



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 22, 2023

Robert Goldstein, Commissioner

*Today's presentation is available on the [mass.gov/dph](https://mass.gov/dph) website under "Upcoming Events" by clicking on the June 22 Public Health Council listing*



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 22, 2023**

Robert Goldstein, Commissioner

# Kevin Cranston Award



*Left: Commissioner Goldstein addresses the crowd at the MPHA Spring Awards Breakfast.*

*Right: Kevin Cranston (right) accepts the MPHA Paul Revere Award.*

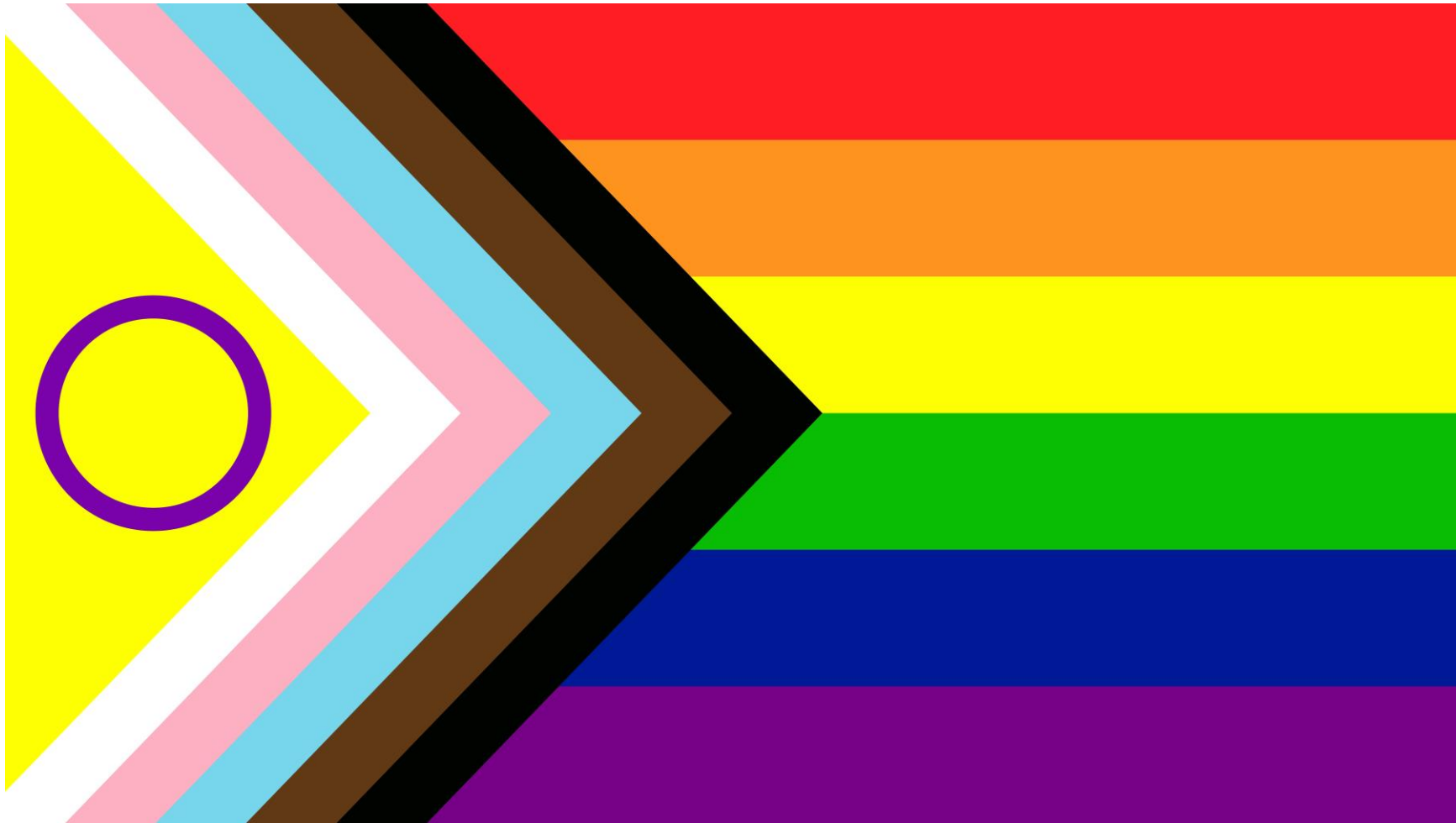
# Victor Ortiz Award




MCPG

Maryland Council on Problem Gambling

# LGBTQ+ Pride Month



 OFFERED BY [Department of Public Health](#)

PRESS RELEASE

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health offers summer safety guidance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

6/12/2023

Department of Public Health

**BOSTON** — With summer approaching, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) reminds residents to take recommended common-sense precautions to keep everyone, especially young children, safe this summer.

 OFFERED BY [Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance](#)

PRESS RELEASE

## Commonwealth Provisionally Designates Boston Medical Center Team as Redevelopment Partner for the Shattuck Campus at Morton Street

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

6/21/2023

Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

**BOSTON** — The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced a key step in advancing its plans for the Shattuck Campus at Morton Street by provisionally designating Boston Medical Center and its partners (BMC Team) for the redevelopment of the Campus. With this provisional designation, the BMC Team will begin refining its proposed redevelopment plans based on considerations such as public feedback and funding availability.



