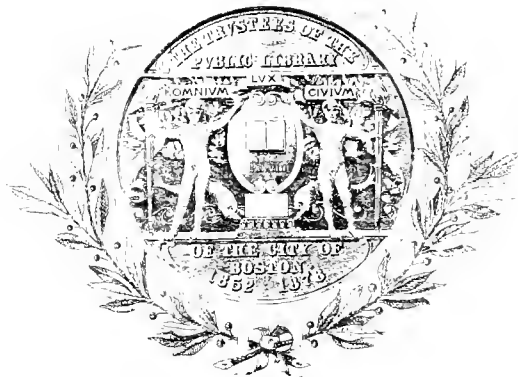


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SOCIAL STATISTICS

BY

CENSUS TRACTS IN BOSTON

A METHOD OF NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES

47 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON

APRIL 1929

SOCIAL STATISTICS BY CENSUS TRACTS IN BOSTON

A METHOD OF NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

Boston Council of Social Agencies

Bureau of Research and Studies

43 Tremont Street, Boston

April, 1933

B13

Nov. 22, 1935
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1933

FOREWORD

The Boston Council of Social Agencies issues this report, confident that the material which it contains will be valuable not only to those engaged in social work, but to those in other fields of activity as well. In presenting it, the Council would have it clearly understood that it is offered as an outline of a method of study. It is in no sense a complete discussion of the statistical material now available, which can be developed in many different ways according to the peculiar interests of those who desire to make use of it. This report serves merely as a guide to this development.

Credit for pioneering work with the census tract project is due the Boston Health League, particularly Mr. Horace Morison of the Executive Committee and formerly Executive Secretary, and Miss Anna J. Haines who, as Executive Secretary, directed the preparation of the original tract map and street list. Miss Margaret H. Tracy, the present Executive Secretary, has carried forward Miss Haines' work and collaborated with the Council in the preparation of specific material, particularly that relating to the health field. Dr. Francis X. Mahoney, Health Commissioner of Boston, early recognized the value of the plan with respect to health statistics and arranged for an appropriation in his department budget which assured the recording of the federal census data by tracts.

Our thanks are due to those organizations which have helped in the preparation of the material and in the supplying of data. We must mention especially the Emergency Planning and Research Bureau, which made for us all of the maps and charts and calculated the area of inhabited land in the city as shown in Map II, the City Department of Public Welfare, the State Board of Probation, the City Department of Health, the Family Welfare Society, the Boston Provident Association, and the Jewish Family Welfare Association.

This report has been prepared under the direction of Miss Mary A. Clapp, Director of the Bureau of Research and Studies, with the assistance of Miss Alice Channing, Associate Director, and Miss Valentina Glebow.



Executive Secretary.

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INTRODUCTION

The United States Census contains a wealth of information about the people living in our cities. Other valuable facts lurk in the statistics of city and state departments. Social agencies have in their records the keys to many neighborhood and city-wide problems.

Too often problems go unrecognized because of the difficulty of excavating the facts, and, more especially, of finding a suitable device for bringing them together. In addition, statistical material in past Federal censuses is often not comparable because of the changes in ward lines in the intervening decades.

Out of attempts to formulate a plan by which decennial census figures and other statistical material might be made comparable, the device of Census Tracts has developed. Under this system, a city is divided into a number of geographical units. In some cities these units are of uniform acreage; in others they are made up of areas of which the population was of similar size at the time of their establishment. However they may be established, the principle involved is that of a fairly small district with fixed boundaries, which remains unchanged from one census to the next and which obviates the difficulty so often met in frequently changing ward lines. Thus, in any one census, the number of persons living in a tract, their ages, sexes, nationalities, industry groups, citizenship or literacy, may be laid against like information of a past census, and trends and comparisons established.

Similarly health, relief and delinquency trends may be established from year to year by a distribution by census tract of statistics from city and state departments. Thus many correlations may be made, especially as social agencies incorporate in their records the simple mechanism upon which recording by census tracts is based, and thus make more facts available.

SOURCE MATERIAL NOW AVAILABLE IN BOSTON

I United States Census

In some cities, federal census material has been available by census tracts since 1910 or 1920. Although population figures for Boston on this basis were available in 1920, it was not until 1930 that the following eleven tables by census tracts were made available through the efforts of the Boston Health League and a generous grant of money from the City Health Department:

- Table I----Population by Color, Nativity, Sex and Age.
- Table II---Foreign Born White Population by Country of Birth and Sex.
- Table III--Native White Population of Foreign or Mixed Parentage, by Country of Birth of Parents and by Sex.
- Table IV---Population 21 years of age and over by Color, Nativity and Sex.
- Table V----Foreign Born White Population 21 years of age and over by Citizenship and Sex.
- Table VI---Population 10 years of age and over by Color, Nativity and Illiteracy
- Table VII--Population 15 years of age and over by Color, Nativity, Sex and Marital Condition.
- Table VIII--Gainful Workers 10 years of age and over by Industry Groups and Sex.
- Table IX---Families by Color and Nativity of Head and by Size.
- Table X----Homes by Tenure and Value of Monthly Rental.
- Table XI---Families, Radios, Dwellings and Quasi-Family Groups.

