

BOSTON
INDICATORS

The Boston
Foundation **tBf**

EMBRACE
BOSTON

GREAT MIGRATION TO GLOBAL IMMIGRATION:

A Profile of **Black Boston**

APRIL 2023

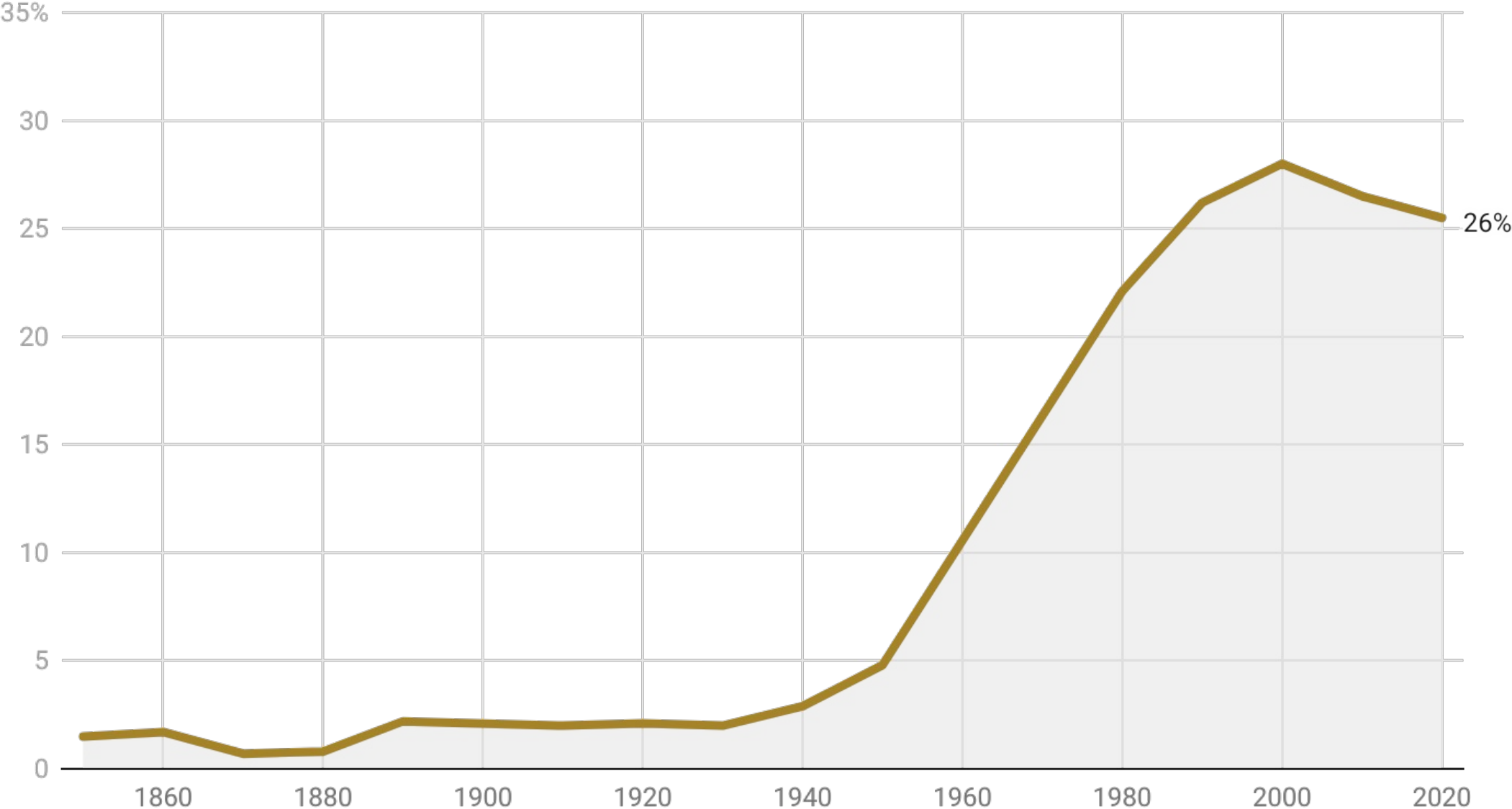


SCAN TO READ
THE REPORT



THANK YOU!

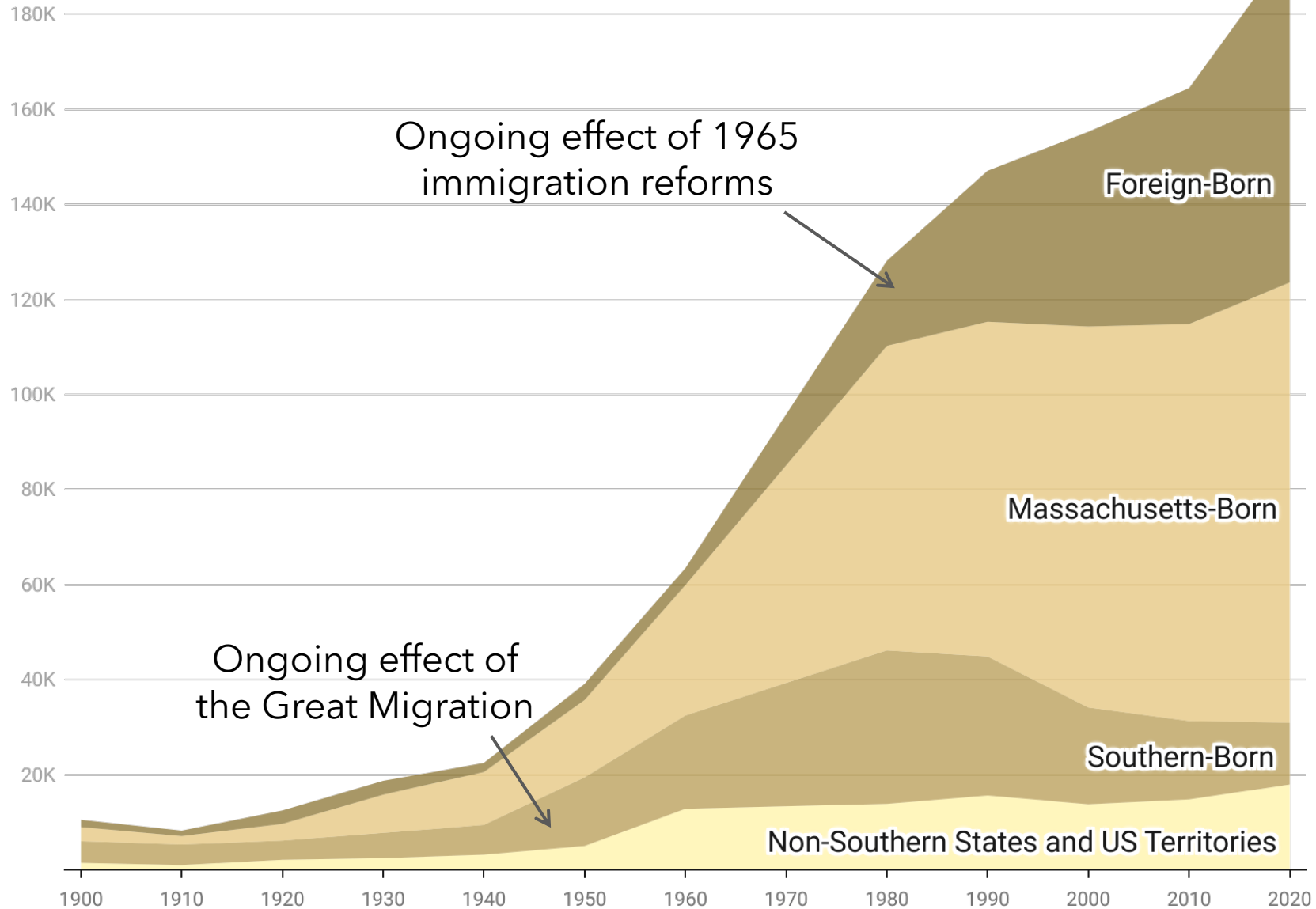
Black population share, City of Boston



Note: 1960 and 1970 values were not available from the Census Bureau and are estimated here.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: 1850 - 2000 U.S. Decennial Census. IPUMS, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org. 2010, 2020 U.S. Decennial Census. • Created with Datawrapper

Birthplace of Black residents of Boston. 1900-2020.



Source: 1900-2000 U.S. Census. 2010, 2020 5-Yr American Community Survey.



The Boston Globe

<https://www.bostonglobe.com> > 2021/08/13 > metro > b...

Boston is losing Black population, new census data show ...

Aug 13, 2021 — Though the city's population has been increasing overall, the number of Black people has been dropping steadily, with **8809 fewer in 2020** ...



The Bay State Banner

<https://www.baystatebanner.com> > 2021/08/18 > censu...