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 22, 2023**

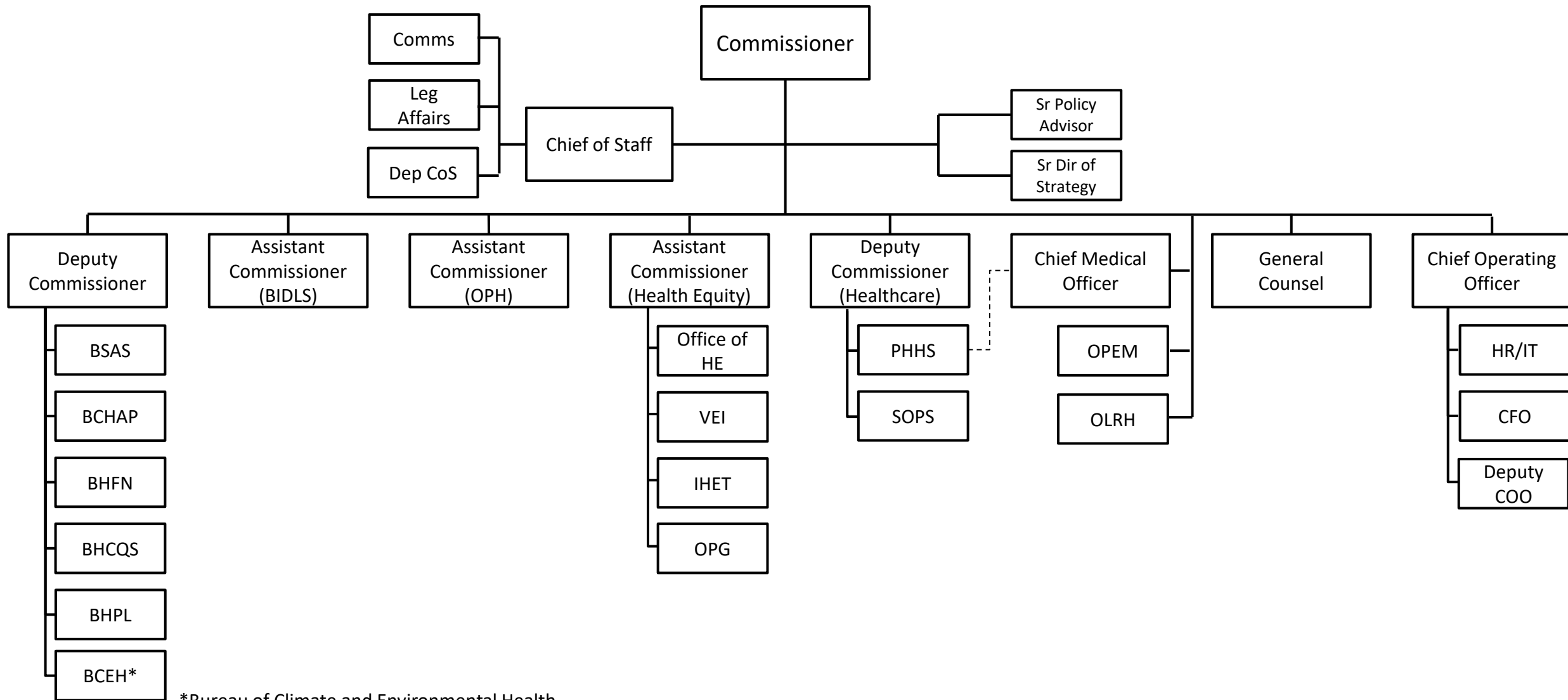
Robert Goldstein, Commissioner



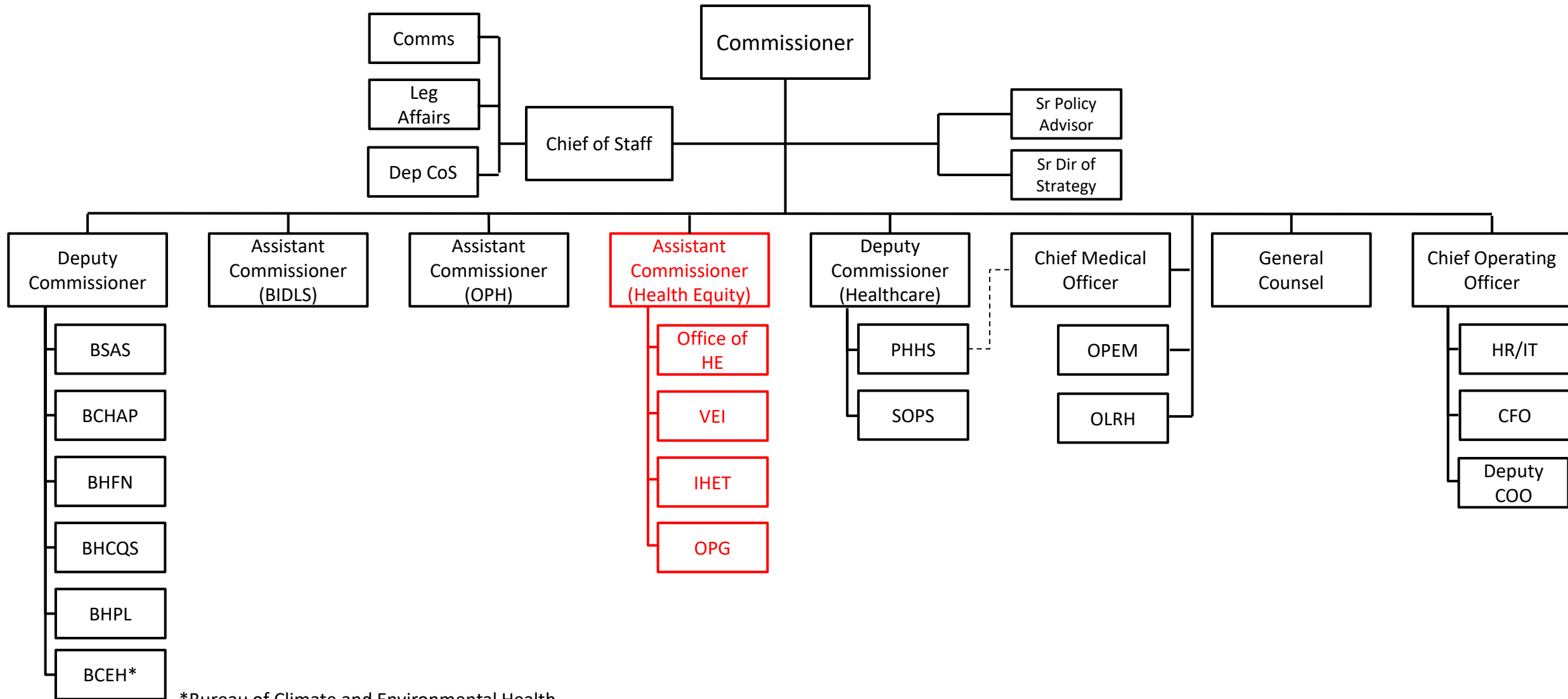
# Fundamentals of Public Health

1. Health equity
2. Emergency response and preparedness
  - Emerging infectious diseases, biothreats, natural disasters
  - Growing health impacts of climate change
  - Threats to reproductive, gender affirming care
3. Workforce
  - Recovery and resilience
  - Recruit/retain a competent and compassionate public health/hospital workforce
4. Infrastructure
  - Updating and replacing physical plants
  - Data modernization, data sharing
5. Public service
  - Program delivery and streamlined public engagement
  - Fostering public trust

