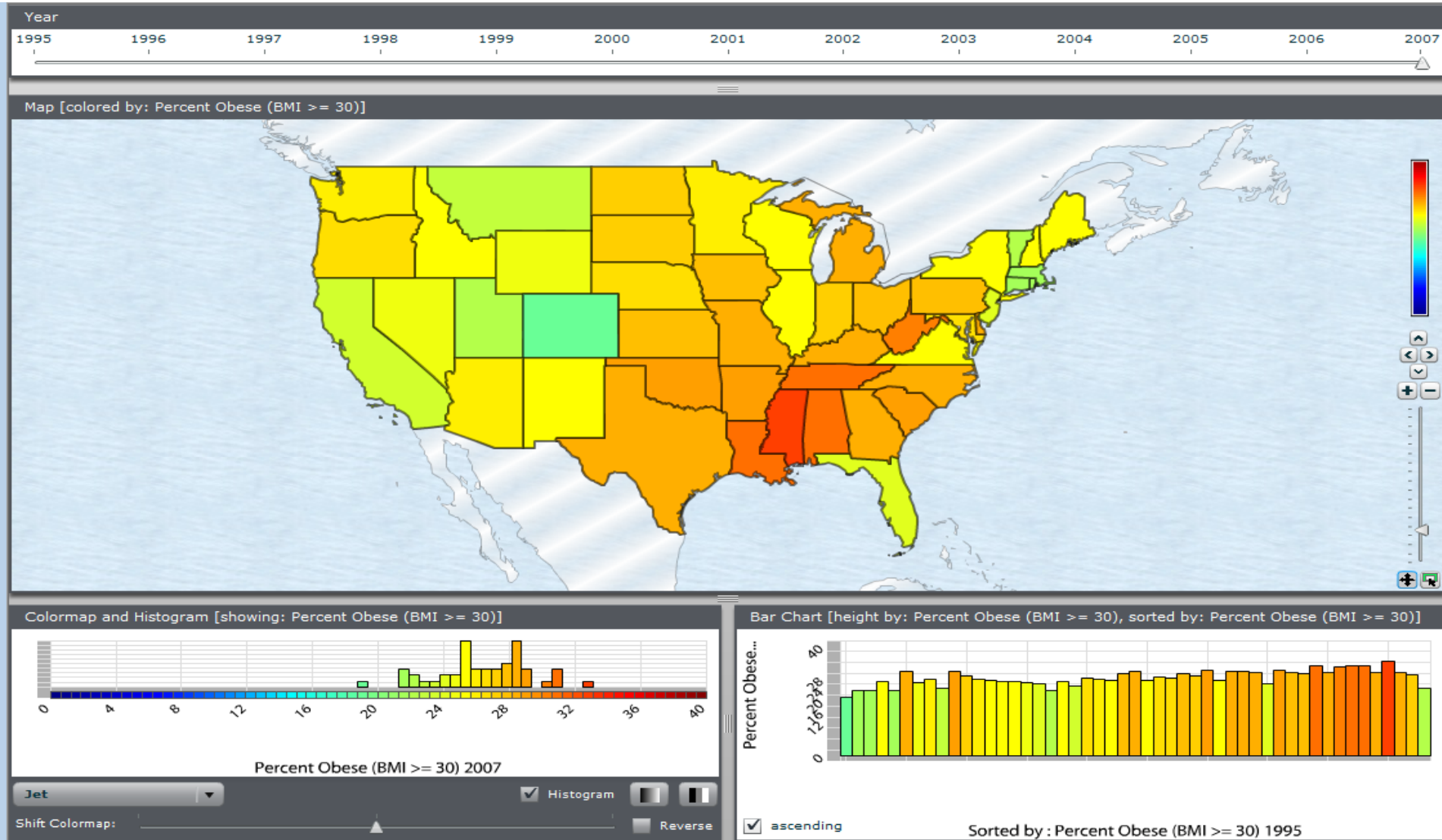
Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health

# Obesity Rates by States, 1997



Healthy People in a Healthy Economy

# Obesity Rates by States, 2007



Healthy People in a Healthy Economy

# MA is among best in adult obesity; lags in childhood rate

1	Mississippi	44.4%
2	Arkansas	37.5%
3	Georgia	37.3%
4	Kentucky	37.1%
5	Tennessee	36.5%
10	Illinois	34.9%
15	Ohio	33.3%
20	Texas	32.2%
25	Virginia	31.0%
30	Massachusetts	30.0%
35	New Hampshire	29.4%
40	Wisconsin	27.9%
41	Idaho	27.5%
42	Colorado	27.2%
43	Vermont	26.7%
44	Iowa	26.5%
45	North Dakota	25.7%
47	Connecticut	25.7%
49	Oregon	24.3%
50	Utah	23.1%
51	Minnesota	23.1%