Census shows decline in Hub Blacks

Aug 18, 2021 — **Census shows decline in Hub Blacks.** Drop comes as Mass. towns see increase ... Boston's Black population declined by nearly 9,000.



campaign-archive.com

<https://us11.campaign-archive.com> > ...

As diversity in Boston booms, Black residents flee

Number of the week: **8,809**, the drop in the number of Black Bostonians living in the city since 2010, according to census data. Shrinking Black Boston. While the ...

How the Black population has gone down in Boston



Source: [US Census Bureau](#)

A Flourish chart

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Cuban
- Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.* ↴

DOMINICAN

9. What is Person 1's race?

Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

- White – *Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.* ↴

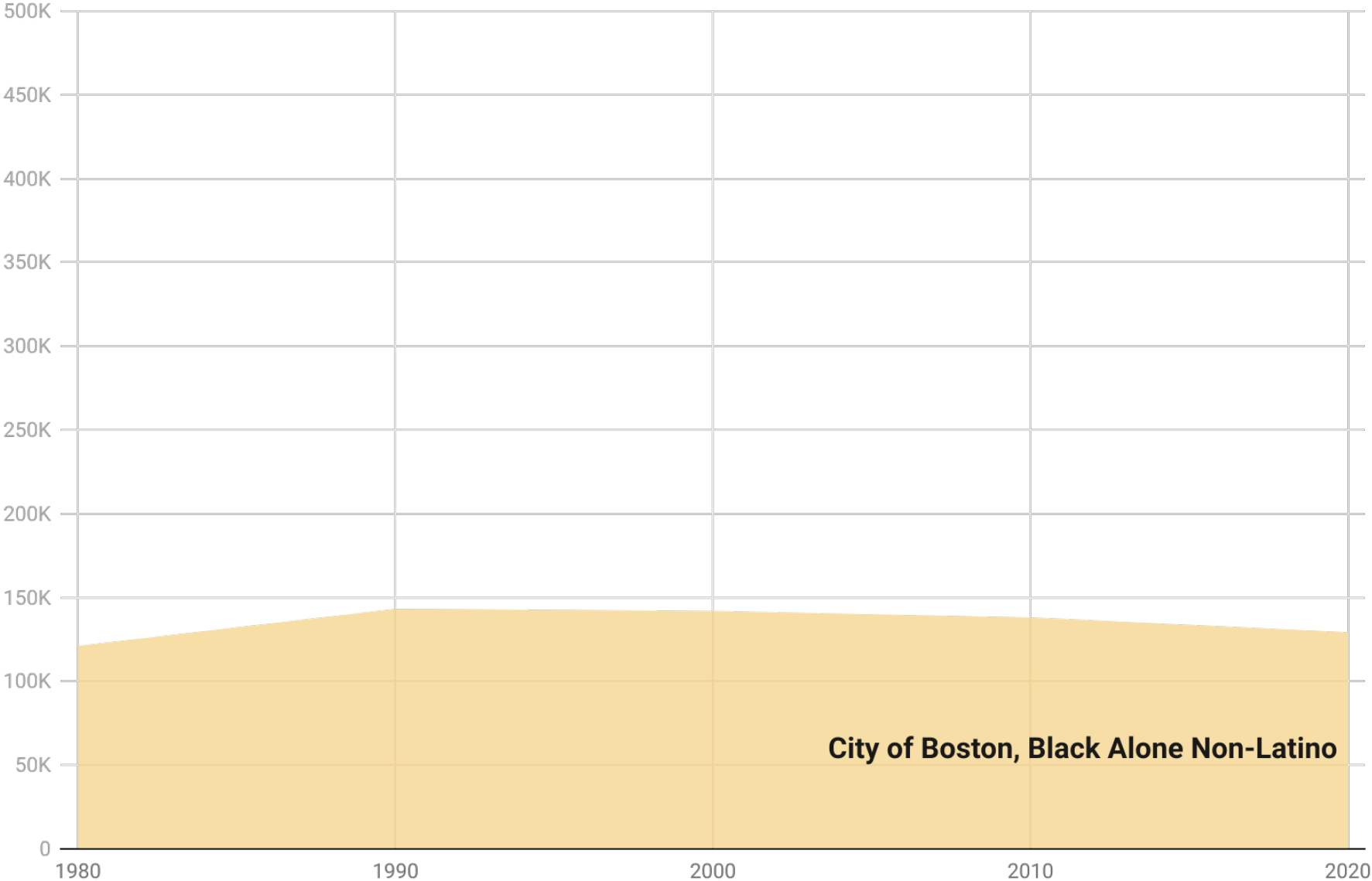
- Black or African Am. – *Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.* ↴

- American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.* ↴

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian –
<i>Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.</i> ↴ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander –
<i>Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.</i> ↴ |

- Some other race – *Print race or origin.* ↴

Black population totals by subgroup

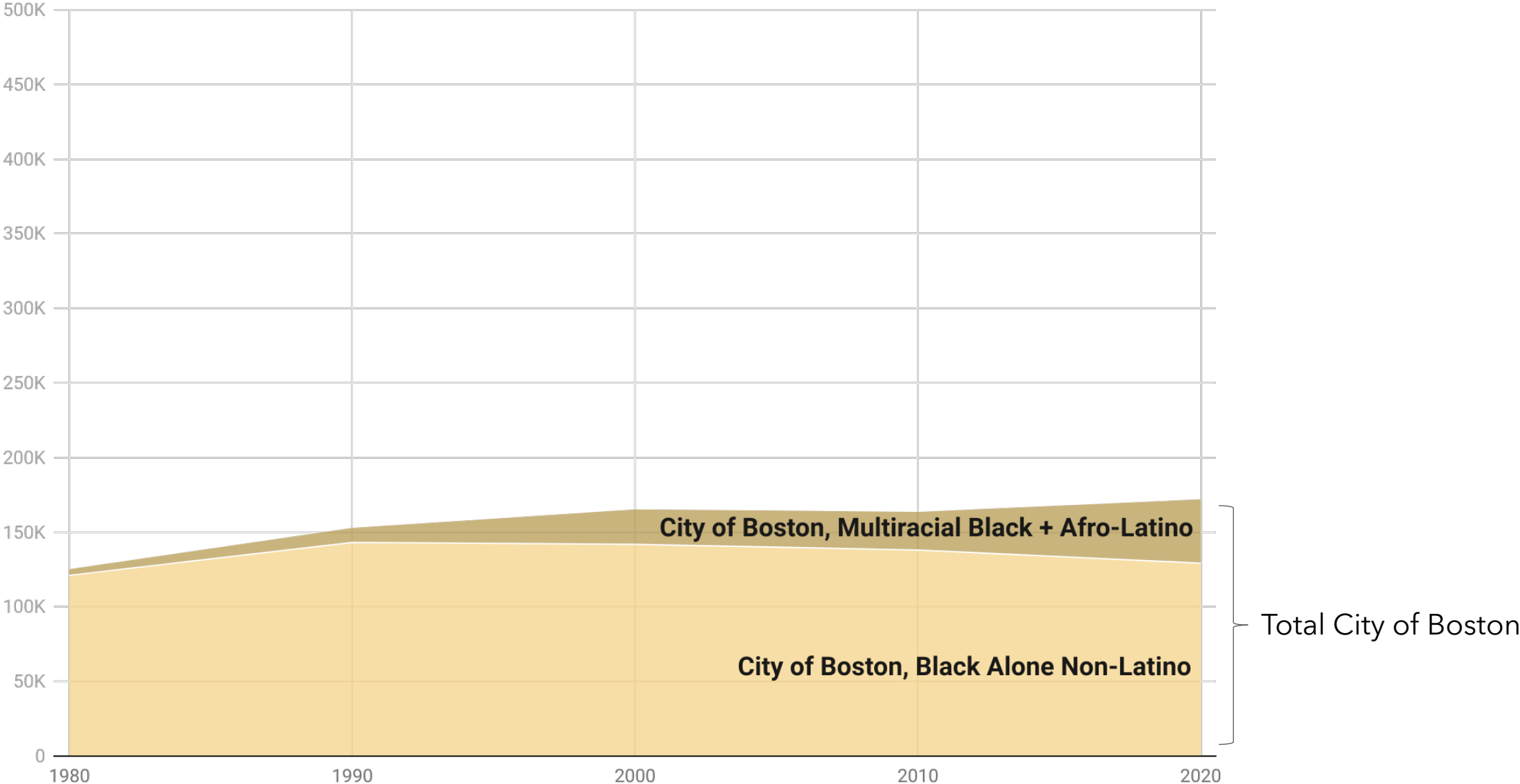


City of Boston, Black Alone Non-Latino

Note: Beginning in 2000, respondents to the Census were allowed to select multiple race group responses. These multiracial Black residents, along with Afro-Latino populations, are included in the "Multiracial Black + Afro-Latino" areas.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: 1980 - 2000 U.S. Decennial Census. IPUMS, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org. 2010, 2020 U.S. Decennial Census. • Created with Datawrapper