II Health Statistics

Statistics relating to infant mortality, to tuberculosis, both as to new cases and to deaths, to diphtheria and scarlet fever*, for 1930 and 1931, have been gathered through the co-operative efforts of the Boston Health League and the Boston Council of Social Agencies, from the records of the City Health Department. In 1932 the Health Department instituted a record system based on census tracts, so that information in the future will automatically come from that source.

III Delinquency.

In October, 1930, the Massachusetts Board of Probation instituted

* Because of the limitations of space and because it was felt that they were not of equal social significance, figures for diphtheria and scarlet fever are omitted from the discussion. They are available at the office of the Boston Health League.

a very complete system of statistical recording. At the present time there are available for study two sets of figures by Census Tracts,- those for Juvenile Delinquents (children 7-16 years of age), and Delinquents 17-20 years of age, for two years, October, 1930 to October, 1931, and October, 1931 to October, 1932.

IV Relief

Up to the present time, relief figures on the basis of Census Tracts have not been available. The total case loads and the expenditures of the Department of Public Welfare and of the various private relief-giving societies have been a matter of record for years; but it has not been possible to analyse the figures by comparable districts. Now, however, through the co-operation of the Department of Public Welfare, and of the Family Welfare Society, the Boston Provident Association and the Jewish Family Welfare Association, figures by census tracts are available. Unlike the material for health and delinquency, these are figures collected not under a permanently continuing system, but for limited periods.

1. Department of Public Welfare. Families receiving relief between the first of November, 1932, and the first of March, 1933.
2. Three Private Societies. Families receiving relief and service in October, 1932.

CENSUS TRACTS

A census tract has already been defined as a fixed geographical unit, which makes possible the collection and comparison of different sets of statistics for small areas. The allotment of individual cases into their appropriate tracts is easily done by means of a street index* in which every street is listed and assigned to the tract or tracts through which it runs, by the number of the tract or tracts.

*"Alphabet Street Index and Basic Demographic Data for the City of Boston by Census Tracts."

Under the present scheme, there are in Boston 128* separate census tracts. These tracts vary greatly both in size and in population. The smallest is one of 7.8 acres - census tract G-4 in the South End; the largest is one of 2956.6 acres - census tract W-6 in West Roxbury. Population figures show equal diversities - from G-3 in the South End, with its 441 inhabitants, to Y-5 in Brighton, which has a population of 18,889. However, the point already made, that the establishment of a basis of comparison is the all important factor, makes these differences of size and population relatively unimportant. There is always the possibility of sub-dividing large tracts and combining small ones provided only that original outlines be not disturbed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

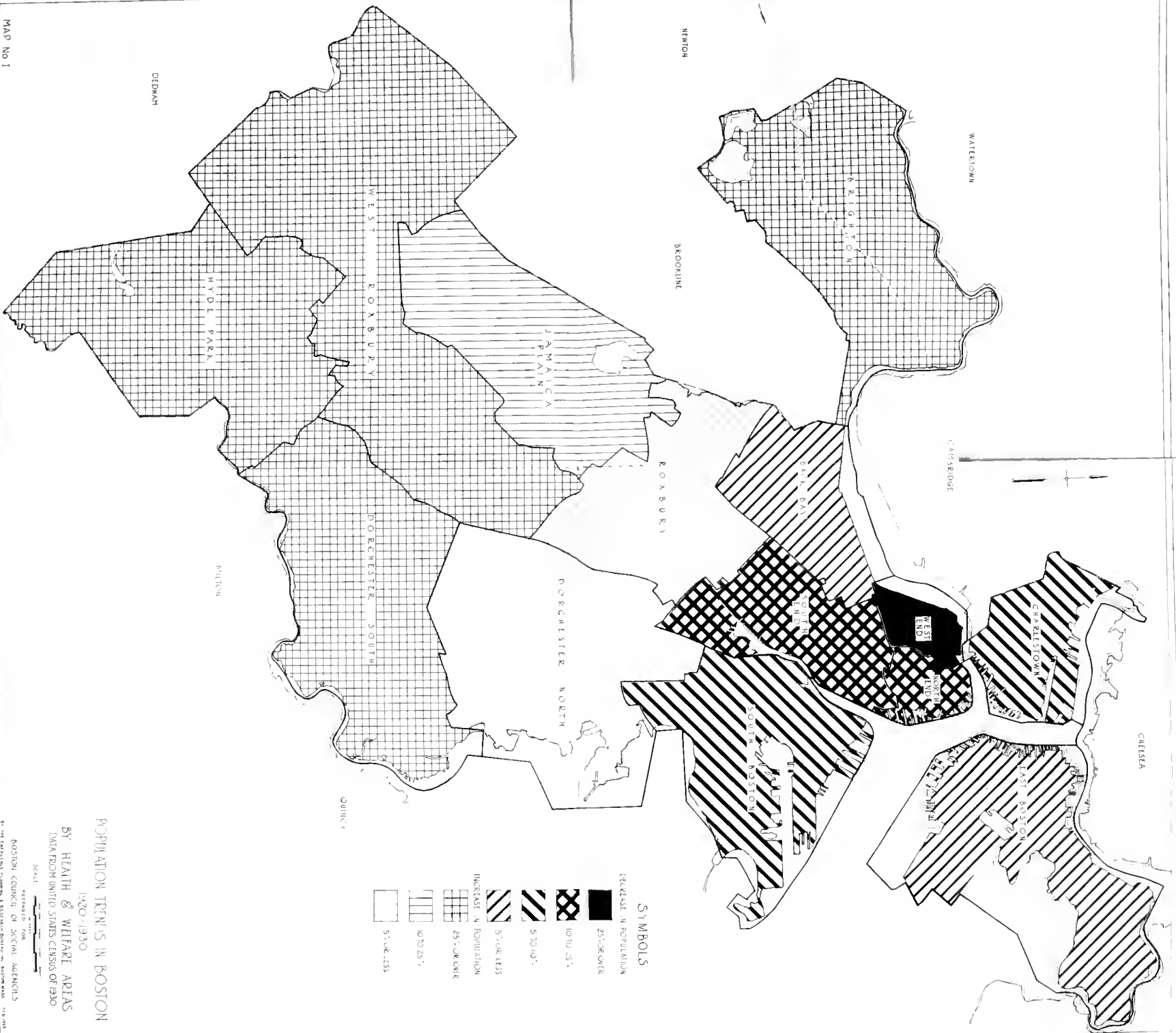
In addition to individual tracts, it has been felt necessary to define a number of larger geographical units, composed of groups of tracts, as a further basis for study. In the first place, the city falls into a number of commonly accepted neighborhoods or districts. In the second place, the larger figures made possible by combining those for several tracts, are of greater statistical validity, and obviate the wider fluctuations created by the use of smaller numbers. Then, too, many social agencies in Boston operate on a district plan under which they have a central headquarters, and sub-offices in various neighborhoods. Typical of this sort of agency, are the Family Welfare Society and the Community Health Association. In many instances, however, their district lines fail to coincide. Accordingly, what one agency means by "Roxbury" is not at all what another may mean by it. In order that definitely defined districts might be established, a group of member agencies of the Council of Social Agencies last year held several conferences, as a result of which the