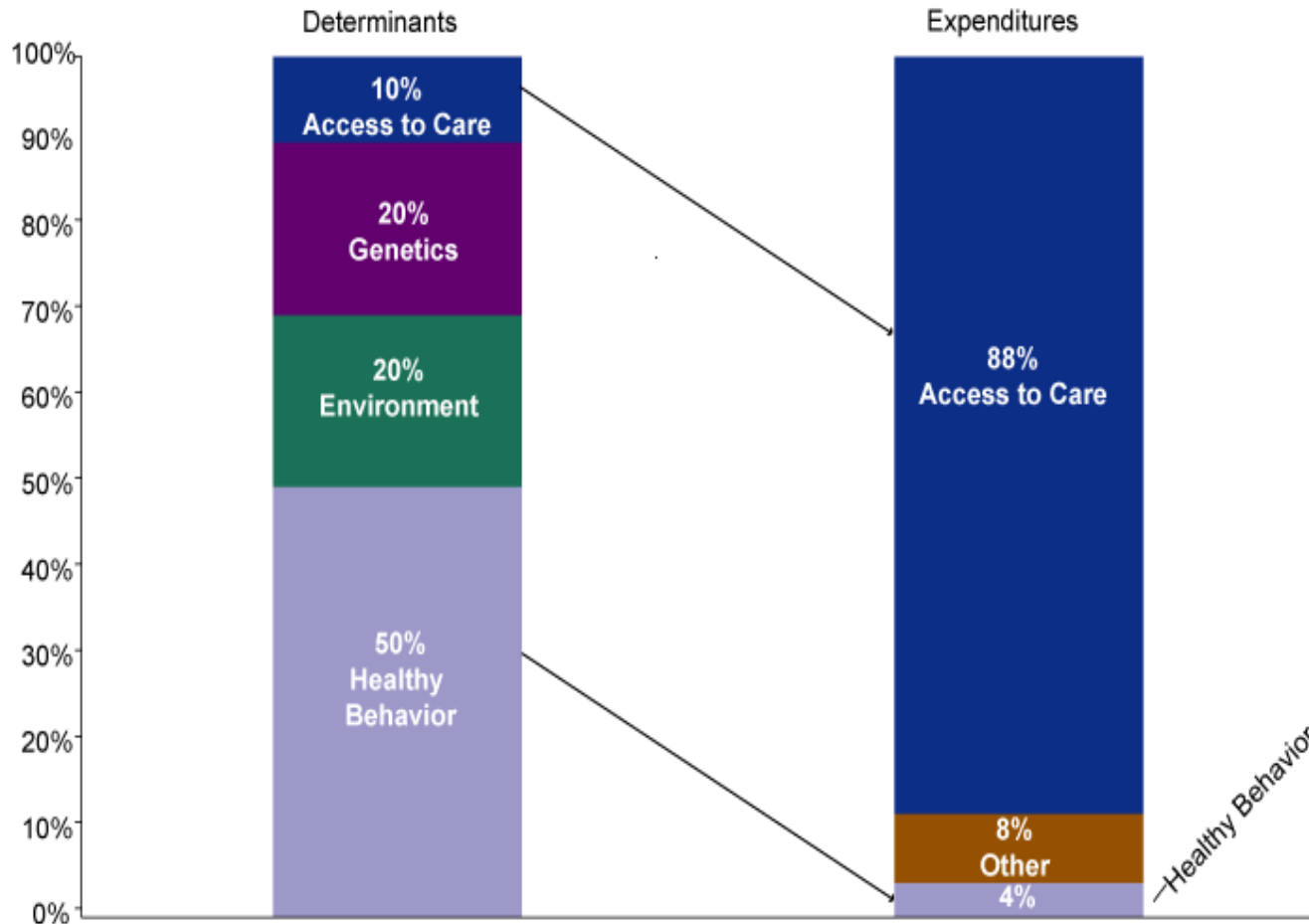
STARK REALITY:

MA ranks 30th, at  
1 in 3 children  
overweight or obese



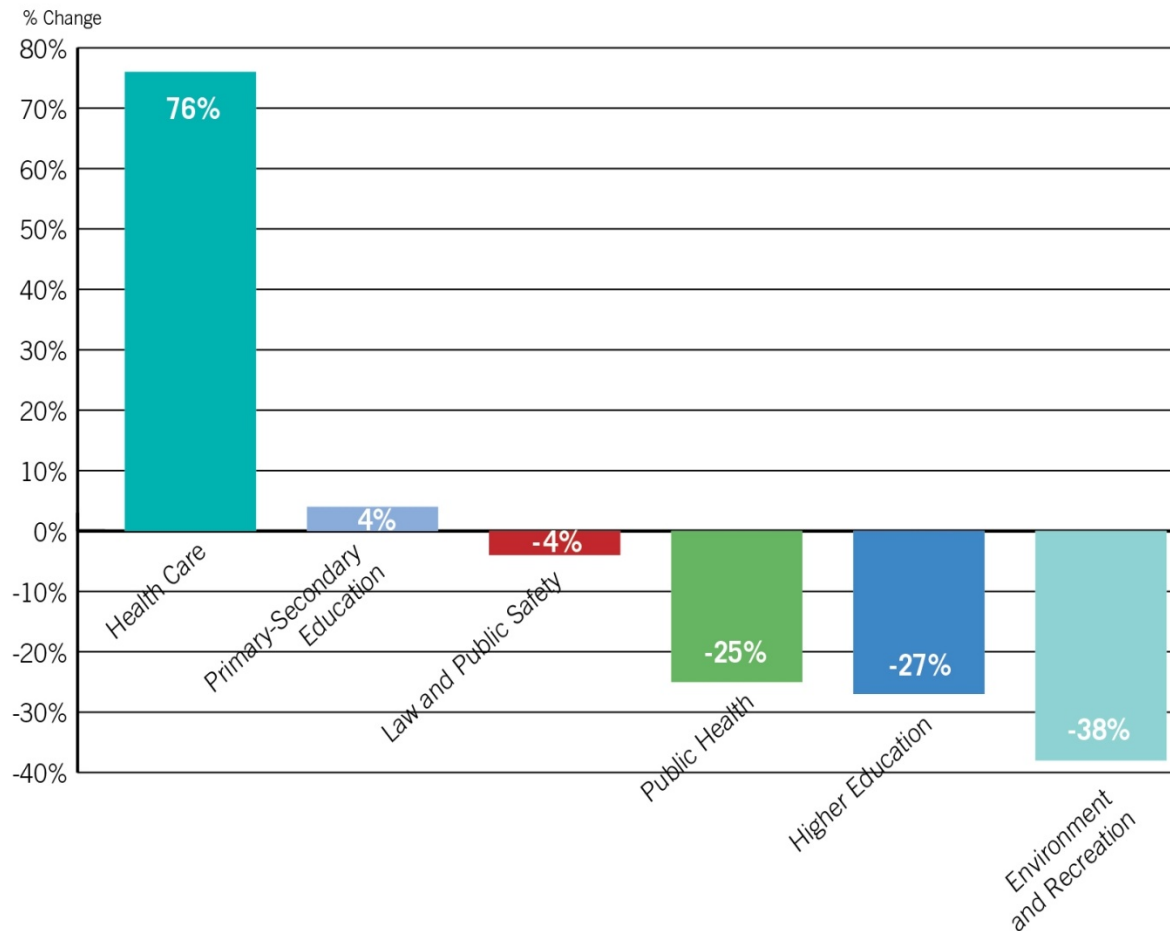
# Spending Mismatch: Health Care vs. the Determinants of Health

Mismatch: Health Determinants vs. Health Expenditures



\* Source: NEHI estimates from McGinnis et al (2002) and U.S. National Health Expenditures 2005.