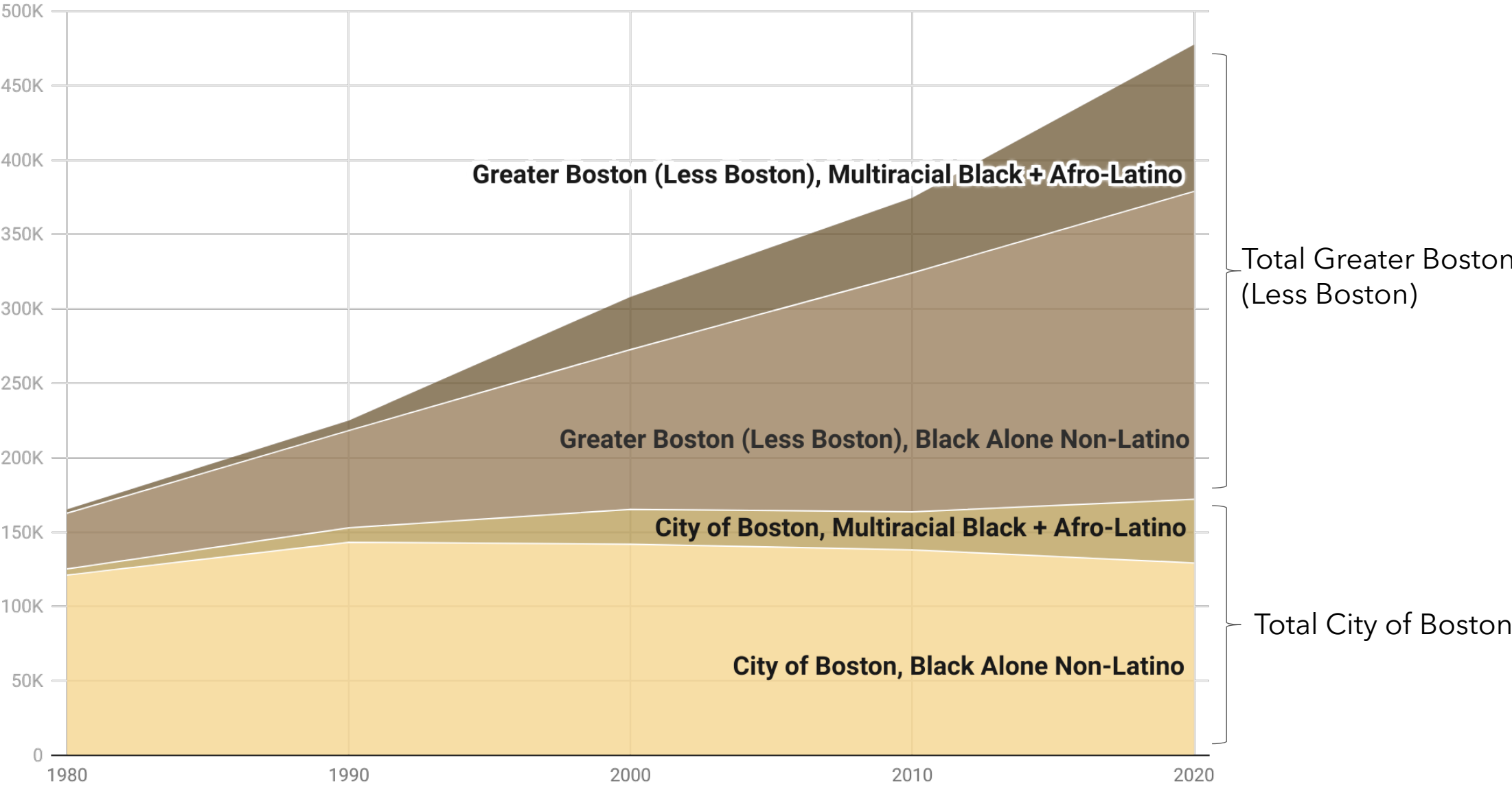
Black population totals by subgroup



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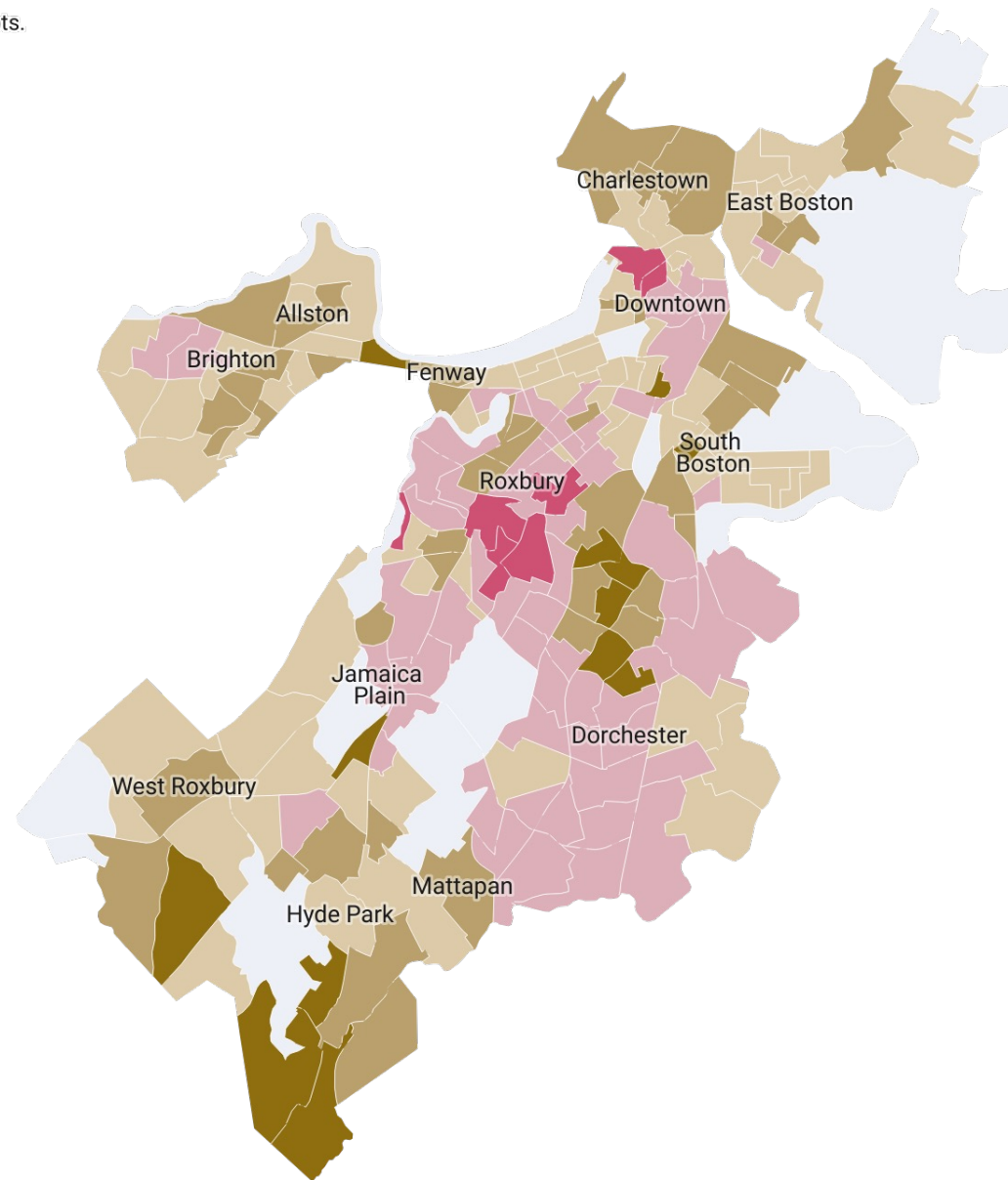
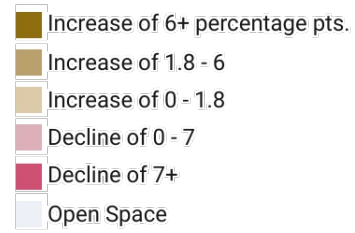
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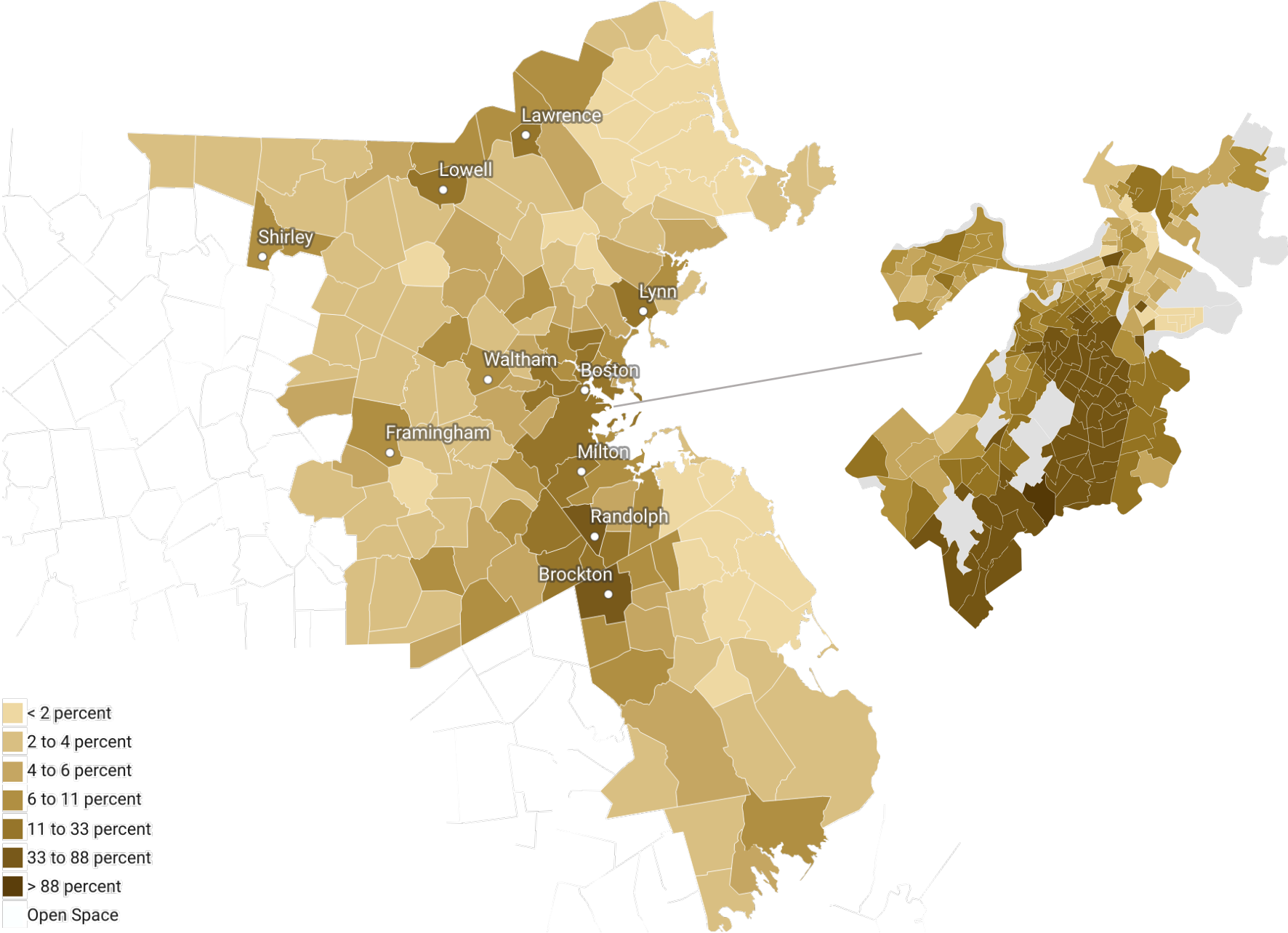
Percentage point change in Black population Share. Boston Census tracts. 2010 - 2020.