*One tract - B-6, is omitted from these calculations. It is that which includes all the harbor islands, and has no bearing on neighborhood problems.

city was divided into fourteen Health and Welfare areas. The City Health Department has already officially adopted this plan. In deciding upon these areas, which must follow tract outlines as well, the factors of historical district boundaries, population, and transportation facilities were considered. It is obvious that many agencies, in the actual pursuance of their district work, may not find it possible to conform to the boundaries of these Health and Welfare Areas, especially since tract outlines do not always coincide with generally accepted district boundaries. For example, the South End is generally conceded to run to Massachusetts Avenue; whereas the nearest tract outlines follow a tortuous trail along Northampton Street, Harrison Avenue, East Lenox and Fellows Streets. For the present, emphasis is laid upon the importance of statistical recording of data significant to social planning, by these Health and Welfare Areas, rather than upon the need for uniform operating districts.

POPULATION TRENDS - 1920-1930

The population of Boston increased 4.1 per cent between 1920 and 1930. Seven areas - those clustered in the center of the city - decreased in population in the ten years in varying degrees, from the Back Bay area which changed very little, to the West End in which the population in 1930 was almost 30 per cent less than it was in 1920. The seven outlying areas showed increases, ranging from Roxbury, in which the population remained practically stationary, to West Roxbury which increased over 50 per cent. (Map I.) Individual census tracts fluctuated far more than did the areas. For example, census tract F-3 in the North End Area showed the largest increase in the decade - 147.8 per cent - in spite of the fact that the Health and Welfare area in which it is located decreased 12 per cent. The highest percentage of decrease was 75 per cent in G-3, a tract in the South End Area.



POPULATION TRENDS IN BOSTON
1920-1930
BY WARD & WARD AREAS
DATA FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1930

PREPARED FOR
BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
BY THE BOSTONIAN PLANNING & RESEARCH DIVISION IN BOSTON MASS. 1934