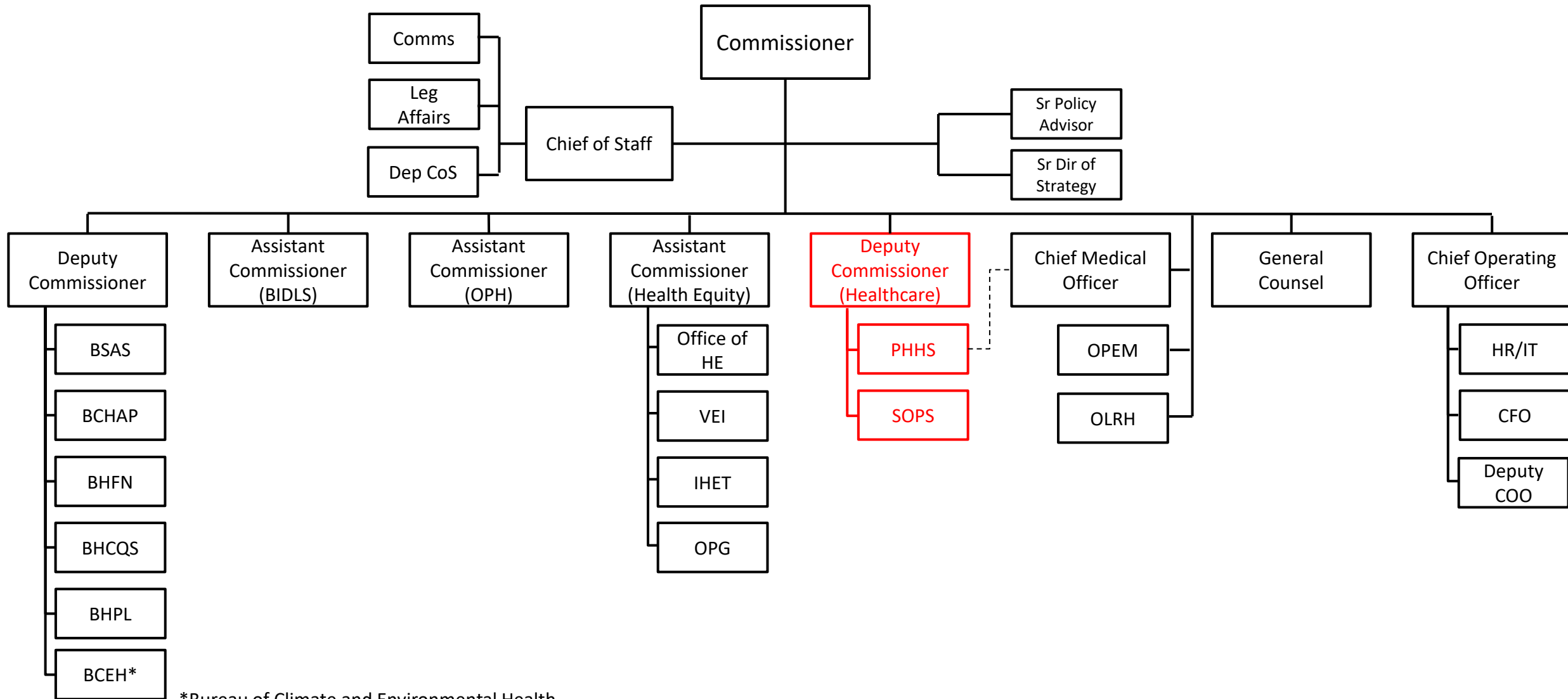
# Proposed Structure



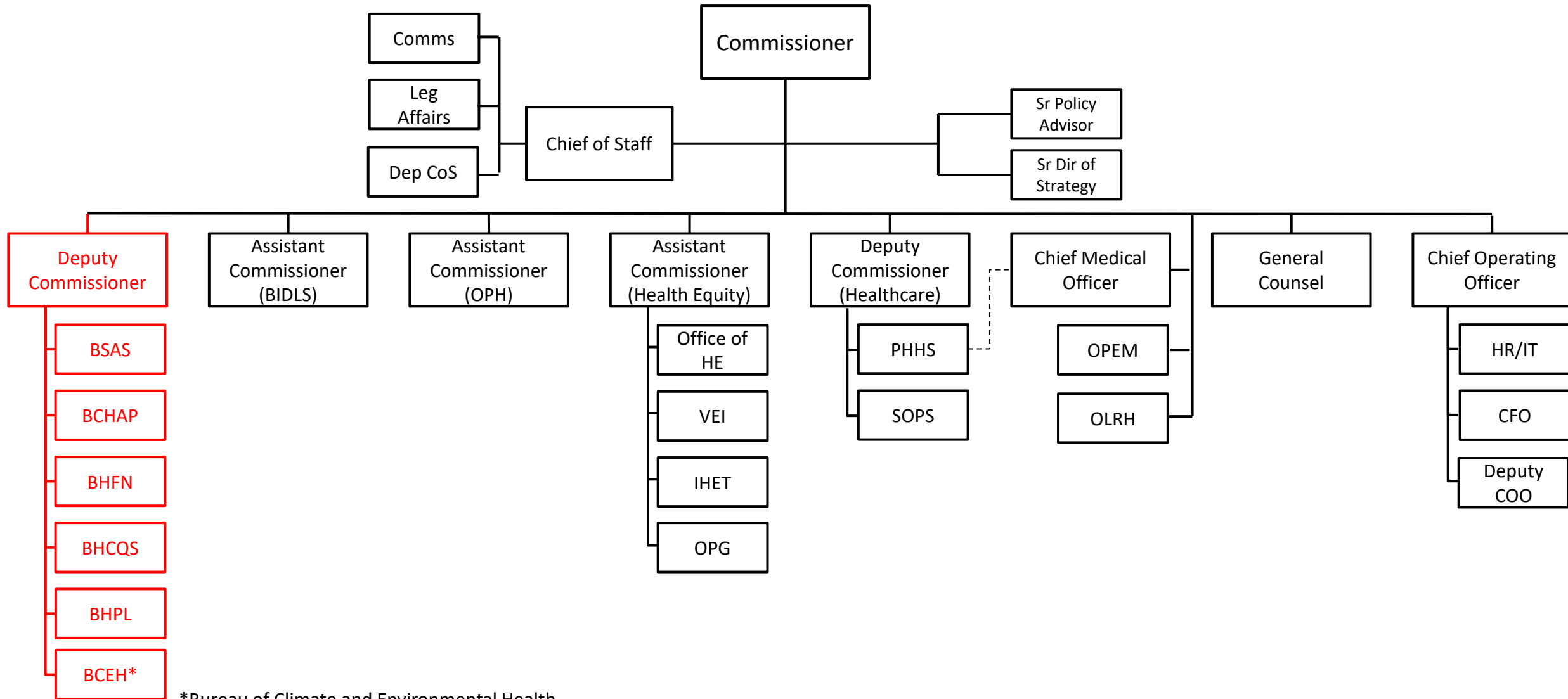
# Proposed Structure



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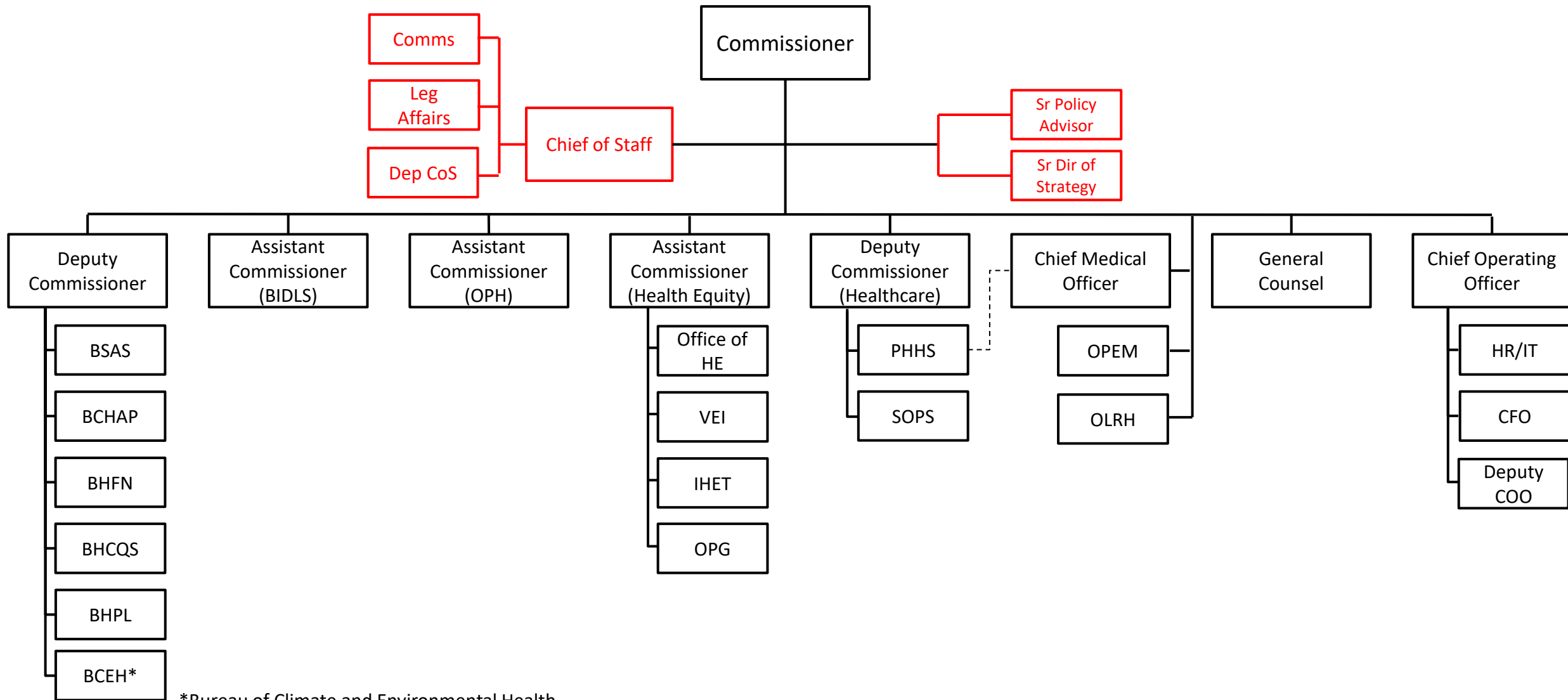


