

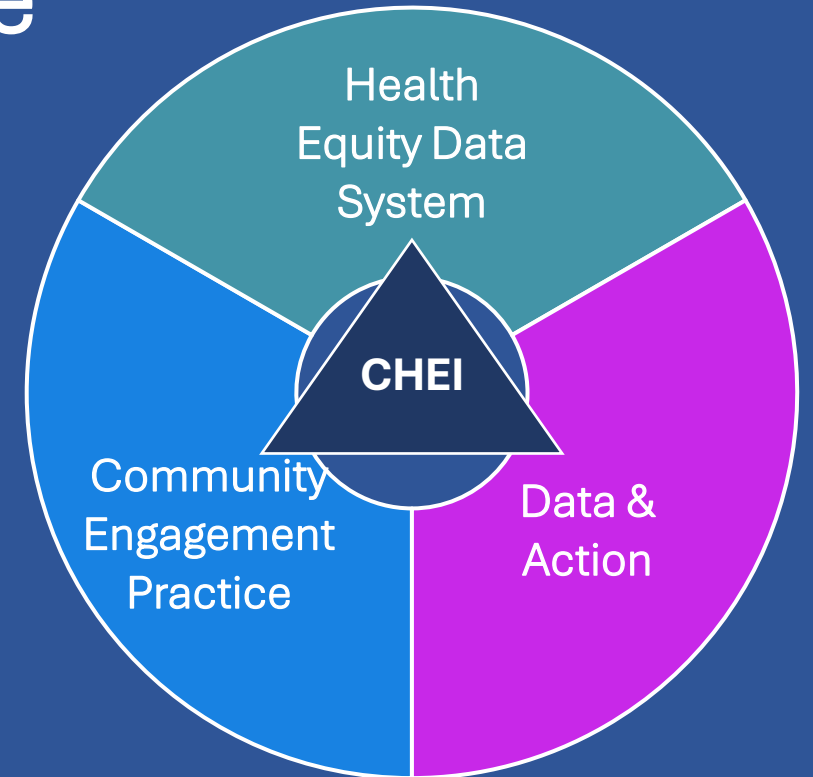


Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Community Health Equity Initiative (CHEI)

Community Health Equity Survey 2023
Housing Spotlight

Part 4: Drivers of Housing Inequities
Housing Cost, Supply, & Distribution



Contents



Part 4: Drivers of Housing and Health

Part 4 of the 2023 CHES Housing Spotlight showcases findings from the 2023 CHES that connect data on housing and various drivers of health inequities.

This slide deck is meant to be viewed after you have read through Part 1 through Part 3 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](#).