SCALE

1:10,000

1" = 1 MILE

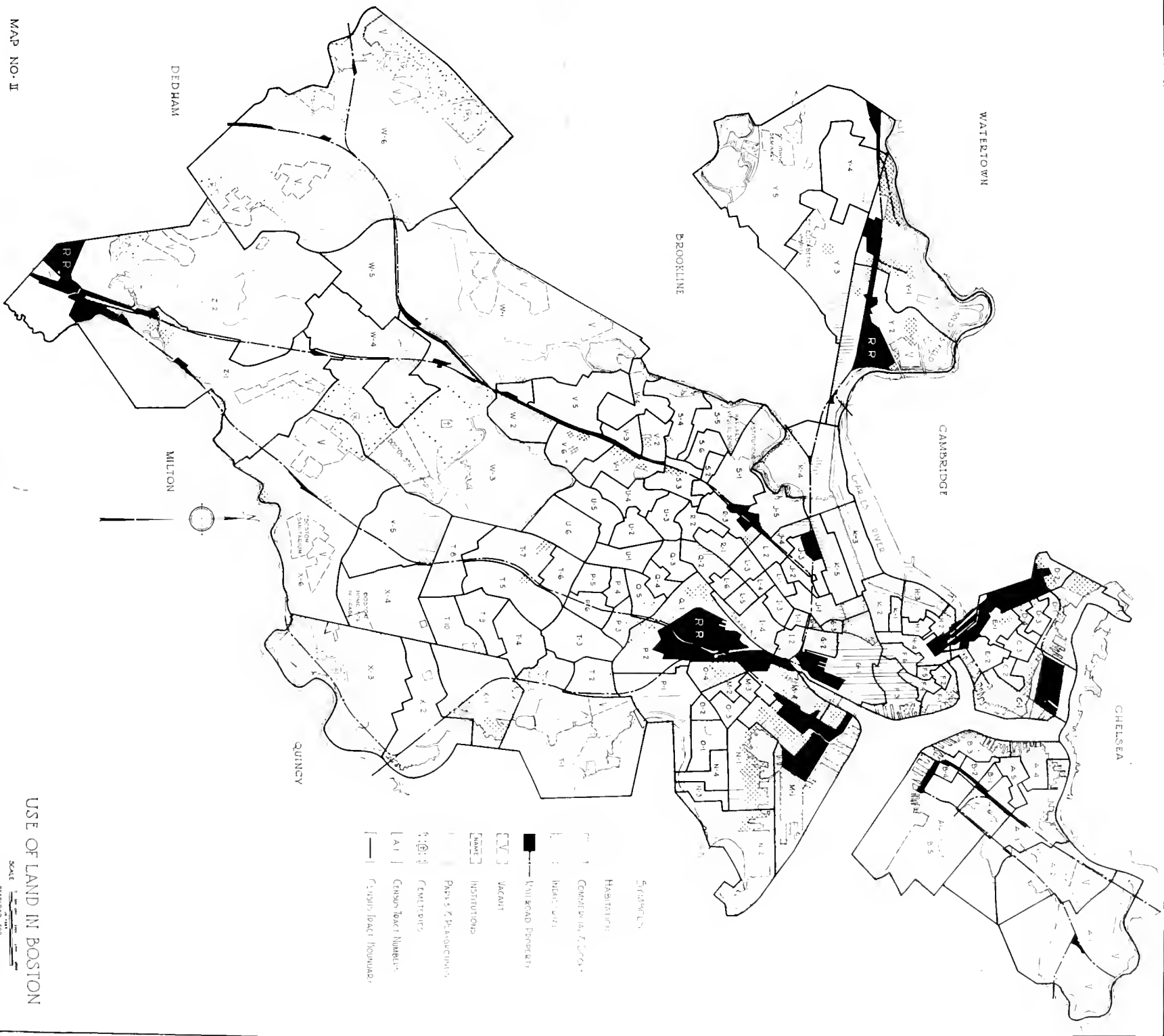


DENSITY OF POPULATION

Density of population for a given area is calculated by dividing the number of people inhabiting it by the size of the area. Unless the number of acres actually lived in is known, however, results may be misleading. In many instances, most of the land is not available for living purposes (see Map II.), with the result that a tract which, because of its small population and large acreage, may appear to be rather sparsely populated, is in reality very densely populated, once the acreage devoted to purposes other than living is eliminated. Tract G-1, in the South End, is a case in point. Its population was 2204, its acreage 300.3. Its uncorrected density was 7.3 persons per acre. Study of Map II - the Use of Land in Boston - however, reveals that the Common occupies one corner of it, the South Station and its yards another, while the great down-town business district extends throughout its center. As a matter of fact, only 4.7 acres of the total 300.3 are at the present time inhabited. Accordingly its corrected density became 490.8 persons per acre, thus making it the eleventh tract in order of density.

The density of population by census tracts is shown in Map III, and by Health and Welfare Areas in Table 1.