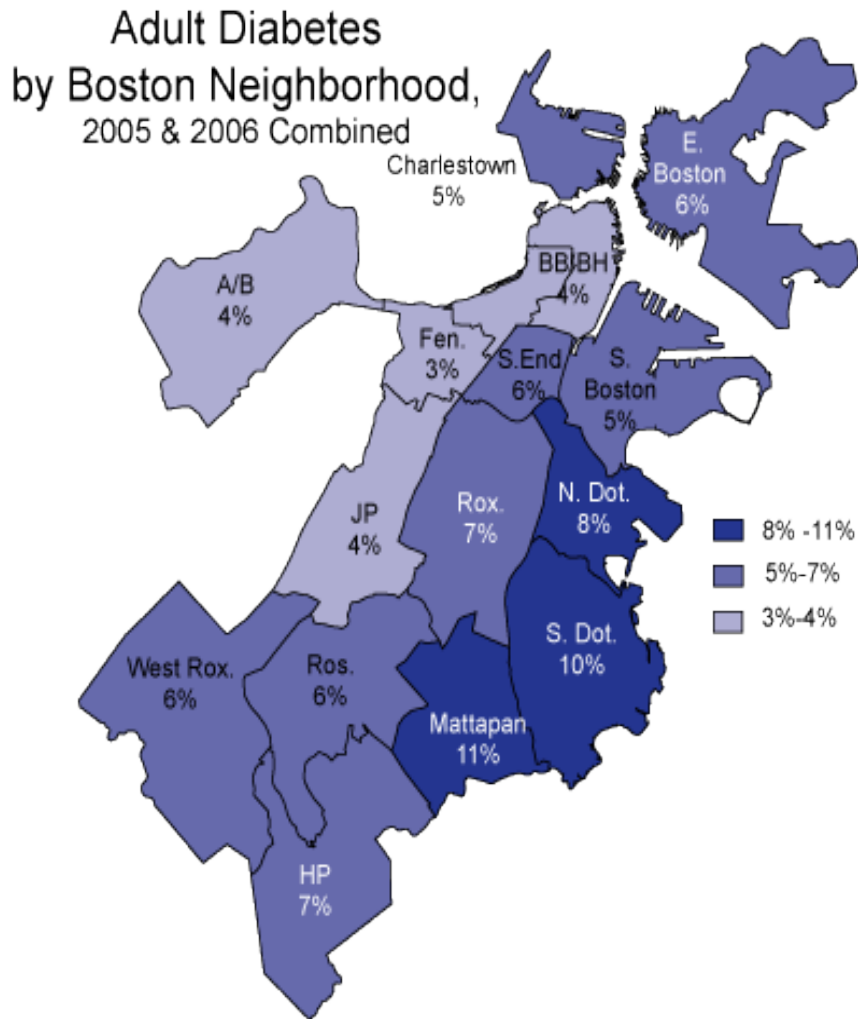
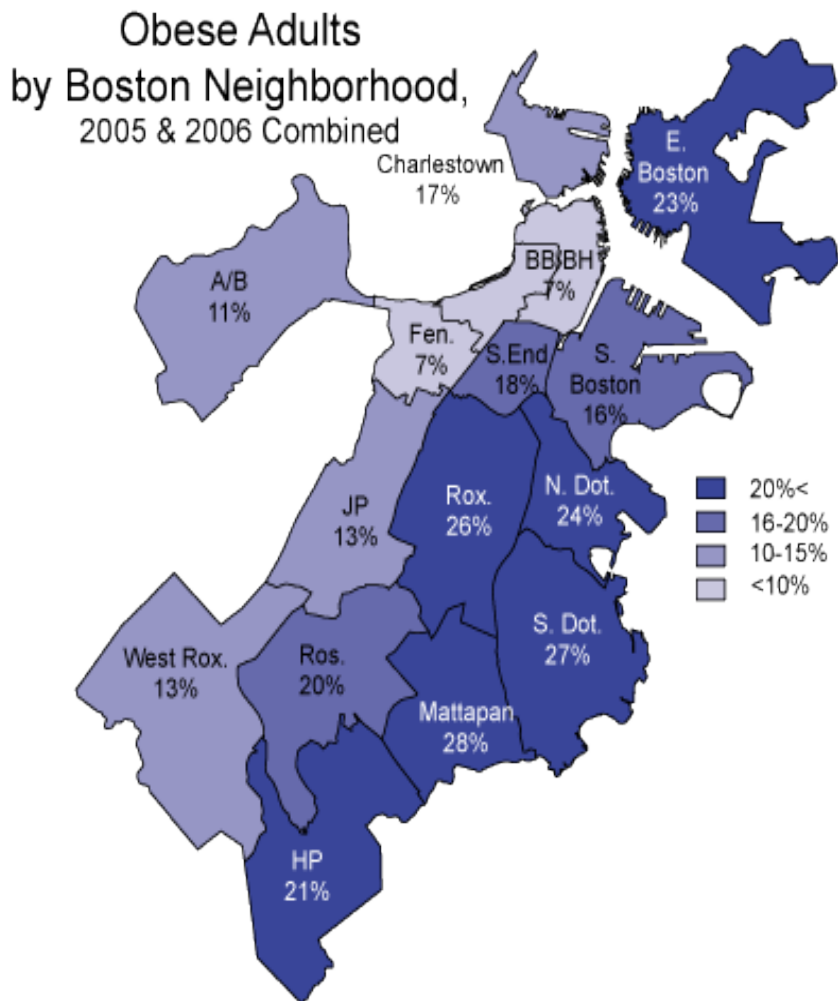
# State Budget FY'01 – '10: In MA – and the US – health care costs are crowding out investment in the basic determinants of health:



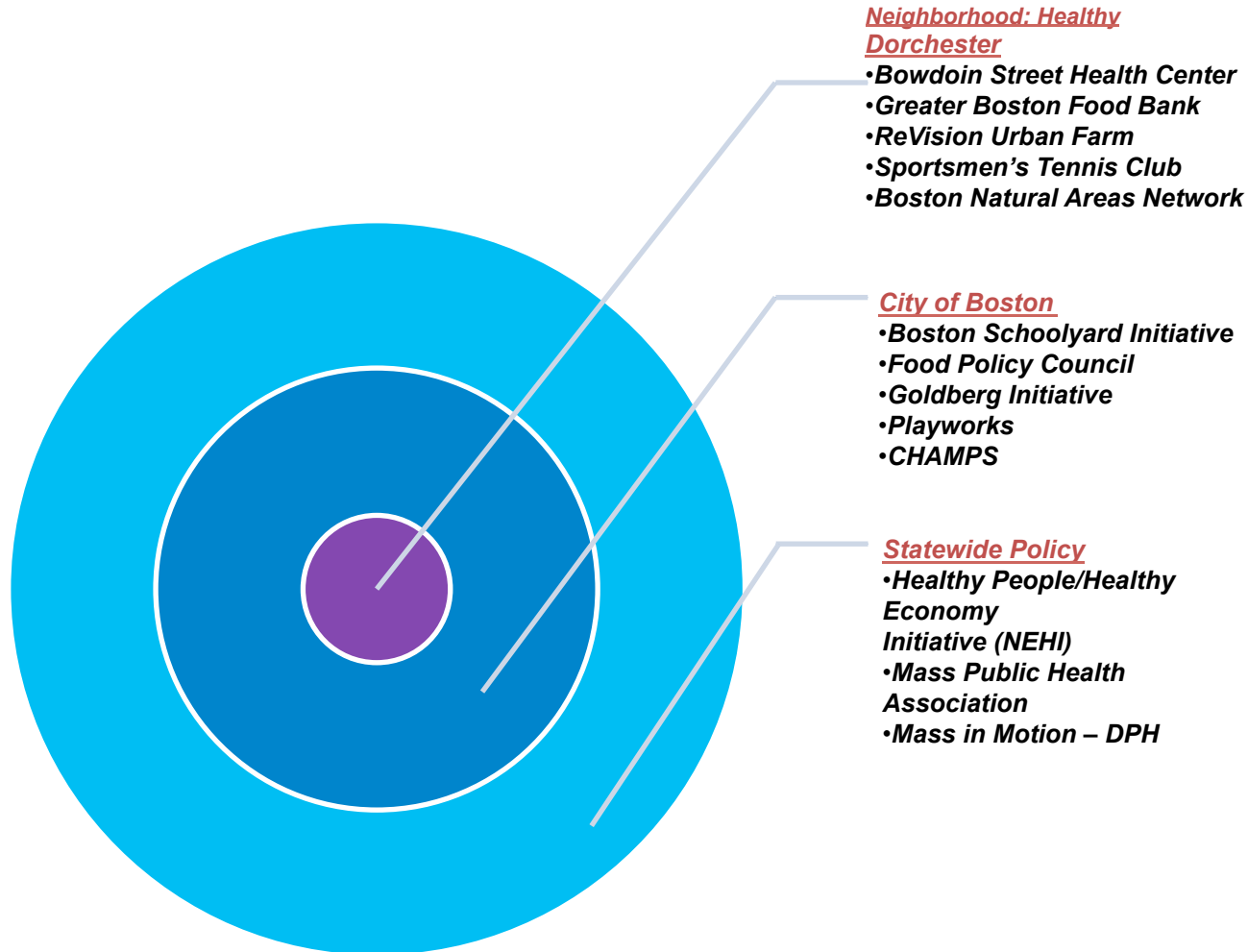
Mass. State Budget

Healthy People in a Healthy Economy

# Geographically Targeted Grants to Address Food Access: **Dorchester Neighborhood of Boston**



# TBF Health Portfolio: From Statewide Policy Change to Targeted Local Impact



Healthy People in a Healthy Economy

# Conclusion

- Obesity is a major problem in the US – more than 1 in 6 children in the US are obese
- Low income and food insecure people are especially vulnerable due to poverty and limited access to healthy foods
- Households with limited food budgets try to stretch by purchasing cheap energy dense foods
- Policy interventions that make healthier choices easier will likely achieve the greatest benefits