Map uses census tracts with 2020 boundaries. 2010 populations are arranged by block groups and weighted to 2020 tract boundaries for comparison purposes.

Source: 2010 - 2020 U.S. Decennial Census. Crosswalk courtesy of IPUMS NHGIS University of Minnesota, www.nhgis.org • Created with Datawrapper

Black population share by city/town and Boston census tracts. 2020.



Source: 2020 Census • Map data: MassGIS

Top 20 Cities and Towns in Greater Boston by Black Population Share. 2020.

	City or Town	Total Population	Total Black Population	Percent Black
1	Brockton	105,643	54,320	51%
2	Randolph	34,984	17,121	49%
3	Boston	675,647	172,039	25%
4	Avon	4,777	1,068	22%
5	Stoughton	29,281	6,423	22%
6	Holbrook	11,405	2,195	19%
7	Everett	49,075	8,696	18%
8	Malden	66,263	11,376	17%
9	Lynn	101,253	16,725	17%
10	Milton	28,630	4,509	16%
11	Cambridge	118,403	15,212	13%
12	Lawrence	89,143	11,280	13%
13	Lowell	115,554	12,942	11%
14	Canton	24,370	2,704	11%
15	Chelsea	40,787	4,222	10%
16	Shirley	7,431	764	10%
17	Medford	59,659	6,046	10%
18	Bridgewater	28,633	2,710	9%
19	Norwood	31,611	2,970	9%
20	Framingham	72,362	6,138	8%

Black population includes all selecting Black, alone or in combination. 2020 Decennial Census.

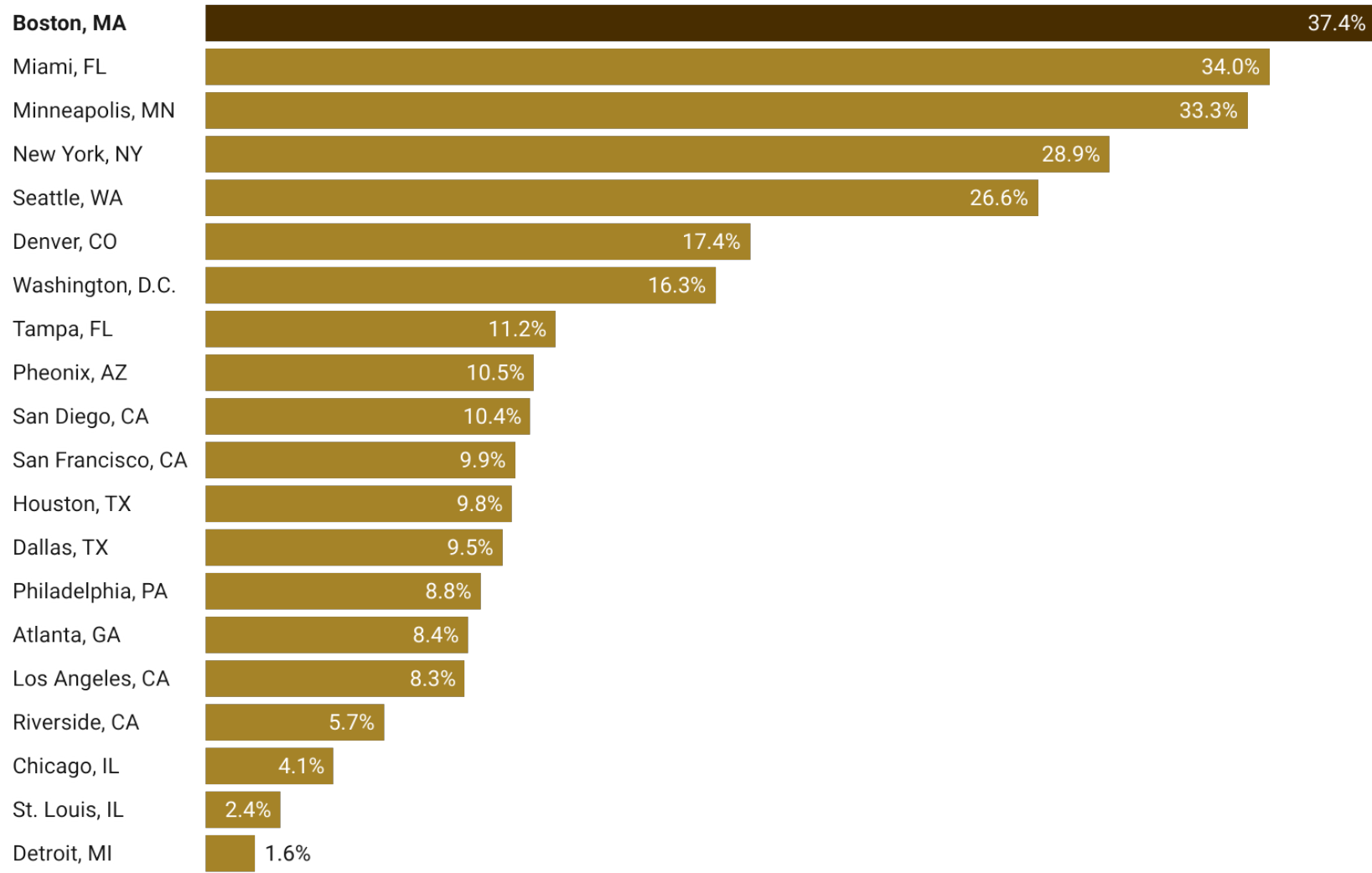
Table: Boston Indicators • Source: 2020 U.S. Decennial Census • Created with Datawrapper

Selected Black Boston Populations

- The Multi-Generational Black Population
- The Foreign-Born Black Population
- Afro-Latino/as
- West Indians
- Cape Verdeans
- Recent African Immigrants

The Boston metro area (MSA) has the largest foreign-born Black population share of any large metro area in the U.S.

