

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

About the Bureau of Community Health and Prevention



The **Bureau of Community Health and Prevention (BCHAP)** is part of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). MDPH falls under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

Mission

The mission of BCHAP is to promote the well-being of everyone in Massachusetts, with attention on populations disproportionately impacted by health [inequities](#). We aim to reduce social and structural barriers that lead to poor health by working with communities, people and partners across the Commonwealth. BCHAP commits to transforming the systems that maintain racial and social inequities and owns its responsibility as part of the government to prevent these injustices.

Vision

BCHAP envisions a Commonwealth in which community members live, work, and play with equitable opportunities for good health and where racism is no longer a determinant of health.

Racial Equity “Why” Statement

The history of structural racism – the public policies, institutional practices, and social norms that together maintain racial hierarchies – and its impact across the country and within the Commonwealth is often overlooked or unacknowledged, yet it is pervasive and unmistakably harmful to everyone. The social marginalization and inequities that racism cultivates in housing, education, employment, the built and social environments, and health care are felt across generations, most acutely in communities of color.

BCHAP recognizes that systems of cultural oppression need to be acknowledged and repaired by entities that helped create them. BCHAP is committed to improving the quality of life for all Commonwealth residents, while working towards eliminating the marginalization and inequities that threaten the lives of communities of color.

Our Values

Our values guide everything we do. We aim to:

CHALLENGE RACISM FIRST

Start with racism explicitly, not exclusively.

FOCUS ON ROOT CAUSES

Center solutions on the systems that create unjust outcomes.

PROMOTE BELONGING

Value all lived experiences and make space for staff and partners to show up as their authentic selves.

BE ACCOUNTABLE

Fulfill our commitments to communities, partners, and team members.

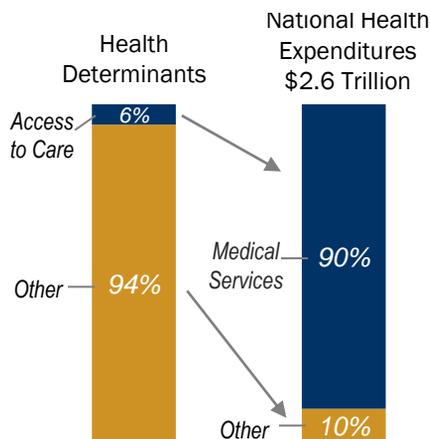
INFORM WITH DATA

Use data and storytelling to identify the needs of communities and build policies – and share out what is learned.

PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES

Listen to community needs. Develop solutions WITH, not FOR, communities.

