

**2019 Annual Report**

**CENTER FOR  
COMMUNITY HEALTH  
AND HEALTH EQUITY**



**BRIGHAM HEALTH**



**BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL**

## OUR APPROACH TO COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY

Brigham and Women's Hospital (the Brigham) has a long-standing commitment to addressing social determinants of health and promoting health equity for patients, families, and community members of our five priority neighborhoods of Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Mission Hill, and Roxbury. For more than 40 years, our two licensed community health centers, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and Brookside Community Health Center, have been serving the local community, and for close to 30 years, the Brigham has run programming and spearheaded initiatives through its Center for Community Health and Health Equity (CCHHE). In advancing our work, Brigham community health practitioners take a racial equity and social justice approach, recognizing how health is profoundly influenced by factors such as structural racism and other forms of discrimination, financial stability and wealth accrual, access to quality education, employment status, housing stability and conditions, community safety, and access to resources. Furthermore, the Brigham pursues its work in collaboration with community partners and government agencies, partnering with over 100 organizations annually.

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**18,320**

individuals have been connected to the Passageway Domestic Violence Program since its inception in 1997

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**810**

Boston Public School students have participated in the Student Success Jobs Program since it began in 2001

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**980**

individuals have received support from the Violence Recovery Program since it began in 2011



Dear Friends,

Partnering to promote health equity in our local communities is critical to achieving our vision of building a healthier world. While Boston prides itself on being a national health care leader, persistent differences in health outcomes still exist among Bostonians primarily falling along lines of race and income. We are working to improve these outcomes because we care about the health of our communities.

In collaboration with community residents, community-based organizations, city agencies, and other hospitals, we work to tackle these inequities through programs and partnerships that address the socioeconomic factors that impact health. In the following pages, we present a sample of our efforts this past fiscal year (FY19: October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019) such as:

- Partnering with Boston Medical Center and Boston Children’s Hospital to provide \$1.5 million over three years in local housing stabilization support for our neighbors
- Working with Boston Public Schools to provide more than 500 students with education and employment opportunities through our youth programs
- Collaborating with hospital departments and local organizations to break down silos in violence response for patients and community members with a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice
- Partnering with community organizations to improve the health of nearly 2,000 Boston-area residents through our Health Equity Grant Initiative

One of our core values is “We Care. Period.” Our caring extends to our patients, families, staff, and volunteers who walk through our doors each day and to the health and wellbeing of diverse residents in our priority neighborhoods. As we reflect on the past year and look to the next, we look forward to upholding this core value by using our 2019 Community Health Assets and Needs Assessment as a guide to develop even stronger partnerships with our neighbors to achieve greater health equity in our local communities.

Best,

Betsy Nabel, MD  
*President, Brigham Health*

Wanda McClain, MPA  
*Vice President of Community Health and Health Equity, Brigham Health*

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**15,700+**

women and families have received services through the Stronger Generations Case Management Program since its inception in 1991

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**1,270**

new individuals were connected to at least one of CCHHE’s programs in FY19

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**165**

organizations partnered with CCHHE in FY19 to advance health equity in Boston

# CREATING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Partnering to close the opportunity gap, support our communities, and advance our workforce



Access to education and financial security are critical to living a healthy life. Even when people work hard, many face unjust barriers to securing education and economic opportunity. We believe no one should face these challenges. Over the past twenty years, the Brigham has developed a continuum of educational and career development programs that engage more than 500 local young people from elementary school to college every year, the majority of whom are youth of color. In addition, the Brigham supports the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program for youth and for the past five years, we have been ranked among the top three employers of young people by the Boston Private Industry Council. The Brigham also provides local pregnant and parenting individuals with workforce development trainings and works actively with local community members, including those who have faced significant barriers to employment, to begin careers at the hospital.

## BY THE NUMBERS

100%

of 2019 Student Success Jobs Program graduates enrolled in college

930+

Boston residents were hired at the Brigham in FY19 through the Workforce Development Office

95

Boston public elementary school students were engaged in science experiments with Brigham neurologists and neuroscientists in FY19

## Youth Programs

In partnership with Boston Public Schools, the Brigham offers a range of programming for young people beginning with reading and writing practice for early learners and science lessons for those in third through fifth grade. Middle school and high school programs focus on public health, medicine, and science education and career development through lessons, field trips, internships at the Brigham, and mentorship opportunities with Brigham staff. Program participants can apply for college scholarships from the Brigham for up to \$5,000 a year for four years and intern at the hospital during their college summer vacations.



**“The partnership between our school and the Brigham is a model of how public schools and community partners can work together to have a positive impact on student achievement and the development of communities.”**

**Efrain Toledano, Principal,  
Maurice J. Tobin K-8 School**

## Young Parent Program Launch!

In FY19, with EMPATH and Mothers for Justice and Equality, CCHHE launched Proud2Parent Young Parent Success Grants to advance the economic mobility of expectant and parenting adolescents 25 years old or younger.