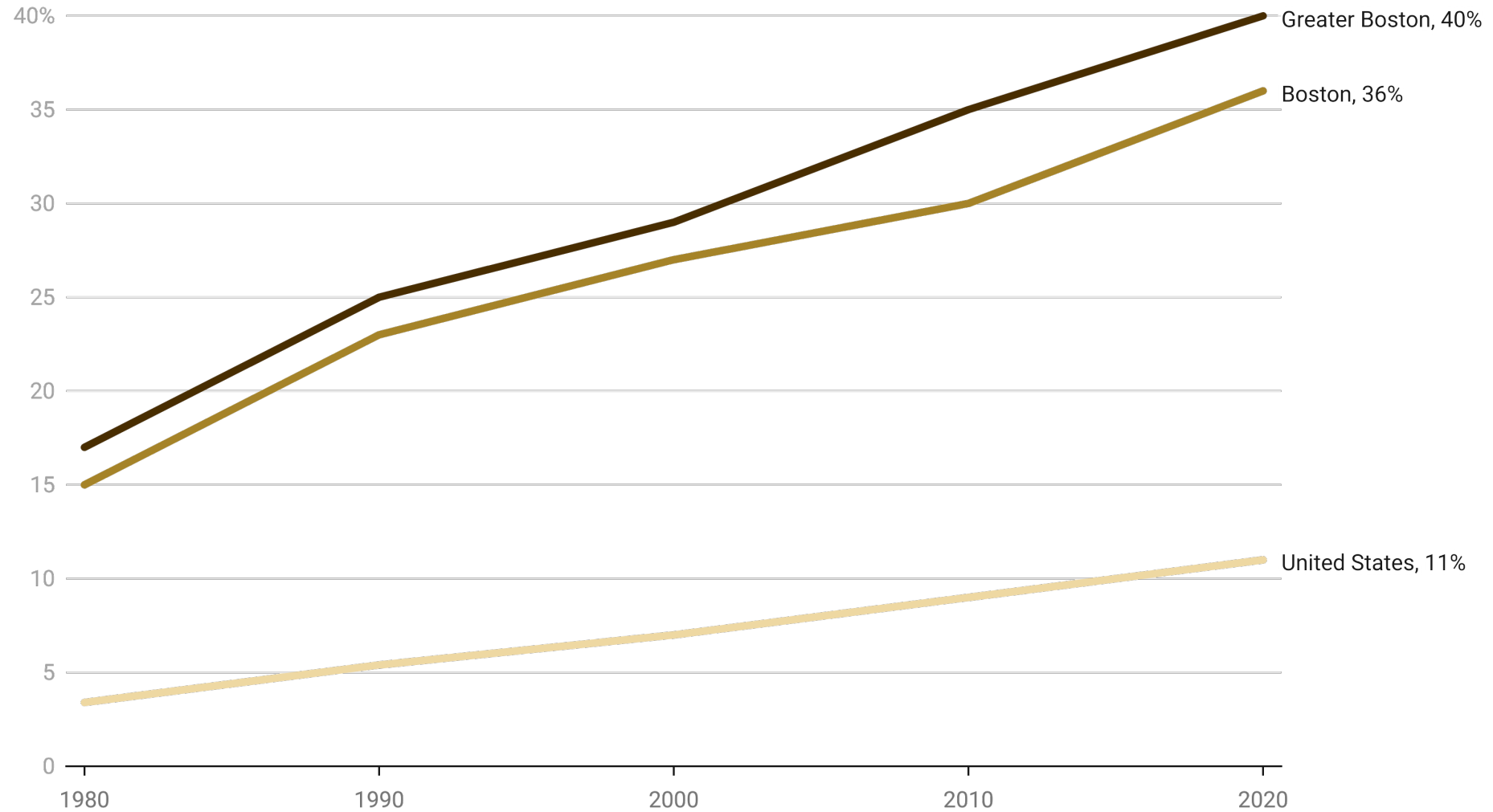
Foreign-born Black population share of the 20 Largest U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)



Note: Boston metropolitan boundaries here include parts of New Hampshire for the sake of comparison to other U.S. metropolises. These are not the same boundaries we use throughout for Greater Boston, which is bounded by Massachusetts. Black population here includes all respondents selecting "Black" whether alone or in combination with another race or ethnicity.

Black residents of Greater Boston are 4x as likely to be foreign-born as Black Americans overall.

Share of Black residents of Greater Boston, Boston, and the United States who are foreign-born.

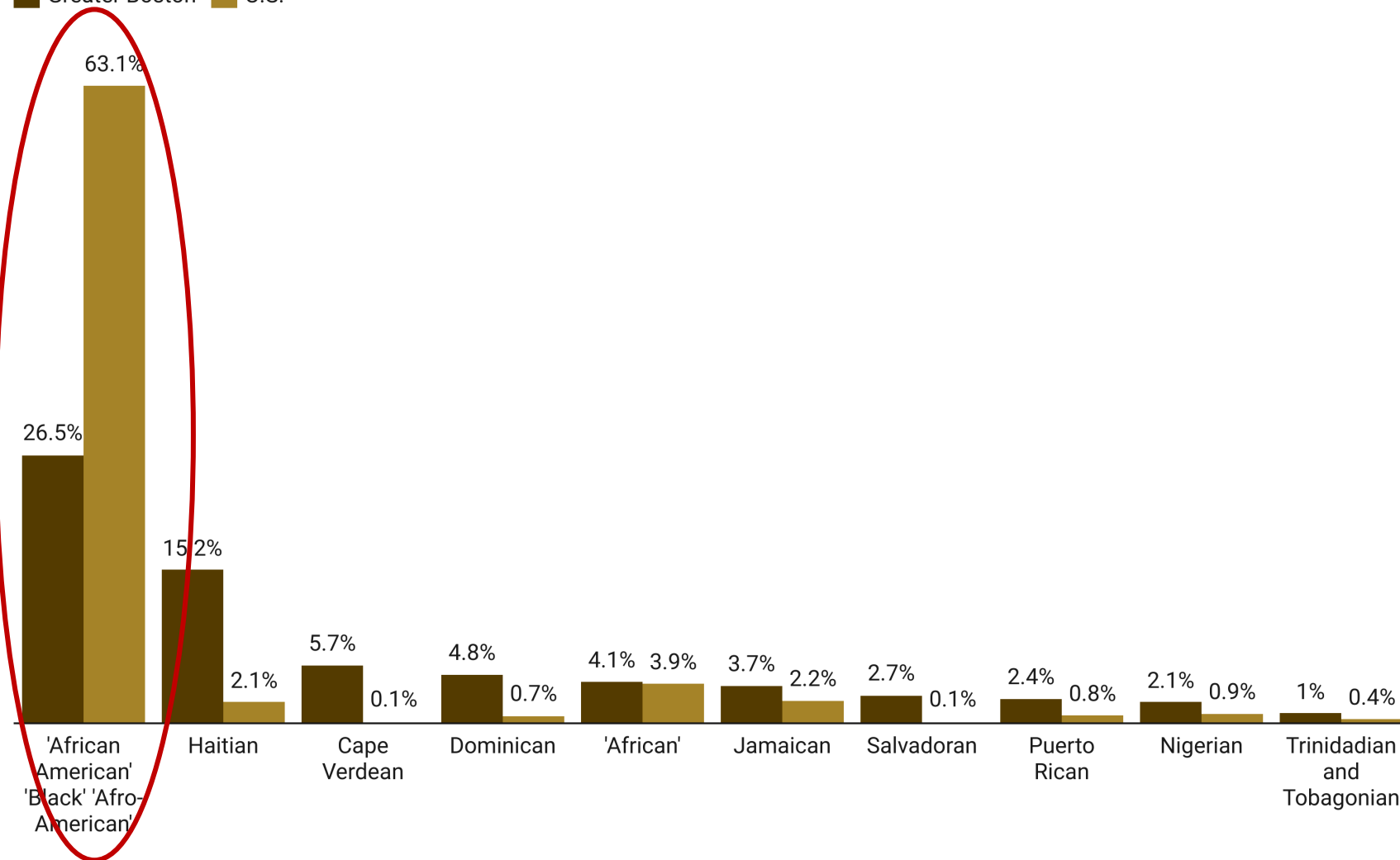


Note: Includes all residents who identify as Black, including Latino Black. Multiracial Black residents included beginning in 2000. We arrive at a slightly different estimate for Greater Boston's foreign-born Black population share here than in Figure 8 due to population weighting differences.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: 1980 - 2000 U.S. Decennial Census. 2010, 2020 5Yr ACS. IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org. • Created with Datawrapper

Top 10 write-in origins for Black respondents by share of total Black population. 2020.