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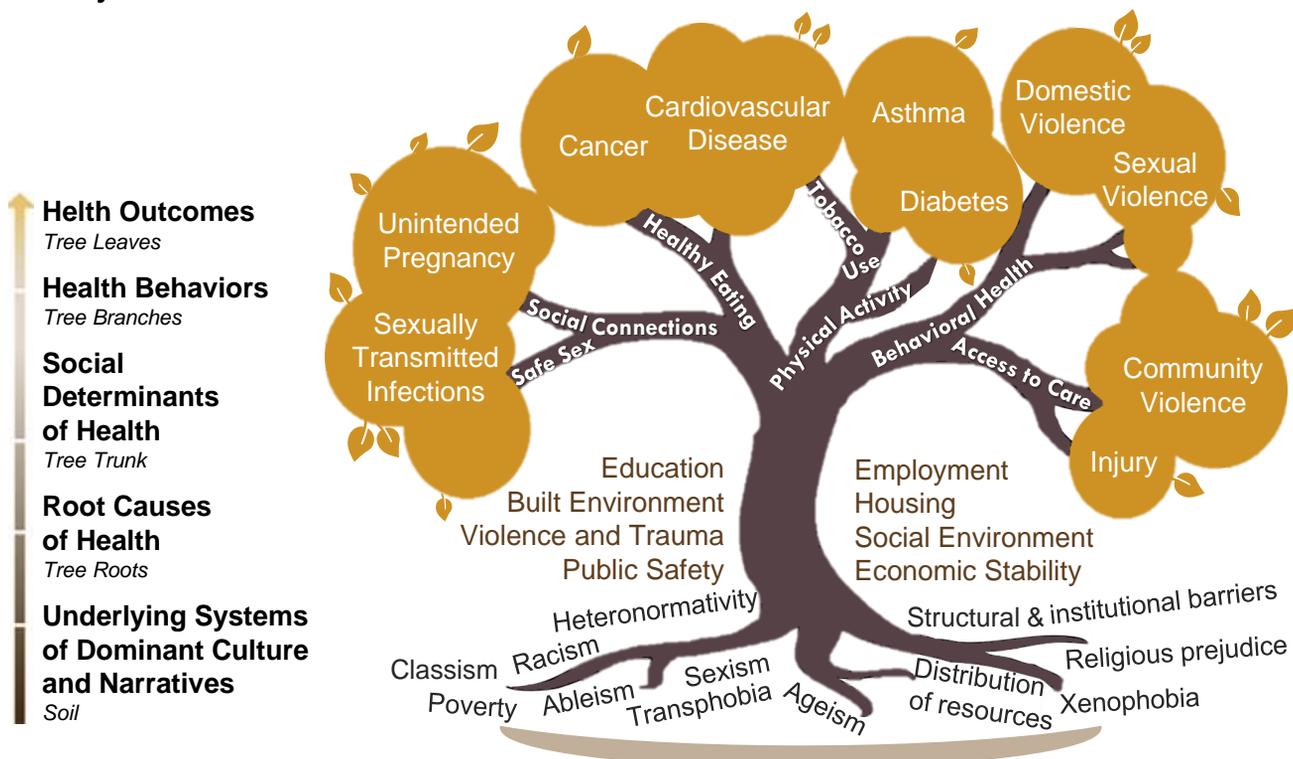
More than 80% of what determines our health happens outside of healthcare settings.

However, 90% of US health spending goes to healthcare settings.

Access to healthy food, opportunities to be physically active, live without fear of violence, and take part in decisions that affect our lives are a bulk of what keep us healthy.

Because of this, **BCHAP builds the capacity of partners to improve social and structural conditions, with an explicit racial justice lens.**

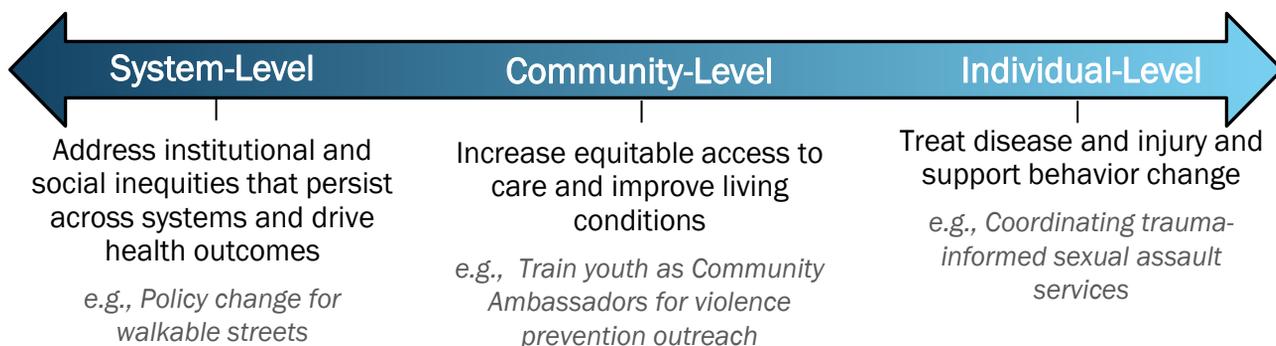
The [Health Tree](#) (below) shows the relationship between health outcomes and the root causes of health. Inequities persist in the structural and social environments around us, like policies, systems, and social norms, and these conditions influence our ability to engage in healthy behavior. **BCHAP's programs and policies work to address these root causes of inequitable and poor health outcomes through a systemic approach.** While we understand that addressing root causes has a greater impact on health outcomes than individual behavior, we also know that people can make decisions to improve their own health. **Many BCHAP programs also provide direct services and outreach to individuals to support healthy decisions.**