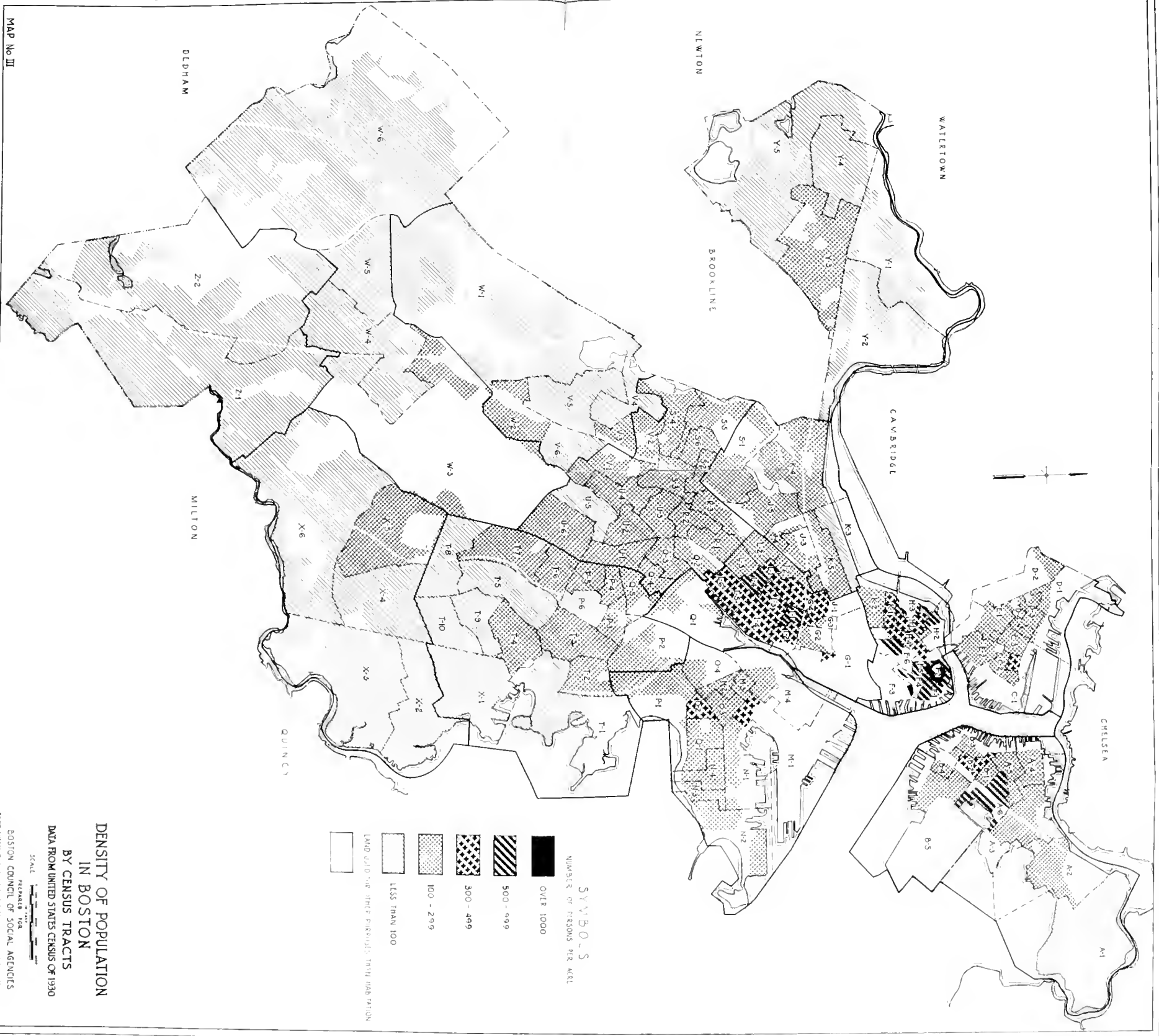
The corrected densities of individual tracts were often far greater than those of the Health and Welfare areas. For example, in the North End, F-3 had a density of 1420 persons per acre, and F-2 a density of 1008.7



USE OF LAND IN BOSTON

BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

SCALE 1" = 1000'



SYMBOLS
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE

- OVER 1000
 - 500 - 999
 - 300 - 499
 - 100 - 299
 - LESS THAN 100
- LAND AND WATER ARE NOT SHOWN

DENSITY OF POPULATION
IN BOSTON
BY CENSUS TRACTS
DATA FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1930

SCALE
PREPARED FOR
BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
BY THE CARTOGRAPHIC DIVISION OF THE BUREAU OF STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

TABLE 1. DENSITY OF POPULATION.

Health and Welfare Area	Population	Number of Acres Available for Habitation	Number of Persons per Inhabited Acre
<u>Boston</u>	<u>778,976</u>	<u>6,944.9</u>	<u>112.2</u>
North End -----	27,818	34.8	799.4
West End -----	28,028	84.0	333.7
South End -----	60,506	187.9	322.1
Charlestown -----	31,663	123.8	255.8
South Boston -----	59,728	279.7	213.5
East Boston -----	59,242	294.9	200.9
Back Bay -----	38,887	233.4	167.2
Roxbury -----	105,790	730.0	144.9
Dorchester North -----	120,053	1,105.2	108.6
Brighton -----	56,362	712.4	79.1
Dorchester South -----	74,445	955.0	78.0
Jamaica Plain -----	44,542	648.3	68.7
West Roxbury -----	47,414	1,016.5	46.6
Hyde Park -- -----	24,498	539.0	45.4

NATIONALITY AND RACE

Three aspects of nationality are herewith analysed,- the proportion of foreign and native born heads of families, the distribution of national and racial groups throughout the city, and the degree to which foreign born residents have assumed citizenship. As a basis for this analysis, because of its greater social significance, the table (Federal Census Table 9) * which gives the birthplace and race of the head of the family, rather than that (Federal Census Table 2) which gives the same facts for individuals, is used.**

* "Census Tract Data, 1930 Census", on file at the office of the Council of Social Agencies.

** " the percentage of the families classified as foreign-born white is likely to be much larger than the percentage of the population classified as foreign born white". Population Bulletin, Families. U S. Census, 1930. p. 6

The Proportion of White Native and Foreign Born Heads of Families. *

In seven of the fourteen Health and Welfare Areas, even in 1930, in spite of the immigration restrictions since the world war, more than half the heads of families were foreign born (See Chart I, and Table 2.) This, of course, is an outstanding point of interest in respect to the ethnic factors in the population of the city.