### SPOTLIGHT

An aspiring hospital president, college senior **Edmund Mbugua** has been on a Brigham journey since middle school. In 2012, Mbugua completed the Brigham’s Summer Science Academy program and returned the following summer to participate in Project TEACH. From 2013 through 2016, Mbugua participated in the Brigham’s Student Success Jobs Program (SSJP) as a high school student.

From 2017 to 2019, he continued his Brigham involvement as an intern through the SSJP College program. Through his work at the Brigham, he has presented to hospital leadership, created a patient database, and strengthened his skills related to operations and data management, finance, and innovation.



# INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

*Providing care in our neighborhoods*

▶ **Access to affordable, patient-centered health care** is critical to good health. Every day at the Brigham, we strive to provide exceptional, accessible services to patients and community members. Through our partnership with community health centers, the Brigham has been providing world-class care to residents of our priority neighborhoods for more than 40 years. Furthermore, our licensed health centers offer support services ranging from fitness classes and nutrition support to assistance navigating the health care, housing, and transportation systems.



## SPOTLIGHT

**Erika Rodriguez** decided to join CCHHE's Stronger Generations Centering Pregnancy Group Prenatal Care program because she liked the idea of sharing her prenatal care experience with other women and learning from peers. After childbirth, Rodriguez sought more opportunities to meet young moms who could support her goals and help her develop as a parent. She joined and graduated from Stronger Generations' Young Parent Ambassador Program and subsequently moved through Stronger Generations' Young Parent Success programs. She now serves as a Young Parent Mentor and on the Young Parent Council. "Stronger Generations has helped me prioritize my goals," Rodriguez explains, "Now, I am going back to school for my bachelors in business. I have overcome many obstacles and I have learned to value and love myself more."

## Supporting Maternal and Child Health

For almost three decades, the Brigham has worked to improve maternal and infant health equity. Through its Stronger Generations initiative, CCHHE leads ten distinct programs that provide wraparound, comprehensive support for expectant and parenting individuals. These programs provide group prenatal care, support to adolescent families, infant/child safety resources, and free breastfeeding support. Additionally, Brigham midwives at nine community health centers advance the care that pregnant individuals receive in our priority neighborhoods.



## Community Health Centers

Caring for over 21,000 patients every year, the Brigham's two licensed community health centers, Brookside Community Health Center (Brookside) and Southern Jamaica Plain Health (SJPHC), offer robust health services and community health oriented programs. This year, Brookside initiated three groups—one for adolescent girls, one for cognitive behavioral therapy, and one for diabetes nutrition—and offered mindfulness and yoga classes for patients with pain and depression. SJPHC continued its youth racial reconciliation and healing program and worked with residents of South Street public housing development to advance community health and health equity.



## Addressing Substance Use

To respond to the opioid epidemic, the Brigham has reviewed its prescribing policy and established

the Brigham Health Bridge Clinic, a rapid access, low barrier clinic for patients with substance use disorders. Key components of the Clinic are treatment with medications, individual and group sessions, transition support to longer-term recovery programs, peer support, and connection to housing, food, employment, and legal resources.

**“[I] never thought I'd get to this point of feeling secure and safe with my pregnancy, recovery and housing plan. . . Been trying since 18 to get this help and [you] all really set me up with another chance at having a life and it all seems possible. . .”**

**Anonymous (Bridge Clinic Patient)**

### BY THE NUMBERS

**82,700**

patient visits at Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center and Brookside Community Health Center in FY19

**500**

Bridge Clinic patients have a retention in treatment rate of greater than 80% since April 2018

**80%**

of women referred to a Stronger Generations case manager in FY19 attended the recommended 80% of prenatal visits

# OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, OUR FUTURE

*Supporting healthy neighborhoods through housing and violence intervention initiatives*

● **The place in which we live matters to health.** High housing costs and displacement in addition to violence and trauma are serious issues that inequitably impact residents of our priority neighborhoods, the majority of whom are people of color. The Brigham works in partnership with community members and local organizations to tackle these challenges through violence intervention and prevention programs, housing assistance for patients, and community housing investment.



## **Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs**

Through its Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs (VIPP), CCHHE offers advocacy, safety planning, counseling, and referrals for community members and patients who experience domestic violence, community violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking. CCHHE also provides the health care leadership of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Trauma Team, spearheading support for individuals and families in Jamaica Plain who are impacted by community violence.

## **Housing**

Across our priority neighborhoods, housing instability is a key public health concern. As long-time residents are being priced out and displaced, individuals, families, and communities are being destabilized. Housing instability and destabilization can lead to interruptions in core aspects of daily life and poorer mental health, which can lead to a host of other adverse health outcomes.