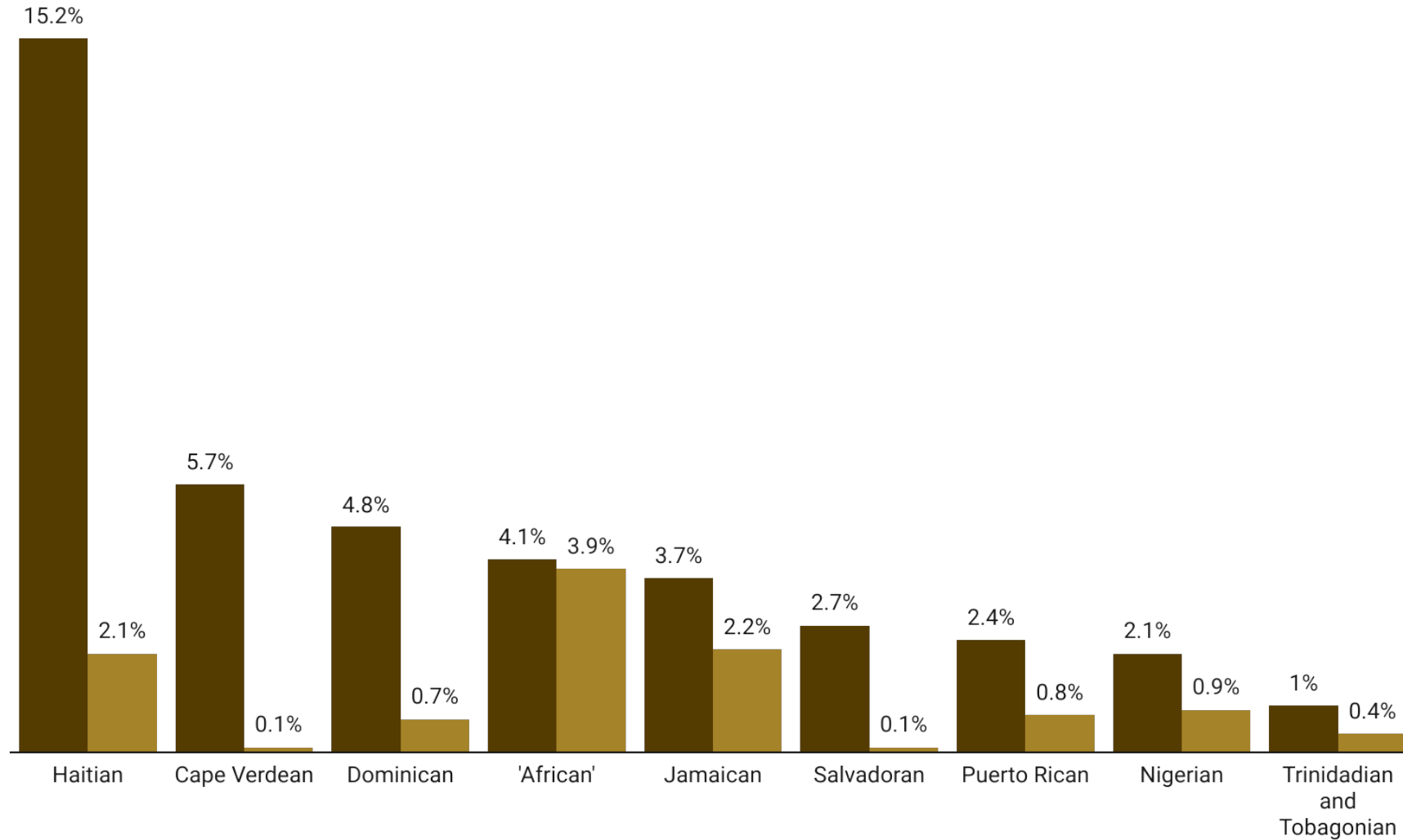
Greater Boston U.S.



Note: Black population here includes all respondents selecting 'Black,' whether alone or in combination with another race. 'African Ancestry' is a general choice that is presented alongside, and is mutually exclusive of, specific countries of ancestry like 'Nigeria.' This chart excludes respondents who did not fill in an ancestry.

Top write-ins with ties to another country or territory. 2020.

Greater Boston U.S.



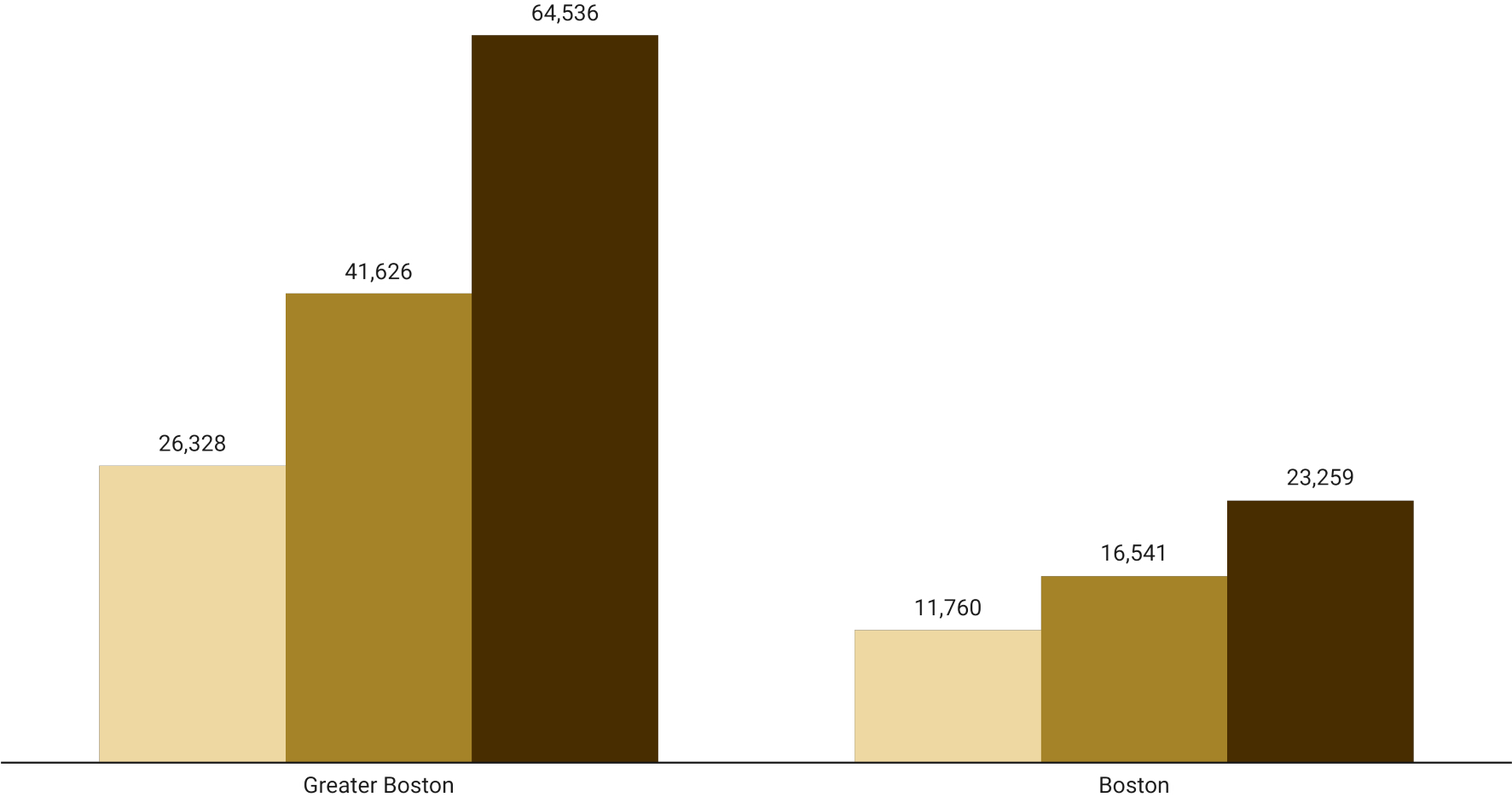
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Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: 2016-2020 ACS, IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org. • Created with Datawrapper

Since 2000, Afro-Latino/as have doubled in number across both Boston and Greater Boston.

Afro-Latino/as population size.