# Proposed Structure

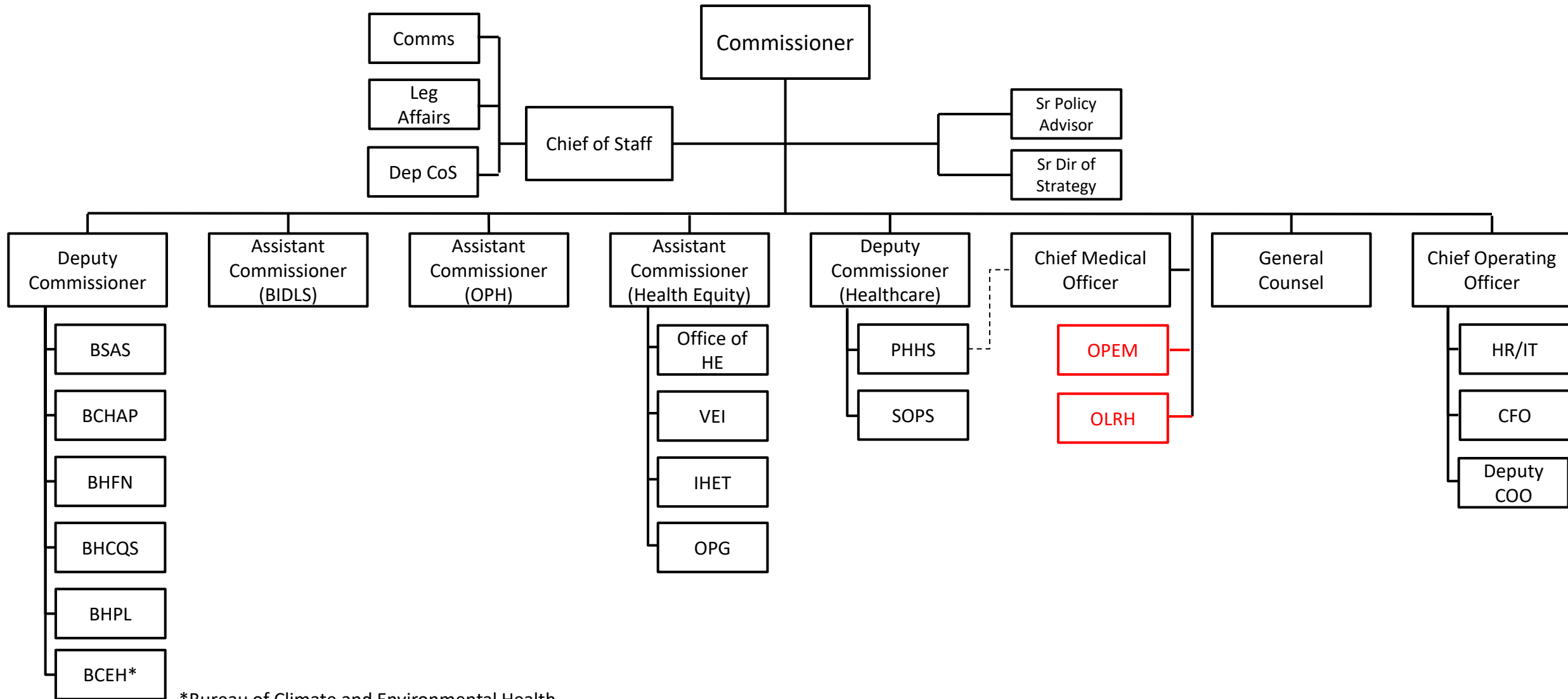


\*Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health

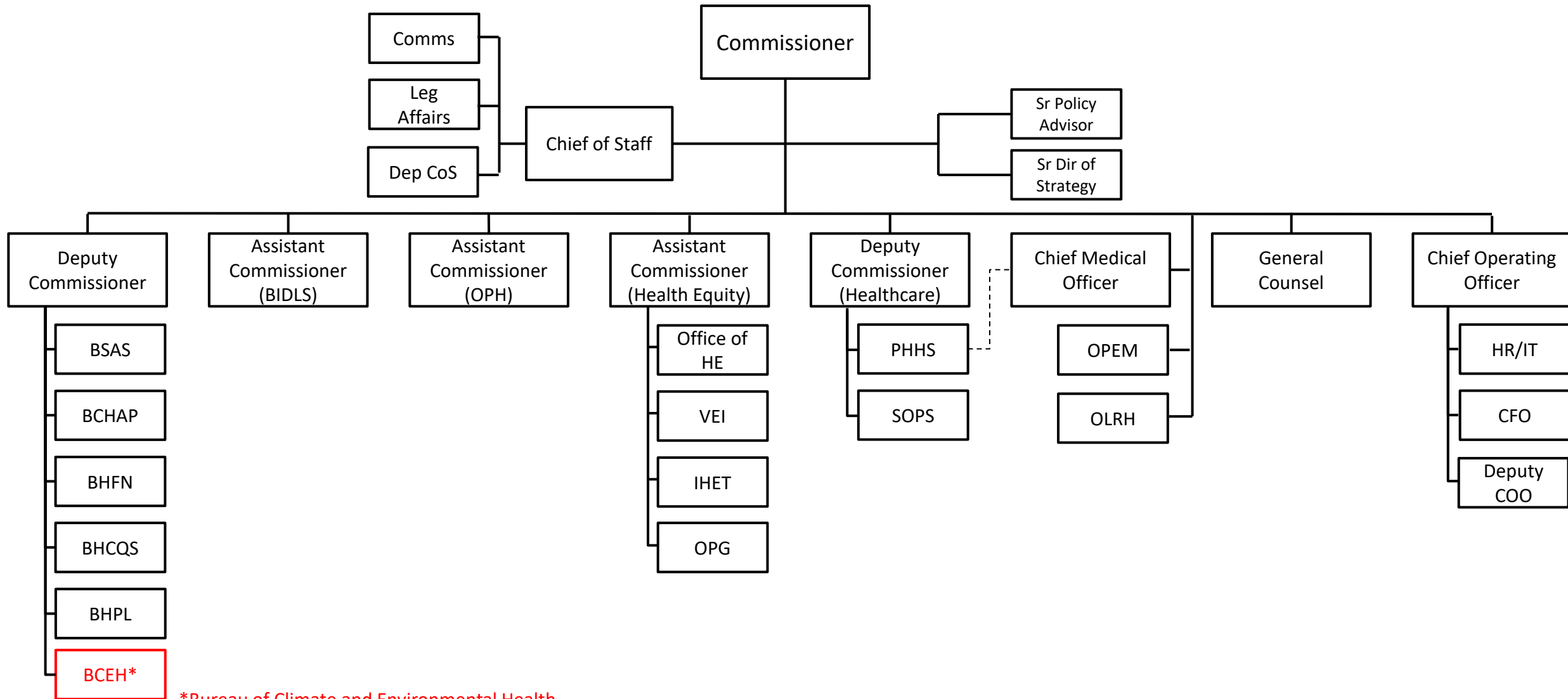
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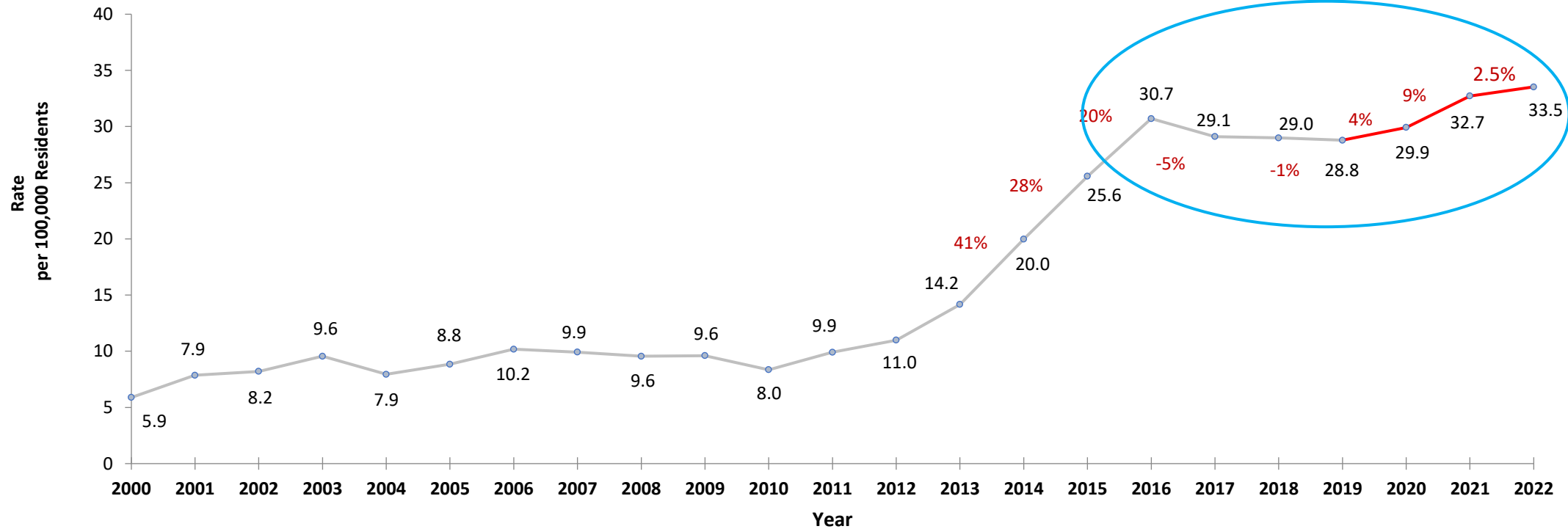
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2023**