Part 1: Community Health Equity Initiative Overview

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

Part 3: Inequities in Housing

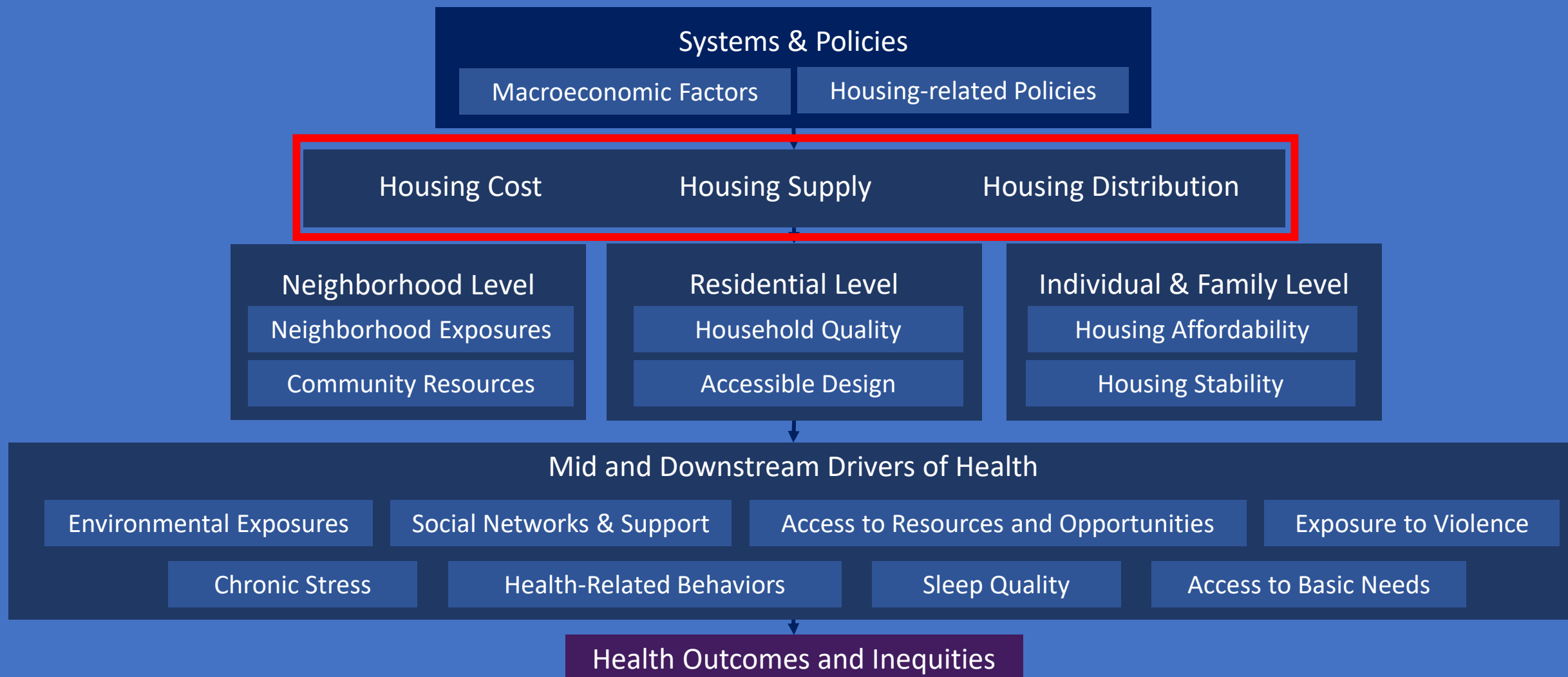
Part 4: Drivers of Housing and Health

Part 5: Housing and Health Outcomes

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

Drivers of Housing and Health

Housing Cost, Supply, & Distribution



Housing Cost, Supply, & Distribution



Housing cost, supply, and distribution drive inequities in housing stability

Rent and high housing costs burden households and leave little financial resources left for necessities such as food, healthcare, and transportation.

Restrictive zoning laws, prioritization of luxury apartments, and disinvestment in public housing affect the supply of affordable housing.

Discriminatory housing practices and limited access to community resources, such as transportation, cause the inequitable distribution of safe and affordable housing.

Housing Cost, Supply, & Distribution



Housing costs impact housing stability

Among respondents who reported reasons for worries about losing housing, key qualitative themes emerged around rising housing costs, including:

- Rising rent without wage increases,
- Fears of being forced out due to rent hikes,
- Choosing between rent and other basic needs, and
- Higher utility costs.

“With cost of goods increasing steadily while wages remain stagnant, I am perpetually worried about not being able to afford my rent and utilities, due to increase in energy expense and landlord raising my rent unexpectedly like he did earlier this year. Any increase could force me out of my current apartment and in search of something less expensive”

“Rent increases- can't afford to pay higher rent but not eligible for any assistance.”

“Rent is wicked expensive everywhere.”

“Every month I have to chose between food for my three children and rent.”

“Increasing rents and lack of housing on the Cape – my rent jumped \$350 last year - I can't take another increase”

“Rising housing costs but income is not increasing”

Housing Cost, Supply, & Distribution



Inadequate and uneven housing supply impacts housing stability

Among respondents who reported reasons for worries about losing housing, key qualitative themes emerged around housing supply, including:

- Difficulty finding housing in certain areas,
- Available housing being too expensive or low-quality,
- Lack of affordable housing near workplaces or current communities, and
- Long waitlists for housing.

“I have moved 3 times in the past 2 years because there are no year-round rentals available on Martha’s Vineyard.”

“Where I live now there is a big crisis and many people rent room in others houses”

“I am also having extreme difficulty finding affordable housing that is not run down or needing to have roommates.”

“Because I rent and housing on Nantucket is impossible to find if we lost our current situation”

“very hard to find housing because of a waiting list”

“Lease is up, can't find another place I can afford to move to within reasonable proximity to my workplace.”