

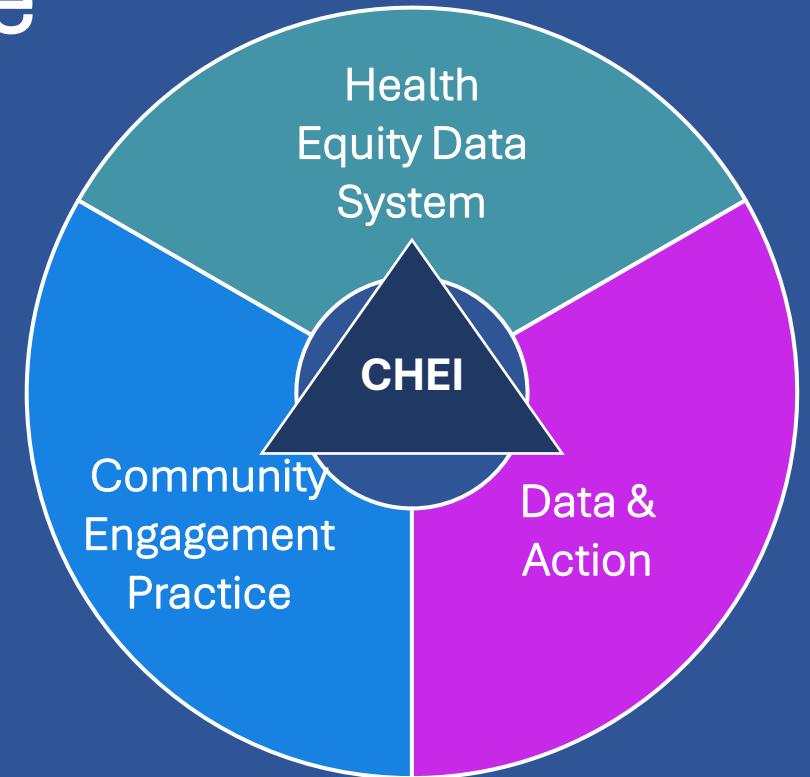


Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Community Health Equity Initiative (CHEI)

Community Health Equity Survey 2023
Housing Spotlight

**Part 6: Actions to Address Root Causes
of Housing Inequities**



Contents



Part 6: Actions to Address Root Causes of Housing Inequities

Part 6 of the 2023 CHES Housing Spotlight highlights potential areas for action to address the root causes of housing inequities supported by findings from the CHES 2023.

This slide deck is meant to be viewed after you have read through Part 1 through Part 5 of the Housing Spotlight. To access the entire spotlight and the full mental health report, please visit the 2023 CHES Housing Spotlight page on [CHEI Topic and Community Spotlights | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/chei-topic-and-community-spotlights).

Part 1: Community Health Equity Initiative Overview

Part 2: Housing in Massachusetts: Equity Framing and Data Overview

Part 3: Inequities in Housing

Part 4: Drivers of Housing and Health

Part 5: Housing and Health Outcomes

Part 6: Promoting Healthy Housing: Areas of Action to Address Root Causes of Inequities

Direct Action to Address Root Causes of Housing Inequities

Promoting Housing Equity



Direct Actions to Promote Housing Equity

Addressing housing and related health concerns is a critical environmental and social justice issue essential to public health practice. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is key in addressing upstream factors that impact housing stability. This includes:

- Defining and collecting housing-related data and metrics
- Bringing a racial and health equity lens to data analysis
- Expanding current public health programs such as healthy housing codes and home visiting programs
- Supporting communities in informing program design and policy development through local health and community assessments
- Providing economic and capacity-building support to communities to strengthen programs and policies that address the root causes of housing instability
- Convening and facilitating multi-sector housing partners
- Supporting local health housing codes

Promoting Housing Equity



Direct Actions to Promote Housing Equity

Actions to promote housing equity and stability require collaboration between community-based organizations, municipal governments and state agencies. Current and potential policy solutions that would complement the work of DPH include:

- Building more diverse housing stock to provide residents with options that meet their needs and resources. This will require partnership between the state and municipalities and the adoption inclusionary and sustainable housing zoning policies.
- The Massachusetts [Housing Choice Initiative](#) supports municipalities in this work through the provision of incentives, rewards and technical assistance, along with targeted legislative reform.
- Conducting fair housing analysis and planning to protect against exclusionary zoning and rental house discrimination practices.
- Municipalities and public housing authorities can use the [Fair Housing in Action toolkit](#) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to advance fair housing.
- Connecting residents to long-term housing opportunities
- Using municipal or other local resources to develop or preserve affordable housing in perpetuity
- Preventing eviction or foreclosure prevention, to keep people in their homes
- Improving the quality of existing affordable housing for residents so that it is clean, safe, adequately maintained, ventilated, and free from pests and contaminants such as lead