TABLE 2. NUMBER AND PER CENT OF FOREIGN BORN HEADS OF FAMILIES (WHITE)

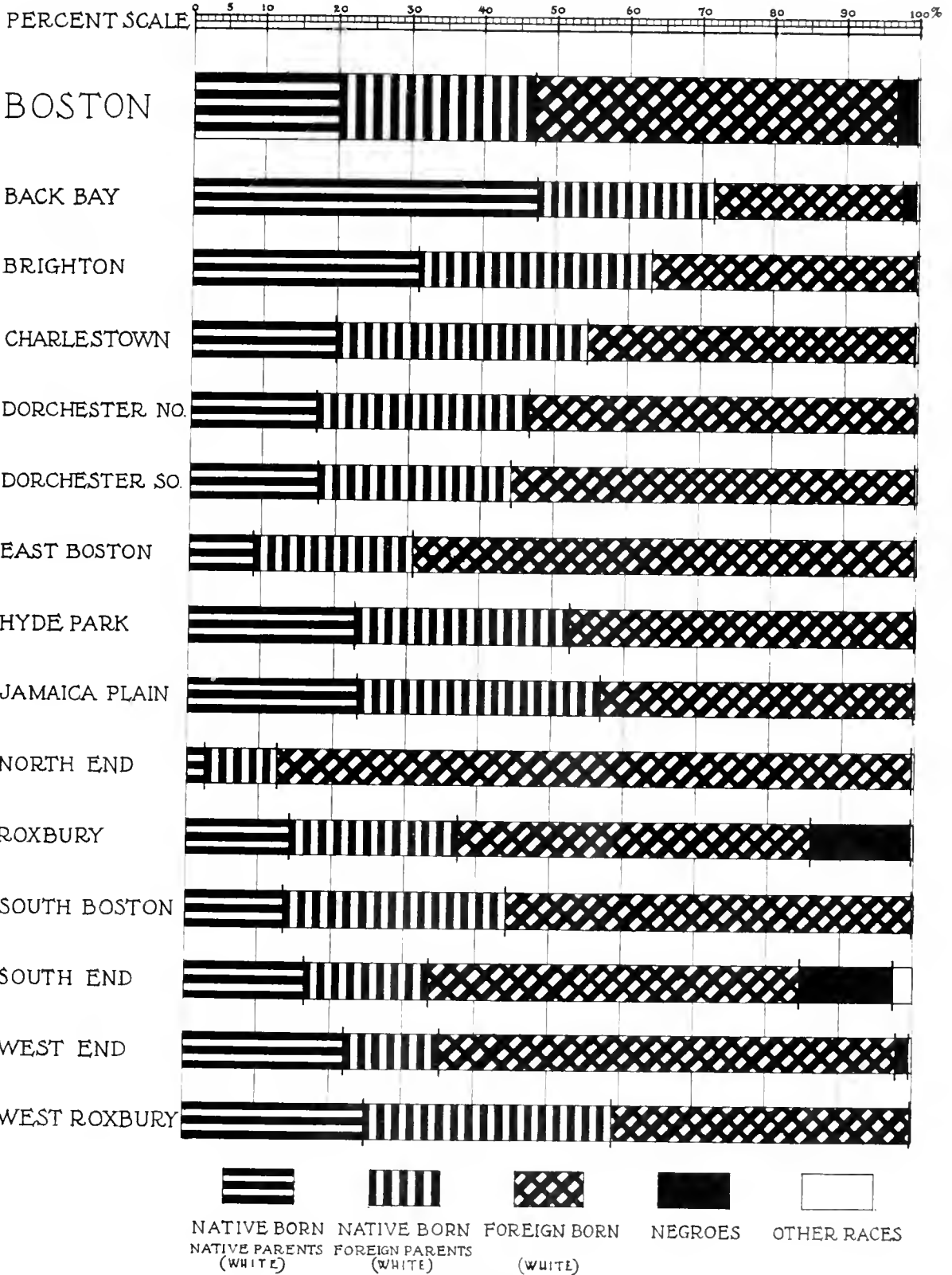
Health and Welfare Area	Total Number of Families	Foreign Born Families	
		Number	Per cent
<u>Boston</u>	<u>179,189</u>	<u>89,162</u>	<u>49.8</u>
Back Bay -----	11,561	3,009	26.0
Brighton -----	15,814	5,655	35.8
Charlestown -----	6,691	3,004	44.9
Dorchester North ---	27,941	14,787	52.9
Dorchester South ---	16,847	9,350	55.5
East Boston -----	12,581	8,639	68.7
Hyde Park -----	5,540	2,610	47.1
Jamaica Plain -----	11,008	4,733	43.0
North End -----	4,649	4,063	87.4
Roxbury -----	25,492	12,235	48.0
South Boston -----	13,235	7,363	55.6
South End -----	10,562	5,376	50.8
West End -----	6,194	3,870	62.5
West Roxbury -----	11,074	4,468	40.3

Chart I also shows concentration of Negro Population in the South End and in the Roxbury areas, for residing in these two districts are to be found almost nine-tenths (87.1 per cent) of all the negroes in Boston. Since negroes present particular problems, especially in matters pertaining to health, attention should be given to those districts in which they congregate.