To respond, the Brigham partnered with Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center to award \$1.5 million in flexible funding to three community organizations supporting local residents facing housing instability over three years starting in 2019. The Brigham made a further commitment in 2019 of \$450,000 over three years to support Brookview House, a Dorchester-based organization working to address local housing instability.

In addition, housing advocates at our community health centers work with patients facing housing instability to navigate and access critical resources.



## BY THE NUMBERS

860

people experiencing violence from an intimate partner were served by the Passageway Program in FY19 at no cost

135

patients, family members, and community members who experienced community violence were served by the Violence Recovery Program in FY19

188

health care providers and community members were trained by VIPP staff in FY19 on the impact of domestic violence on health

“VRP helped in my healing journey. My advocates understood what I was going through and stayed with me through the fear and uncertainty. I lost my housing and had to relocate. But through it all, I continued to work and gained strength from the support from friends, family, and colleagues.”

Yoselin Rodríguez



## SPOTLIGHT

In May 2019, *Yoselin Rodríguez* courageously walked alongside 50 people on Team Brigham in the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute’s annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace. Rodríguez, a resident of Boston, is a community resource specialist and case manager at Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center. She walked in honor of her son, Carlos David Lind, who she lost to gun violence in October 2016. In the aftermath of Carlos’ death, Rodríguez received support from the Brigham’s Violence Recovery Program (VRP) advocates and the Peace Institute.

This led Rodríguez to a decision to share her experience and to honor her son’s life by raising close to \$4,000 for this year’s Walk for Peace, which supports local families and communities affected by violence.

## Passageway Program

Established in 1997, the Passageway Program provides intervention, prevention, and support services to individuals experiencing domestic violence. The Passageway Program won the Bellow-Charn Champion of Justice Community Partner Award in July 2019 for its work supporting low-income individuals who have experienced domestic violence in Greater Boston with legal services, including those pertaining to housing.

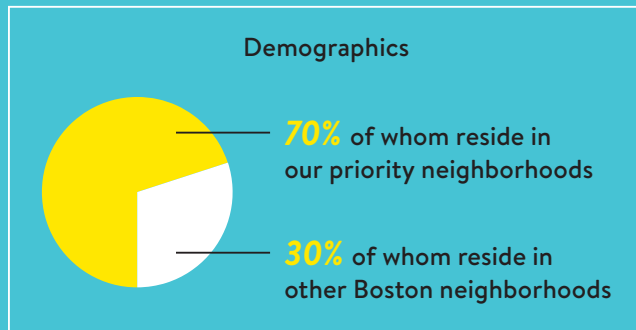


# HEALTH EQUITY IN ACTION

At the Brigham, we take a holistic approach to advancing health equity. We look inwards to strength our internal operations, outwards to support community organizations, and invest in research to advance best practices. This year, CCHHE began a health equity planning process for Brigham Health to identify opportunities and strategies to advance health equity throughout the organization. The Brigham also continued its six-year \$4.45 million grant initiative to fund community organizations advancing health equity in our priority neighborhoods. Furthermore, CCHHE's Health Equity Research and Intervention (HERI) team published

its research on how financial stress can affect heart health for African Americans in *The American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. HERI provided guidance to Partners HealthCare on its system to screen and address patients' housing needs, exposure to violence, health literacy, and difficulty affording food, utilities, childcare, transportation, and medications. In the year ahead, the Brigham will expand its health equity work in these three fields and build on HERI's recent launch of the Leadership for Health Equity Residency Pathway, in which internal medicine residents connect with leaders across Boston to develop frameworks to promote health equity in their careers.

**This year, ten Brigham health equity grantee organizations served nearly 2,000 Boston-area residents in many ways:**





## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Community Relations

Whether sharing information at a community health fair, hosting a summit for expectant and parenting adolescents, or participating in a flashlight walk with the Boston Police Department and community residents, CCHHE brings the Brigham to the community and brings the community to the Brigham. We also make a unique commitment to our neighbors in Mission Hill. Through our partnership with Mission Hill organizations, the Brigham provides free flu vaccines for older adults as well as a free meal program on the first Sunday of each month for seniors. We are especially proud to serve as the corporate buddy for Mission Hill Main Streets, an organization working to advance the commercial vitality of Mission Hill.

**1.** Hope Lives Here Campaign at Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center **2.** Food Drive for ABCD Parker Hill/Fenway Food Pantry **3.** Halloween on the Hill Celebration **4.** Brigham Team at Mother's Day Walk for Peace **5.** Dimock Center Road to Wellness 5K

### Thank You

A core value at the Brigham is "We're Stronger Together." Our work is stronger and more meaningful through our partnerships with community organizations. We want to thank all of our community partners for their invaluable guidance and shared commitment to advancing health equity. We look forward to another year of exciting work together.

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