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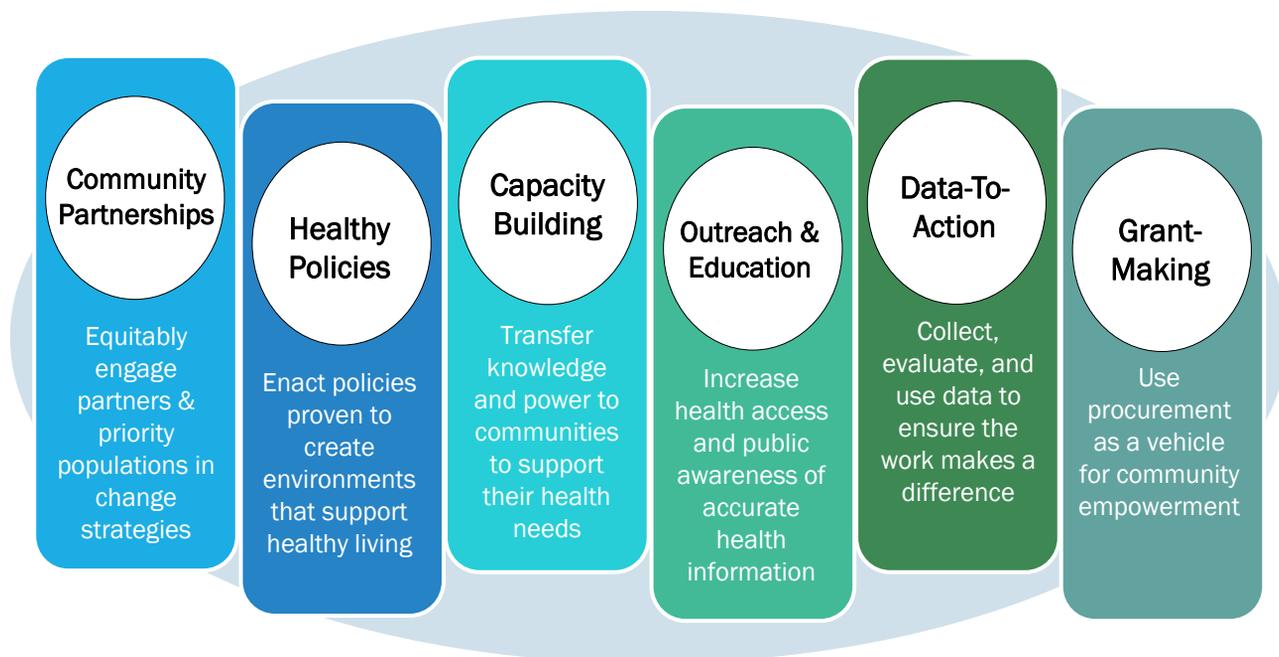


BCHAP’s community-based prevention strategies are sourced from and informed by the community. Our work spans the **public health continuum**:



We understand that unfair differences in health outcomes are rooted in system level inequities. BCHAP staff apply this understanding in everything we do, across the continuum, to achieve sustained results for Massachusetts communities.