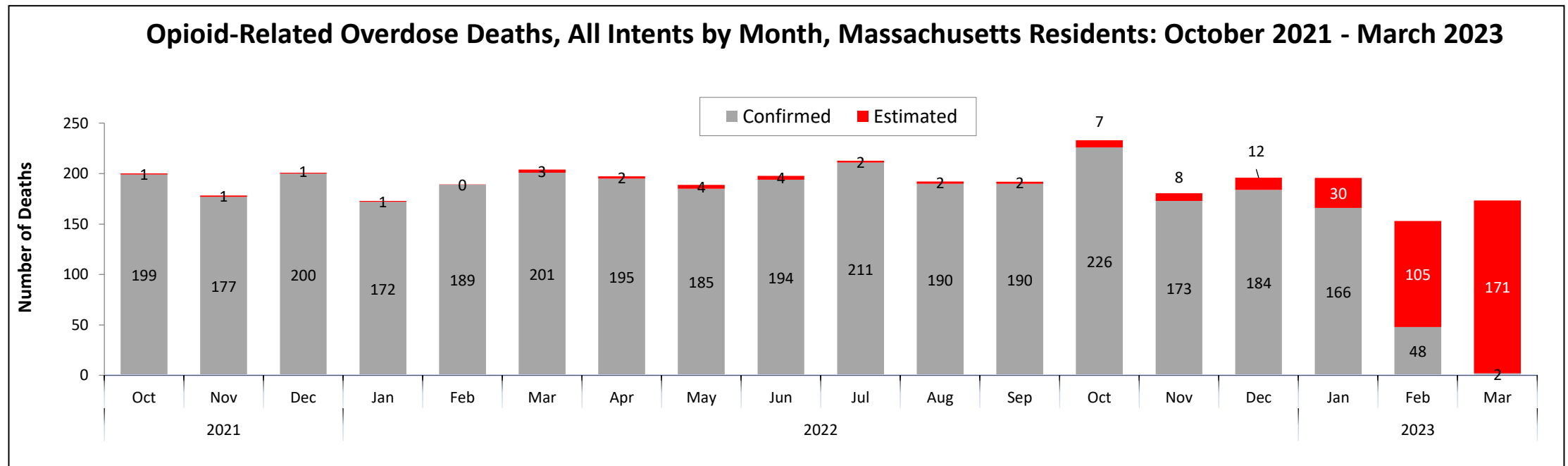
Robert Goldstein, Commissioner

The rate of opioid-related overdose deaths increased 2.5% in 2022 compared with 2021. This rate is 9% higher than the 2016 peak.

**Figure 3. Rate of Confirmed and Estimated Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, All Intent  
Massachusetts Residents: 2000 - 2022**



# Preliminary data show 216 confirmed and 306 estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in the first three months of 2023.

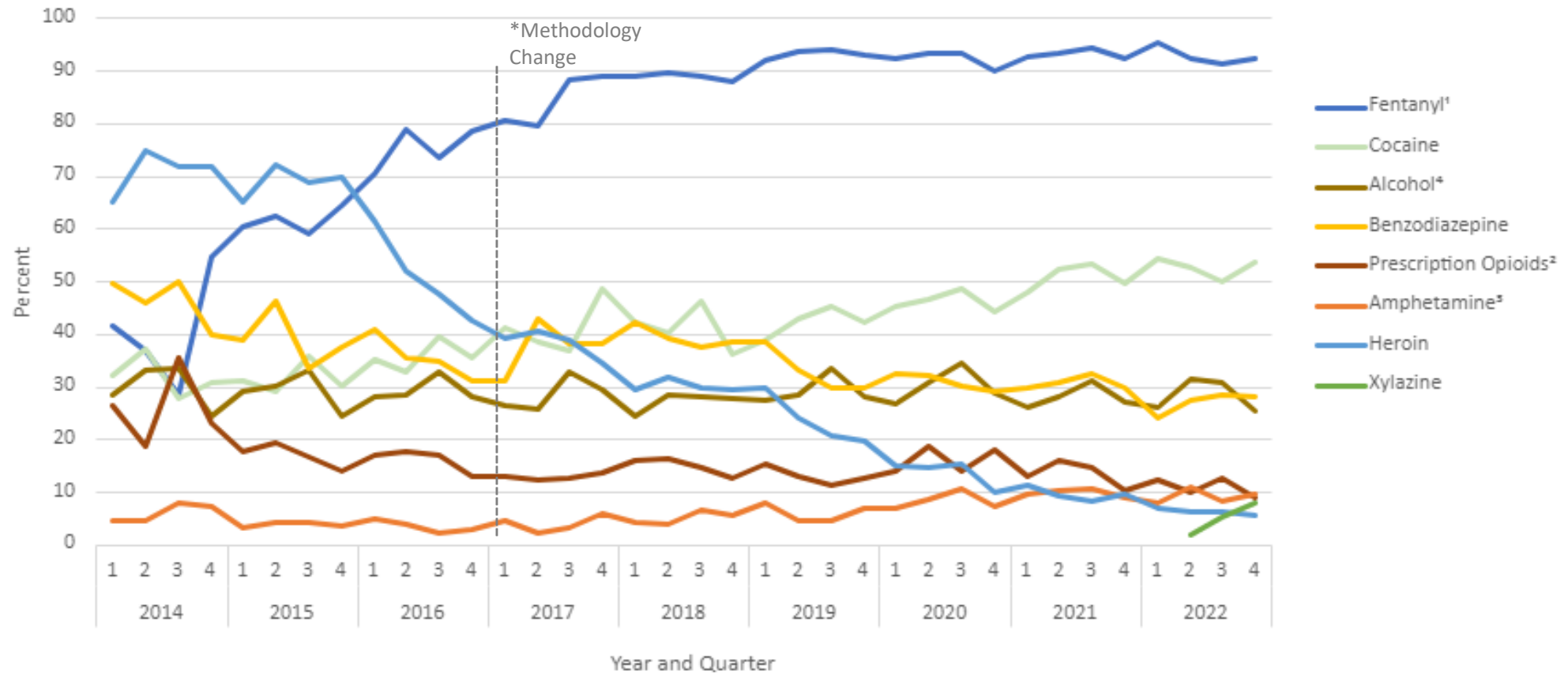


Estimated 566 deaths

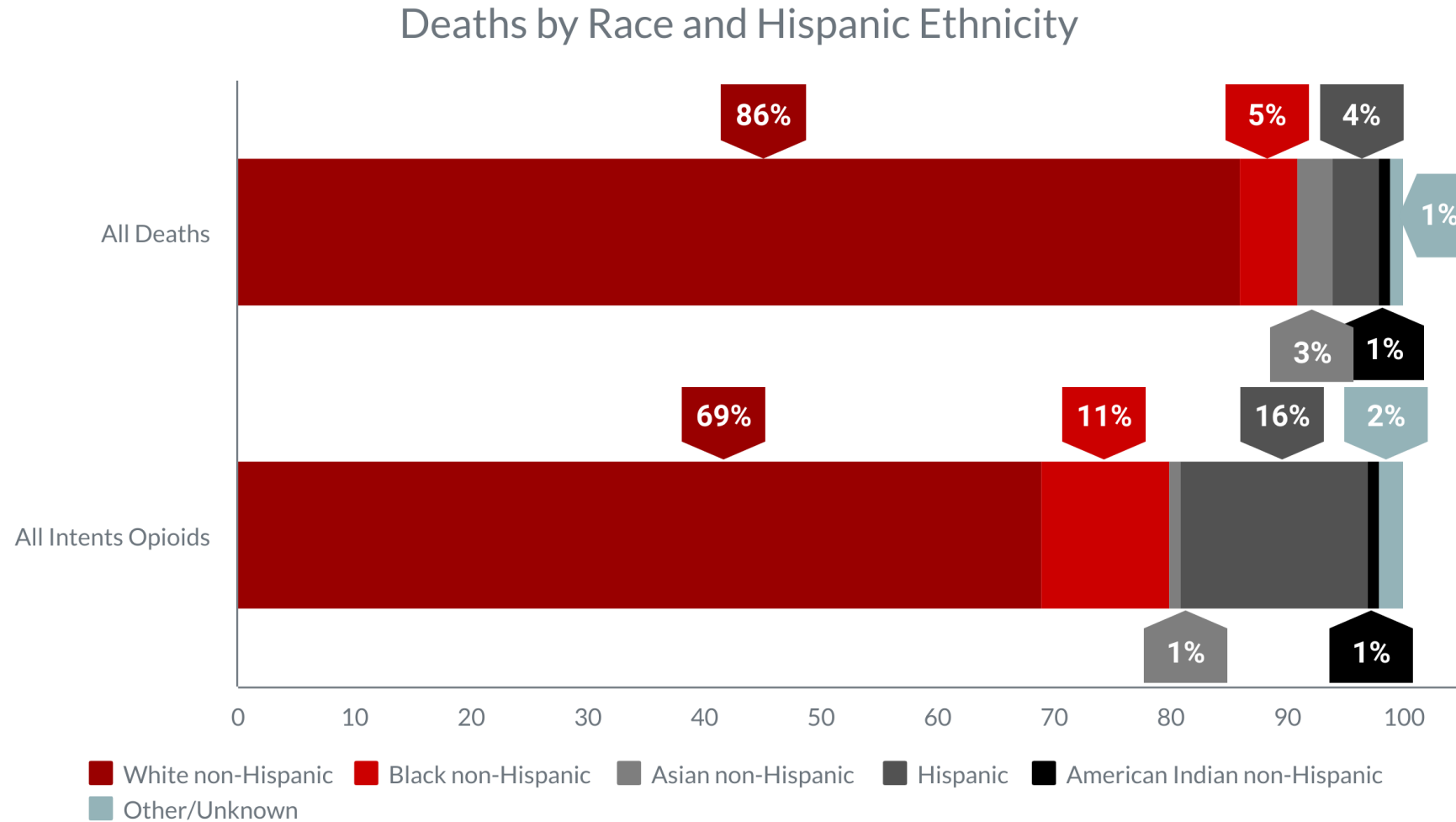
Estimated 522 deaths

# Fentanyl remains a key factor in opioid-related overdose deaths (94% present in toxicology screen in 1st quarter of 2023).