*For definition of "Family", see Population Bulletin, Families. U. S. Census, 1930. p. 5.

NATIVE AND FOREIGN-BORN HEADS OF FAMILIES IN BOSTON BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

DATA - FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS 1930



PREPARED FOR
BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC BOSTON, MASS - 1933

TABLE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF NEGRO HEADS OF FAMILIES IN BOSTON.

Health and Welfare Area	Number	Per cent Distribution
<u>Boston</u>	<u>5,339</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Roxbury -----	3,504	65.6
South End -----	1,346	25.2
All Others -----	489	9.2

The relationship of the negro population to total population appears in the following table:

TABLE 4. PROPORTION OF NEGRO TO TOTAL FAMILIES.

Health and Welfare Area	Total Number of Families	Negro Families	
		Number	Per cent
<u>Boston</u>	<u>179,189</u>	<u>5,339</u>	<u>3.0</u>
Roxbury -----	25,492	3,504	13.7
South End -----	10,562	1,346	12.7
All Others -----	143,135	489	.3

Negro population was especially concentrated in four census tracts in the Roxbury area,- R-1 with 8.1 per cent, R-2 with 31.4 per cent, R-3 with 33.3 per cent and U-5 with 22.9 per cent; and in three in the South End area,- L-2 with 57.9 per cent, L-3 with 39.1 per cent and J-2 with 42.2 per cent.

Chart I also shows a concentration of "Other Races" - undoubtedly the Chinese - in the South End area. In two tracts in this area - G-1 and G-2 - "Other Races" were 40.2 per cent and 13.6 per cent respectively of the total population.

Map IV illustrates the distribution of foreign born heads of families by census tracts. The proportion in certain tracts was very high. For example, in F-1, in the North End area, 92.2 per cent of all heads of families were foreign born.

Distribution of National Groups.

Chart II (based on Table 5) portrays the national complexion of each area by ranking in each the four most numerous national groups. Native born persons, whether of native born or foreign born parents, are not included in the following calculations.

Persons born in the Irish Free State comprised the largest group of the foreign born in Boston. They were widely distributed throughout the whole city, and constituted one of the four most numerous national groups in twelve of the fourteen areas.

On the other hand, those born in Italy, while nearly as large a group, appeared in fewer areas - nine of the fourteen - and showed great concentration in the North End and in East Boston.

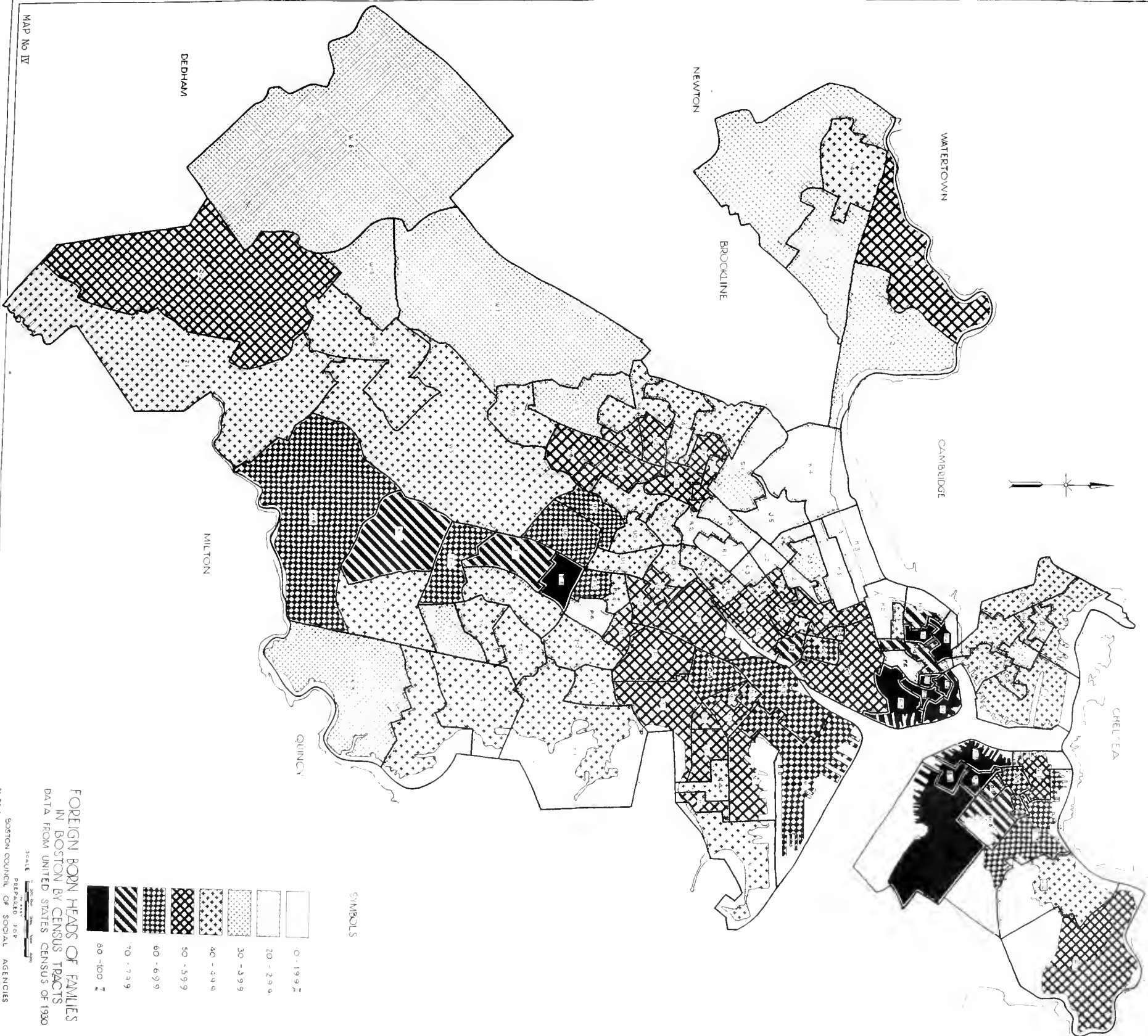
The third numerically important group - persons born in Canada - like the Irish, were scattered throughout the whole city, and were one of the four ranking groups in twelve of the fourteen areas.