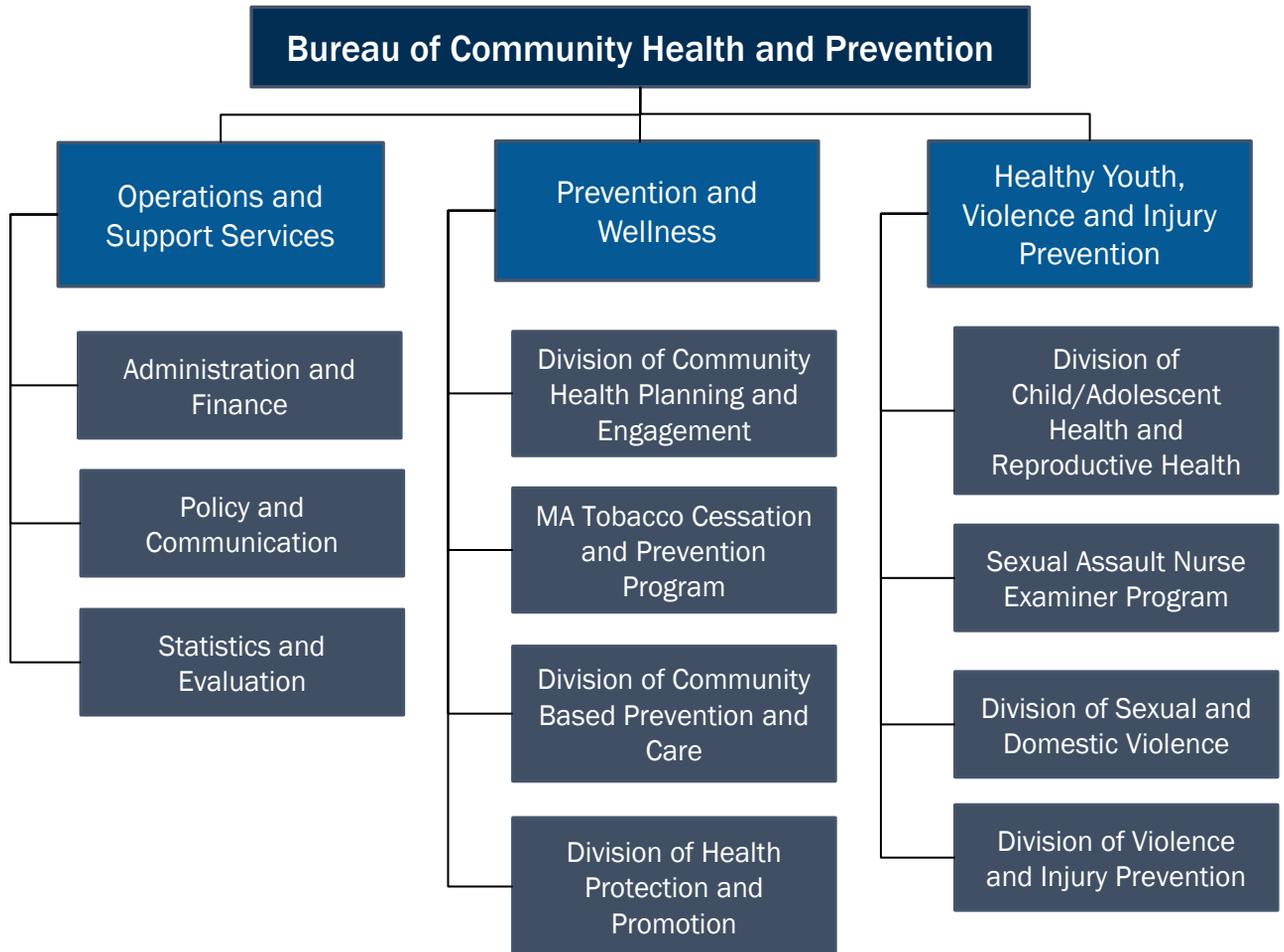
The team’s innovative strategic approach is grounded in BCHAP’s Values (pg. 1) and leverages the following **key methods** to address public health issues:





Our Organization

The organization chart below demonstrates BCHAP’s internal structure.



By the Numbers

\$274 million
Bureau Budget for FY23

240
Staff Members

325
Contracted Partners

Follow Us

Find us on the MDPH website for more information:



mass.gov/orgs/bureau-of-community-health-and-prevention