2000 2010 2020



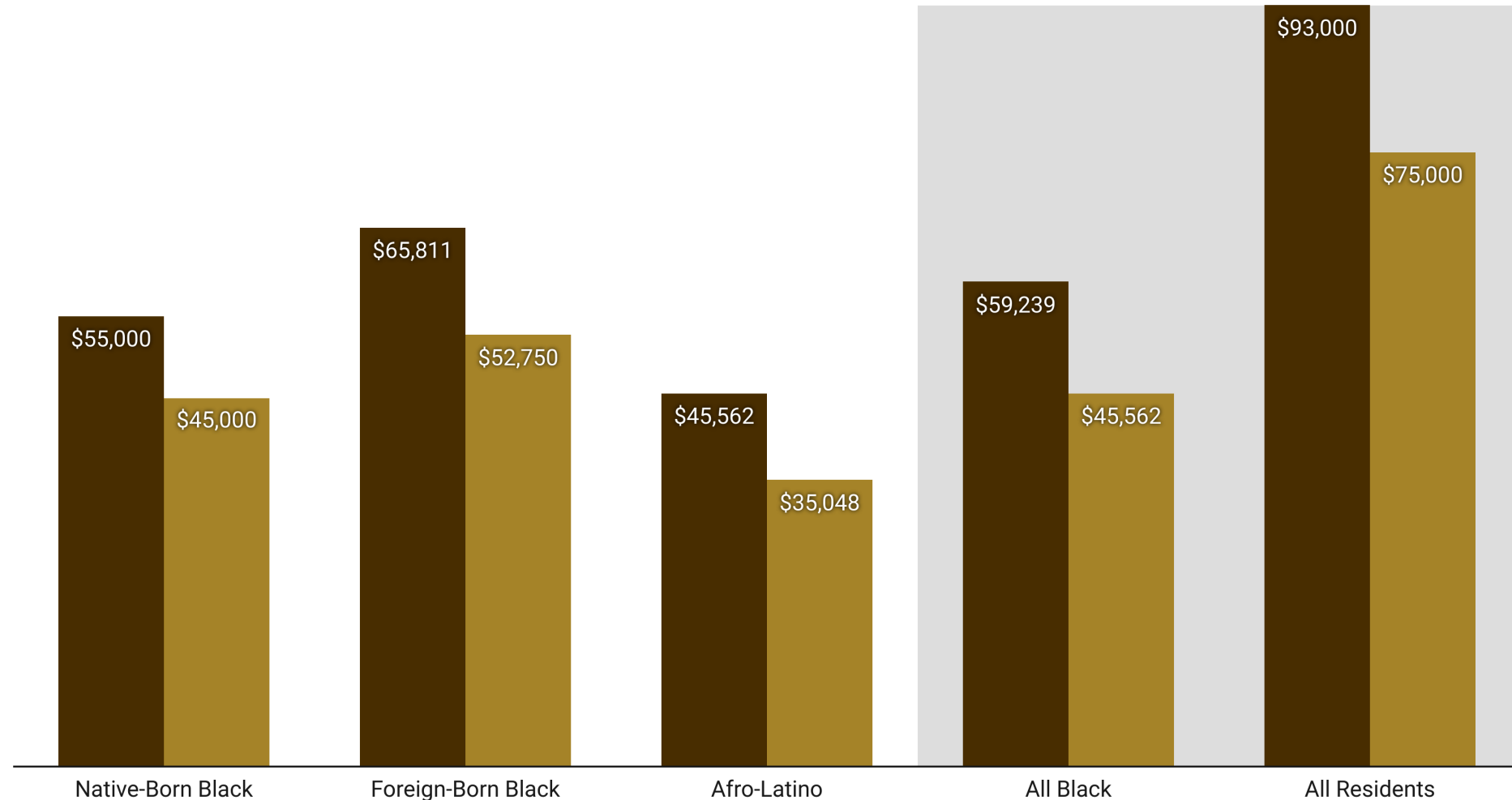
Note: Includes all respondents who have selected "Black" and "Hispanic or Latino ethnicity," alone or in any combination of other racial groups.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: 2000, 2010, 2020 U.S. Decennial Census • Created with Datawrapper

Foreign-born Black households have the highest median incomes among the region's Black residents.

Median household income by group. Greater Boston and Boston. 2020.

■ Greater Boston ■ Boston

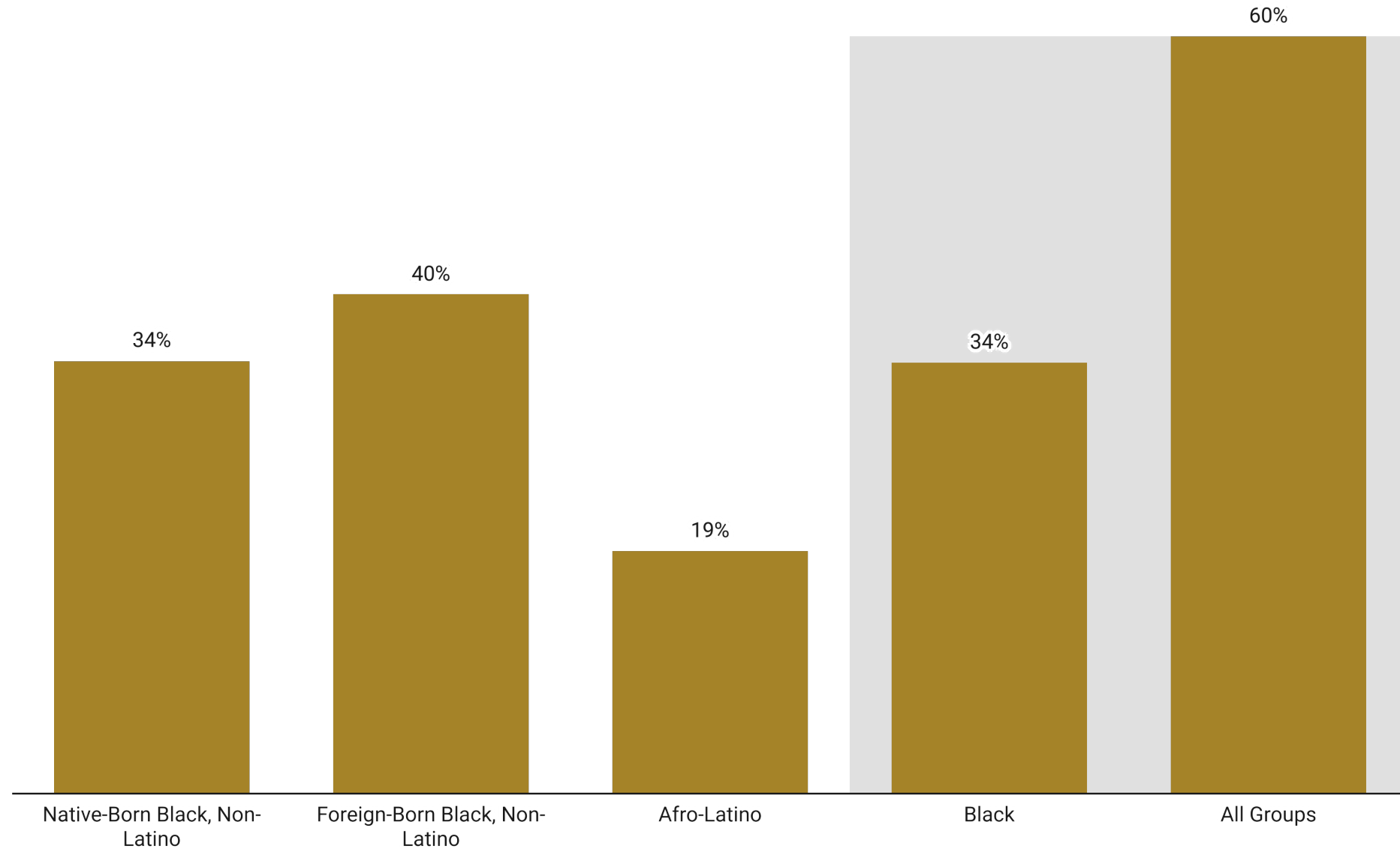


Note: Includes all respondents who selected Black in combination with other racial groups. Afro-Latinos are those who also selected "Latino" ethnicity.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey. IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org • Created with Datawrapper

Afro-Latinos have the lowest homeownership rate among Black households.

Share of households that own their own home. Greater Boston. 2020.