**Figure 4. Percent of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths with Specific Drugs Present in Massachusetts : 2014 - 2022**

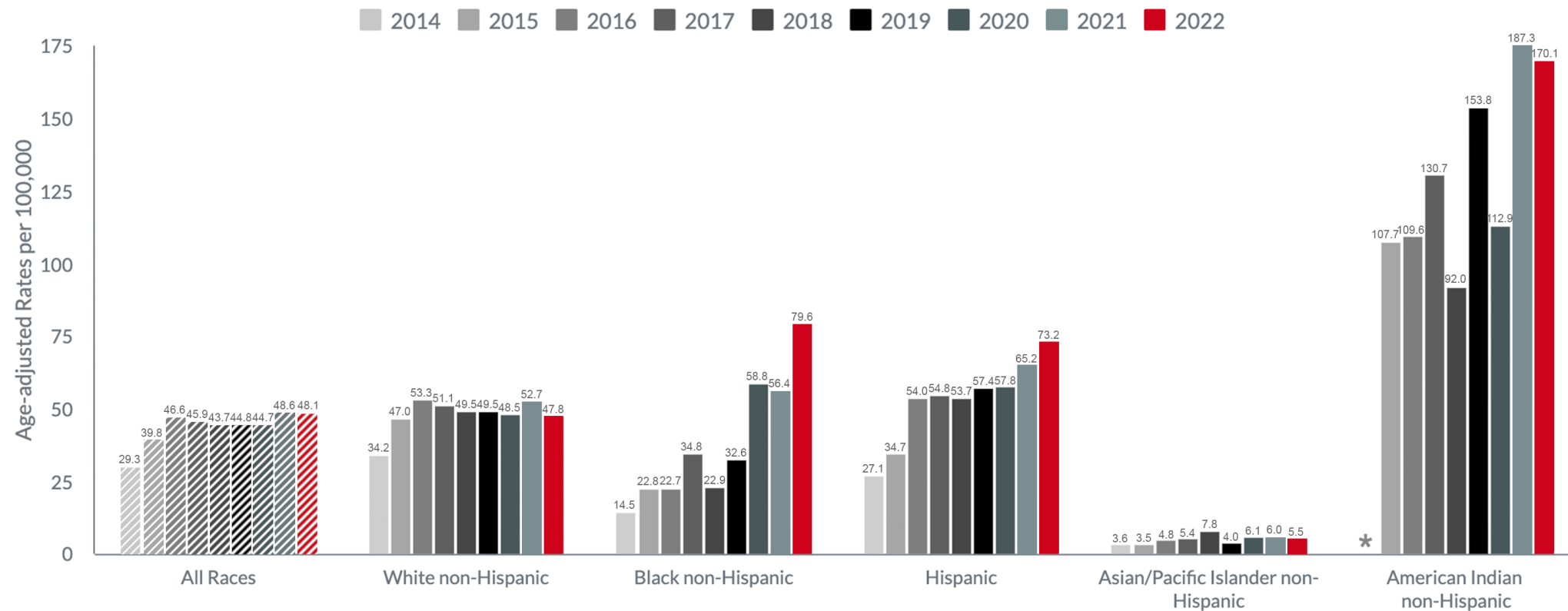


# White non-Hispanic residents account for 86% of all deaths and only 69% of opioid-related overdose deaths



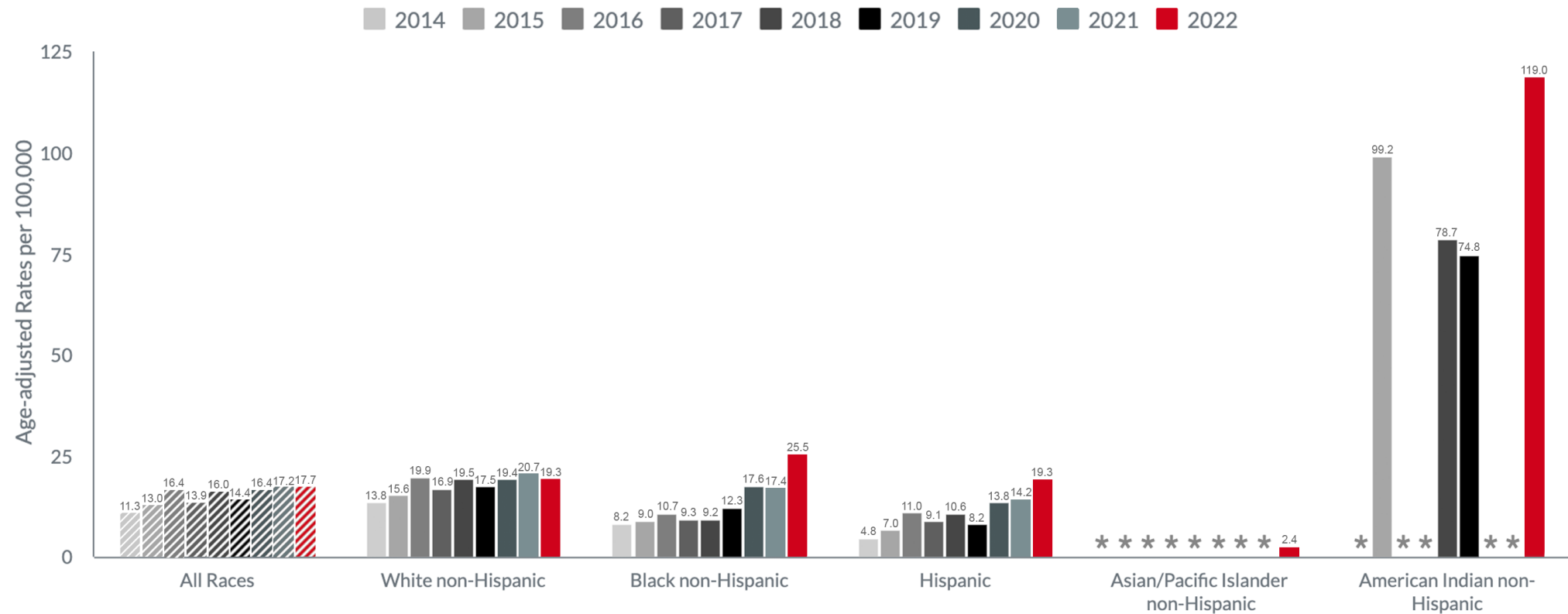
# From 2021 to 2022 Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic males had increased rates of death

Confirmed Opioid-Related Overdose Death Rates, All Intent, by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity  
Male



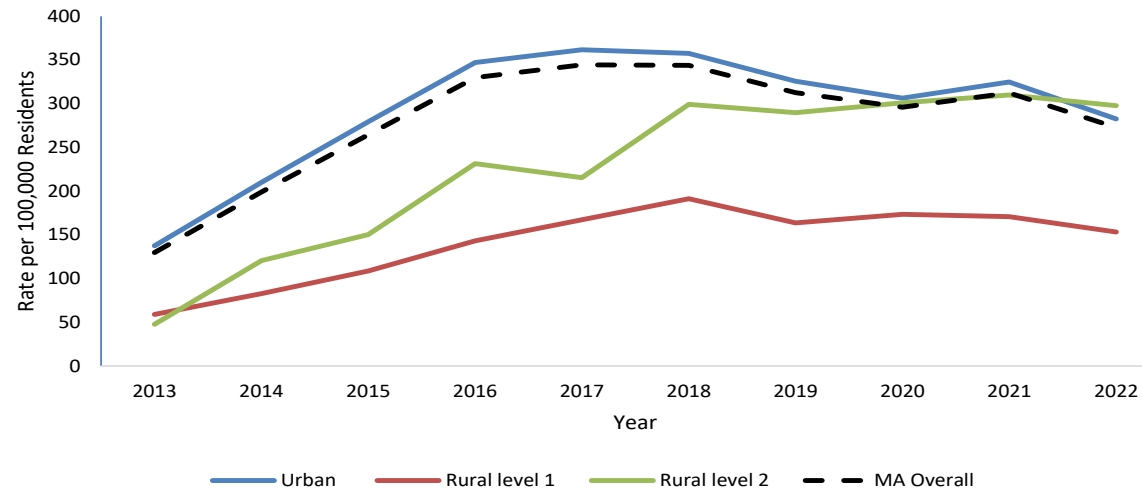
# From 2021 to 2022 Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic females had increased rates of death

Confirmed Opioid-Related Overdose Death Rates, All Intent, by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity  
Female

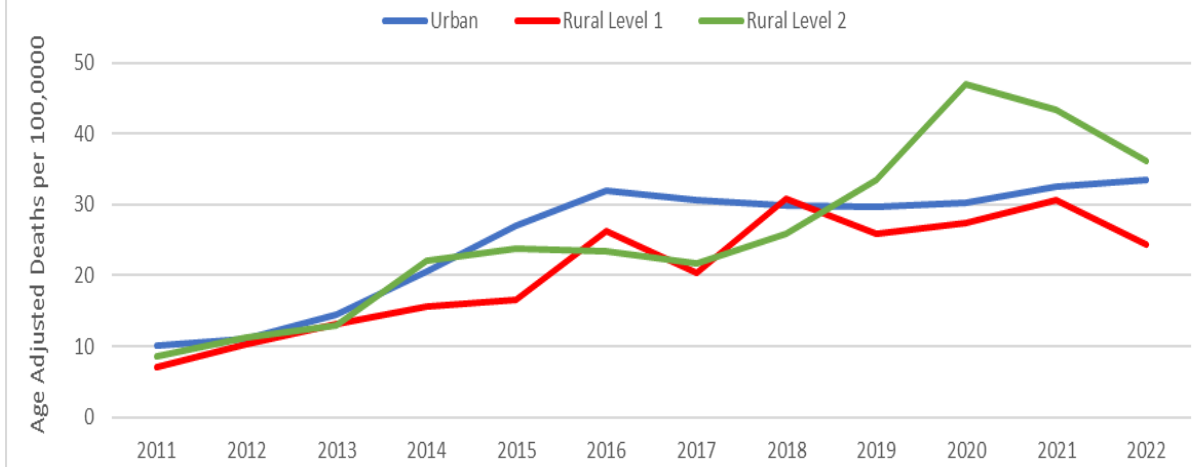


# In 2022, the most rural communities had the highest rates of opioid related incidents treated by EMS and opioid-related overdose deaths

**Figure 5: Age-Adjusted Opioid-Related Incident Rate per 100,000 Residents by Rurality, MA: 2013-2022**

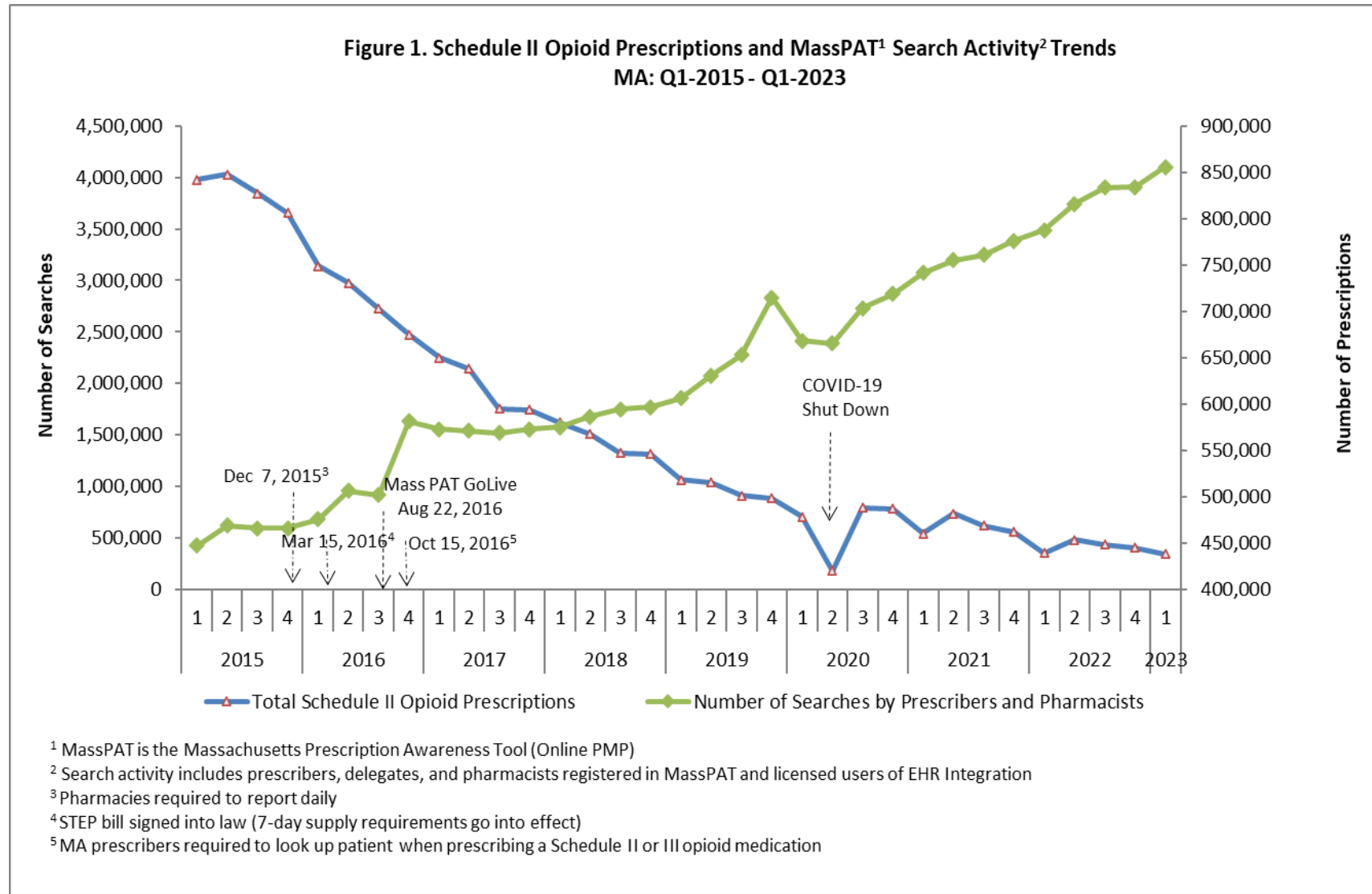


**Figure 6. Rate of Confirmed Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths by Rural Status, Massachusetts Residents: 2011 - 2022**





# Opioid prescribing bounced back after COVID-19 related shut-downs, and has begun to stabilize



## Some Next Steps

1. Harm reduction vending machines
2. Statewide overdose prevention hotline
3. Community Profiles on dashboard
4. Therapeutic outpatient services for youth and adolescents



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 22, 2023**

Robert Goldstein, Commissioner



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL)

*Overview for the Public Health Council*

James Lavery, BHPL Director

Timothy St. Laurent, BHPL Deputy Director

Lauren Nelson, BHPL Deputy Director

# Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) <2023

BHPL sits within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

## Prior to 2023:

- 10 Boards of Registration and Certification
- Drug Control Program (DCP)
- \*Board of Medicine

# Drug Control Program

- Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)
- Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR)
- Medication Administration Program (MAP)
- Pharmaceutical Code of Conduct (PCOC)
- Drug Stewardship Program
- Drug Control Enforcement Unit

# The DOL – DPH Transition

On August 5, 2021, Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2021, “An Act Reorganizing Certain Licensing Agencies of the Executive Department” brought with it 13 new health licensing boards from Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL) to DPH.

**11 of those health boards are now part of BHPL**

\*Registered Sanitarians and Certified Health Officers are now located in DPH’s Office of Local and Regional Health

# Managing the DOL – DPH transition

- **Between June 2022 and December 2022**, BHPL and DPH managed the transition of DOL health boards to DPH in three (3) cohorts to provide the best experience for staff, licensees, and applicants
- To prepare for the boards and staff, BHPL created an **Implementation Plan** with several workstreams, including Operations, Communications, Legal and eLicensing
- BHPL devised an accompanying **Communications Plan**, which identified internal and external stakeholders impacted by the transition. The plan mapped their messaging needs and communication channels for which BHPL developed targeted messages
- **Daily Transition Management Group** calls were held with BHPL leadership to discuss status updates, identify challenges, mitigate roadblocks, and develop strategic solutions



# Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Overview

BHPL oversees and supports **21 boards of registration** and certification in health professions across **126** license types and the **Drug Control Program**.