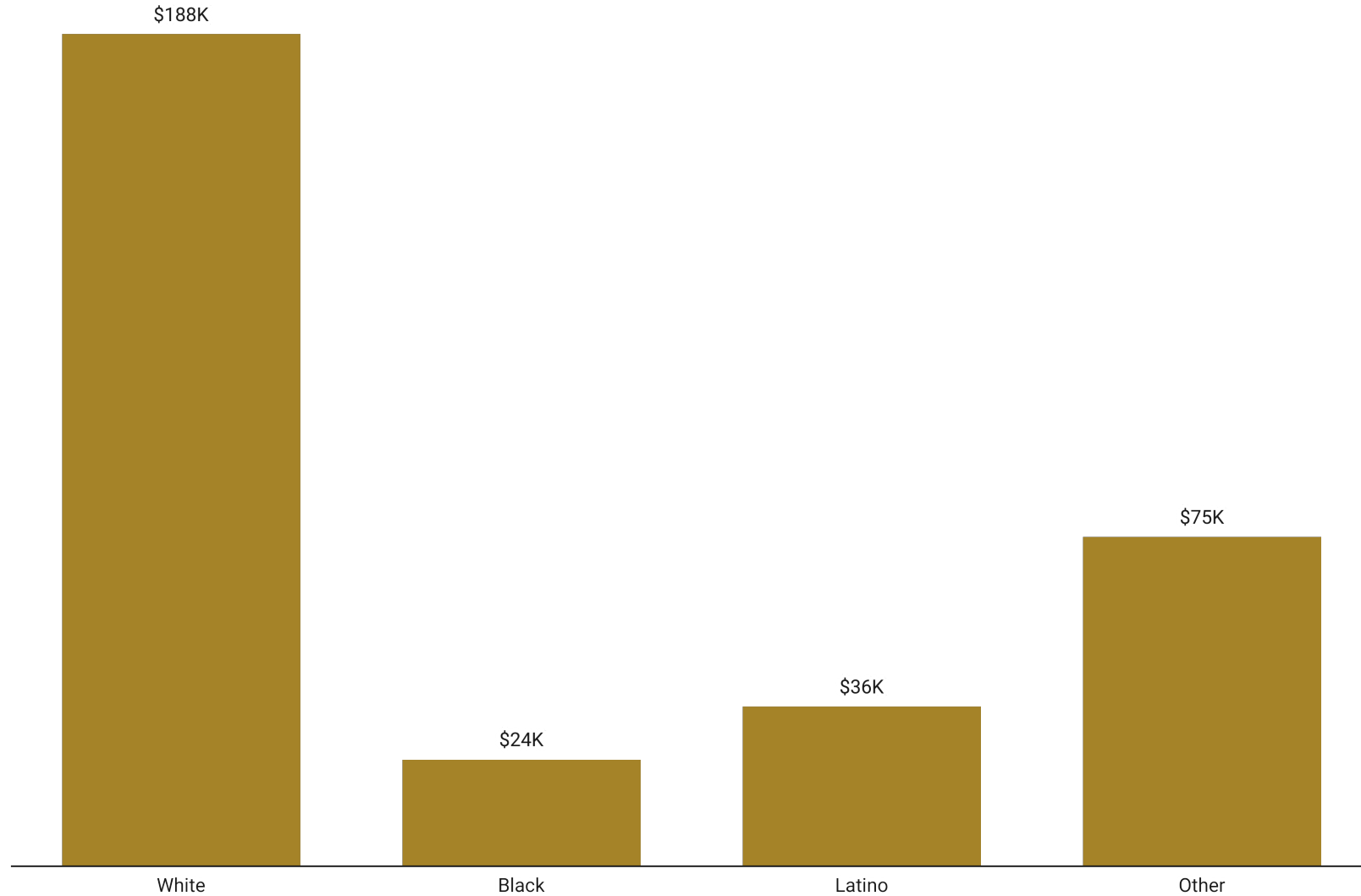


Note: "Black" Includes native born, foreign-born, and Afro-Latino Black populations.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey. IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org • Created with Datawrapper

National data from the Survey of Consumer Finances shows large racial wealth gaps.

Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF), household median net worth by race, 2019. United States.

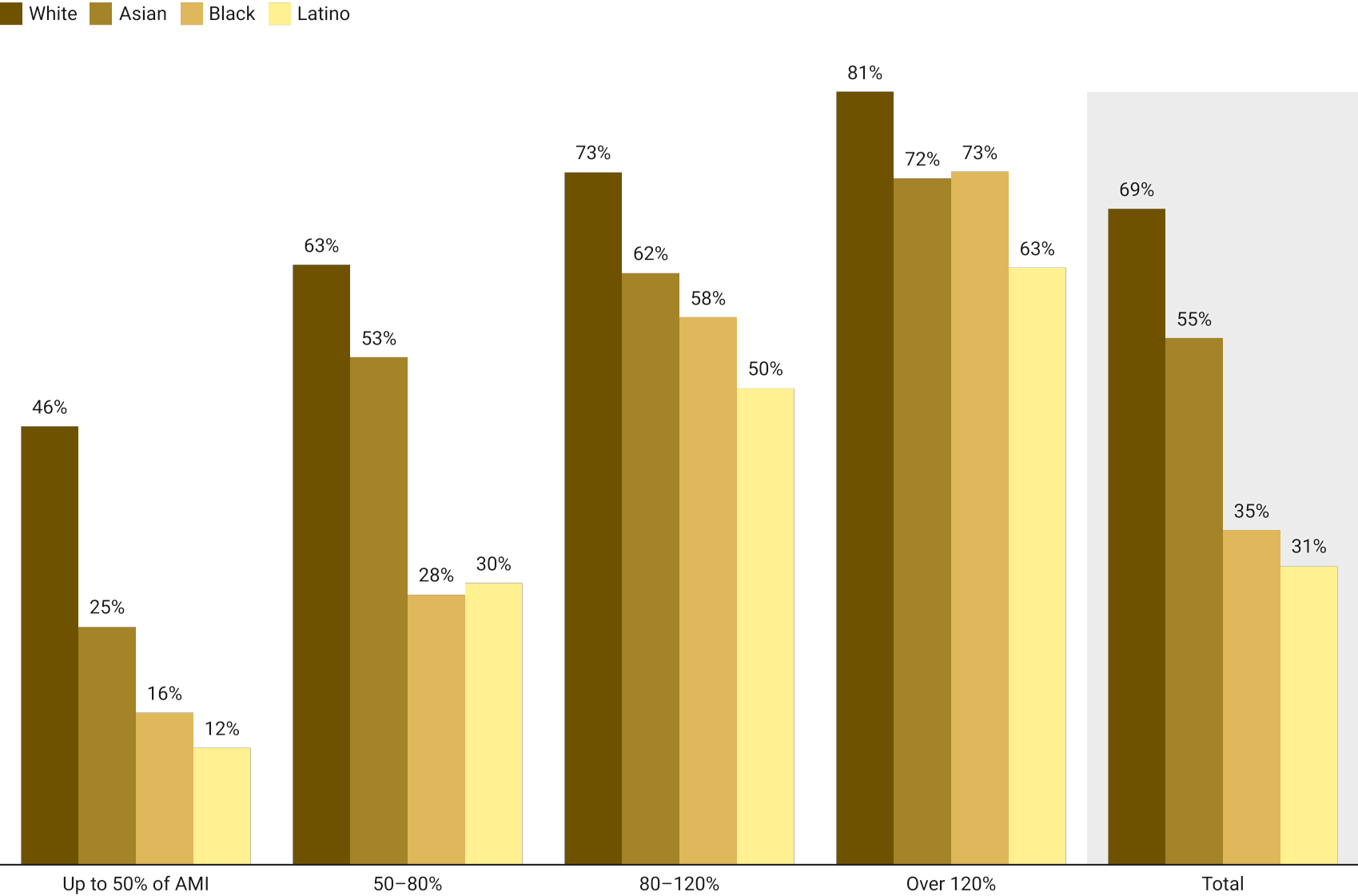


Due to data limitations, Black and White households are single-race, non-Latino alone. Latino households can be of any race. "Other" households include respondents selecting: Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Pacific Islander, more than one race and respondents who selected 'Other race' alone. Reliable wealth estimates were not possible for these groups individually due to sample size limitations.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: Adapted from "Disparities in Wealth by Race and Ethnicity in the 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances." • Created with Datawrapper

Homeownership gaps are large, even when comparing families of similar incomes.

Homeownership rate across area median income (AMI) percentiles. Single-race alone. Greater Boston. 2019.



Notes: Adopted from the Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2022 presentation. Race/Ethnicity groups do not include multiracial populations. White, Asian, and Black householders are non-Hispanic/Latino. Native American and Pacific Islanders not included due to small sample size.

Chart: Boston Indicators • Source: Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies tabulations of US Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. • Created with Datawrapper

Seven Concluding Questions

1. How should we count population changes in ways that avoid a presumption that the Black community are monolithic?
2. Is the demographic descriptor *African American* a misnomer in places like Boston and Greater Boston?
3. How can this report serve to advance foundational giving without creating division within the Black population?
4. Are there new political issues that Black and Brown leadership must contend with today, based on this report?
5. Is there a responsibility for media outlets to consider the expanded Black population diversity in how they report news and cover culture and events?
6. How can this report help inform the debates and discussions about reparations?
7. How can our cities take positive advantage of what our diverse Black population has given us?

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