**Board of Nursing**

**Board of Pharmacy**

**Board of Dentistry**

**Multi-Boards**

**Drug Control Program**

***1<sup>st</sup> DOL Health Boards***

*\*Transition – September 2022*

***2<sup>nd</sup> DOL Health Boards***

*\*Transition – November 2022*

***3<sup>rd</sup> DOL Health Boards***

*\*Transition – January 2023*

# Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Overview

Below are the **license types** and **name** of the leader for each board

Board Name	License/Permits Types
<b>Board of Registration in Nursing</b> Heather Cambra, Deputy Executive Director	CNM, CNP, CRNA, CNS, CNM Temp, CNP Temp, CNS Temp, CRNA Temp, LPN, LPN Temp, PCNS, PCNS Temp, RN, RN Temp
<b>Board of Registration in Pharmacy</b> David Sencabaugh, Executive Director Monica Botto, Associate Executive Director	Pharmacist, Pharmacy Intern, Pharmacy Technician, Pharm Tech Trainee, Nuclear Pharmacist, Nuclear Pharmacy, CSP, Outsourcing Controlled Sub., Retail Drug Store Permit, Resident Outsourcing Facility, Wholesale Controlled Sub., Wholesale Dist. Permit
<b>Board of Registration in Dentistry</b> Barbara Young, Executive Director Jeffrey Mills, Associate Executive Director	Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant, Faculty License, Limited License, Nitrous Oxide, Anesthesia, Dental Hygienist Anesthesia Permit, Conscious Sedation, MDF DN, PDO DH, PDO DN, Facility Permit
<b>Drug Control Program</b> David Johnson, Director	MCSR Advanced Practice RN, MCSR Dentist, MCSR LL Dental Intern, MCSR LL Faculty, MCSR Nurse Midwife Advanced Practice, MCSR Pharmacists, MCSR Physician, MCSR Physician Asst.

# Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Overview

Unit	Board Name	License Types
<b>Multi-Boards</b> Steven Joubert, Executive Director Catherine Goldrick, Associate Executive Director	<b>Board of Registration in Naturopathy</b>	Naturopathic Doctor
	<b>Board of Registration of Nursing Home Administrators</b>	Nursing Home Administrator, Administrator in Training
	<b>Board of Certification of Community Health Workers</b>	Community Health Worker
	<b>Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors</b>	Genetic Counselor, Provisional Genetic Counselor
	<b>Board of Registration of Perfusionists</b>	Perfusionist, Provisional Perfusionist
	<b>Board of Registration of Physician Assistants</b>	Physician Assistant
	<b>Board of Respiratory Care</b>	Respiratory Therapist, Limited Respiratory Therapist
<b>Transferred Cohort 1</b> Lisa Guglietta, Executive Director Eboni Lewis, Associate Executive Director	<b>Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists</b>	Dietitians and Nutritionists
	<b>Board of Registration of Chiropractors</b>	Chiropractors, Chiropractor Facilities
	<b>Board of Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists</b>	Hearing Instrument Specialists, Apprentices

# Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Overview

Unit	Board Name	License Types
<b>Transferred Cohort 2</b> Thomas Burke, Executive Director	<b>Board of Registration of Optometry</b>	Optometrist
	<b>Board of Registration in Podiatry</b>	Podiatrist, Podiatrist Limited License
	<b>Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology</b>	Audiologist, Audiology Assistant, Speech Language Pathologist, Speech Language Pathology Assistant
	<b>Board of Registration of Dispensing Opticians</b>	Optician
<b>Transferred Cohort 3</b> Brian Bialas, Executive Director Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director	<b>Board of Allied Health Professionals</b>	Athletic Trainer, Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapist Asst, Physical Therapist, Phys. Therapist Asst, Phys Therapy Facility
	<b>Board of Registration of Psychologists</b>	Psychologist
	<b>Board of Registration of Social Workers</b>	LICSW, LCSW, LSW, LSWA
	<b>Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions</b>	Applied Behavior Analyst, Asst Applied Behavior Analyst, Educational Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist, Mental Health Counselor, Rehabilitation Counselor

# Bureau of Health Professions Licensure (BHPL) Overview

Current number of licenses, registrations, and certifications

<b>Drug Control Program</b>	<b>64,132</b>
<b>Board of Nursing</b>	<b>197,895</b>
<b>Board of Pharmacy</b>	<b>36,175</b>
<b>Board of Dentistry</b>	<b>29,725</b>
<b>Multi-Board</b>	<b>11,094</b>
<b>Transferred Cohort 1– September 2022</b>	<b>5,363</b>
<b>Transferred Cohort 2 – November 2022</b>	<b>11,538</b>
<b>Transferred Cohort 3 – January 2023</b>	<b>71, 249</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>427,171</b>

# New e-Licensing Application and Renewal Platform (eLX)

DPH is upgrading its current eLicensing platform (MLO) to a more user-friendly and robust system called **eLX**.

Customer Service: eLX will enhance the interactions that licensees and applicants have with their boards, **making it easier and quicker to apply for and renew licenses.**

The Bureau has a **strong support structure** and we have been working continuously on quality improvement to ensure a more positive experience during the licensing process.

# eLX – Project Overview

DPH eLX (**eLicensing eXcellence**) is a strategic initiative to unify DPH with a single License, Compliance and Enforcement system, vendor and standards



## DPH eLX objectives

Single Vendor, contract and infrastructure	Single cost structure	Stronger Security	Single Source of Truth	Economy of Scale	Process standardization	Common support model
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Go Live Phase	Board	In Production
0	MCSR II / Foxpro	3/20/2023
1	Naturopathy	5/1/2023
2	GENETIC COUNSELORS	6/5/2023
2	PERFUSIONISTS	
3	RESPIRATORY CARE	8/28/2023
3	Physician Assistants	
3	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS - MCSR	
3	PHARMACEUTICAL DEVICE MFGR.	
3	Pharmacy	
3	COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS	
3	Pharmacy MCSR	
3	NURSE AIDE REGISTRY	
4	NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS	11/13/2023
4	Nursing	
4	Nursing MCSR	
5	Dentistry	12/11/2023
5	Dentistry MCSR	
5	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	
5	Physician MCSR	

# How the Boards Operate

- All members are **appointed by the Governor** (various terms)
- **Monthly meetings** (most boards, some meet as few as 4x/yr.)
- Each Board has between **5 and 17 seats**, depending on their statute
- Member qualifications are **set by statute**



# Board Process for Passing Regulations

## **BHPL oversees:**

- Drug Control Program regulations, listed in 105 CMR; and
- Board regulations, each listed in a separate CMR chapter

The PHC hears and approves amendments to DPH regulations in 105 CMR

Whereas, Boards are **statutorily enabled** to promulgate their own regulations pursuant to the following review process:

- Boards develop and approve amendments by vote
- DPH Commissioner's office reviews and approves to present to EHS
- EHS and ANF review and approve for public hearing and comments
- BHPL holds public hearing and evaluates public comments
- Boards finalize post-comment changes and approve by vote
- DPH Commissioner's office reviews and approves to present to EHS
- EHS and ANF review and approve for promulgation

# Board of Certification of Community Health Workers

Number of Certified CHWs – **1,099**

Number of CHW Education and Training Programs - **10**  
*(2 new applications submitted for review)*

Number of Continuing Education Training Programs - **7**

## BHPL: Quick Facts

BHPL is also home to the:

- Pharmacy Substance Use Disorder (**PSUD**) Program
- Substance Addiction Recovery Program (**SARP**) for Nurses
- Public Records Unit, which responded to 786 Public Record Requests (**PRRs**) in 2022, with an average response time of 6.98 days
- **MassPAT**, which recorded over 11,871,000 searches in FY22, an increase of 2.5 million searches from FY21



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**Thank you for the opportunity to present this information today.**

*Please direct any questions to:*

- **James Lavery**, BHPL Director, [James.Lavery@mass.gov](mailto:James.Lavery@mass.gov)
- **Timothy St. Laurent**, BHPL Deputy Director, [Timothy.St.Laurent@mass.gov](mailto:Timothy.St.Laurent@mass.gov)
- **Lauren Nelson**, BHPL Deputy Director, [Lauren.Nelson@mass.gov](mailto:Lauren.Nelson@mass.gov)



# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

***Next Meeting:***  
**July 12, 2023**