Those born in Russia - the fourth largest group - like those from Italy, were found on this basis in six of the fourteen areas, but were especially concentrated in the West End and in Dorchester South. The Federal Census at no place makes any accounting of the Jewish group, because no classification is made by religious faith. This Russian group is of importance because it is undoubtedly largely composed of those of the Jewish faith.

TABLE 5 FOUR MOST NUMEROUS NATIONAL GROUPS BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS.

Health and Welfare Area	Total Foreign Born:		Most Numerous Group:		Second Most Numerous Group:		Third Most Numerous Group:		Fourth Most Numerous Group:		All Others	
	Number	Percent	Birthplace	Number Percent	Birthplace	Number Percent	Birthplace	Number Percent	Birthplace	Number Percent	Number	Percent
Boston*	83,182	100.0	Irish Free State	16,900 18.8	Italy	16,605 19.5	Canada	14,469 16.8	Russia	15,544 14.9	27,844	31.2
Back Bay	5,009	100.0	Canada	1,112 37.0	Great Britain	550 17.6	Irish Free State	597 15.2	Greece	152 5.1	818	27.1
Brighton	5,655	100.0	Canada	1,494 26.4	Irish Free State	1,546 25.8	Great Britain	697 12.5	Russia	491 8.7	1,627	28.8
Charlestown	5,004	100.0	Irish Free State	1,481 49.5	Canada	567 18.8	Great Britain	466 15.5	Italy	251 8.4	259	8.0
Porchester North	14,787	100.0	Russia	3,645 24.8	Irish Free State	5,115 21.1	Canada	2,499 16.9	Italy	1,566 9.2	4,166	28.2
Dorchester South	9,550	100.0	Russia	3,956 41.2	Irish Free State	1,285 15.7	Canada	1,151 12.5	Great Britain	775 8.5	2,285	24.5
East Boston	8,639	100.0	Italy	5,504 65.7	Canada	1,207 14.0	Irish Free State	451 5.2	Great Britain	317 5.7	1,160	15.4
Hyde Park	2,610	100.0	Italy	596 22.8	Canada	496 19.0	Great Britain	595 15.2	Ireland	544 15.2	779	29.8
Jamaica Plain	4,753	100.0	Irish Free State	1,534 28.2	Canada	965 20.4	Great Britain	865 18.5	Germany	512 10.8	1,057	22.5
North End	4,063	100.0	Italy	3,853 94.8	Russia	52 .8	Poland	28 .7	Canada	27 .7	123	5.0
Roxbury	12,235	100.0	Russia	2,645 23.2	Irish Free State	2,777 22.7	Canada	2,162 17.6	Great Britain	1,145 9.5	5,506	27.0
South Boston	7,563	100.0	Irish Free State	2,593 35.2	Lithuania	1,243 16.9	Italy	770 10.5	Canada	743 10.1	2,014	27.5
South End	5,376	100.0	Canada	956 17.7	Italy	850 15.8	Irish Free State	753 14.0	Syria	874 12.5	2,145	40.0
West End	5,870	100.0	Russia	1,241 32.0	Italy	1,052 26.7	Poland	513 15.2	Great Britain	177 4.6	907	23.5
West Roxbury	4,468	100.0	Canada	874 19.6	Irish Free State	846 18.9	Great Britain	550 12.5	Italy	507 11.5	1,691	37.9

* North Ireland is included under Great Britain.



FOREIGN BORN HEADS OF FAMILIES
IN BOSTON BY CENSUS TRACTS
DATA FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1930

PREPARED FOR
BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
BY THE LABORATORY PLANNING AND RESEARCH SERVICE INC. BOSTON MASS. MAR. 1933

SYMBOLS

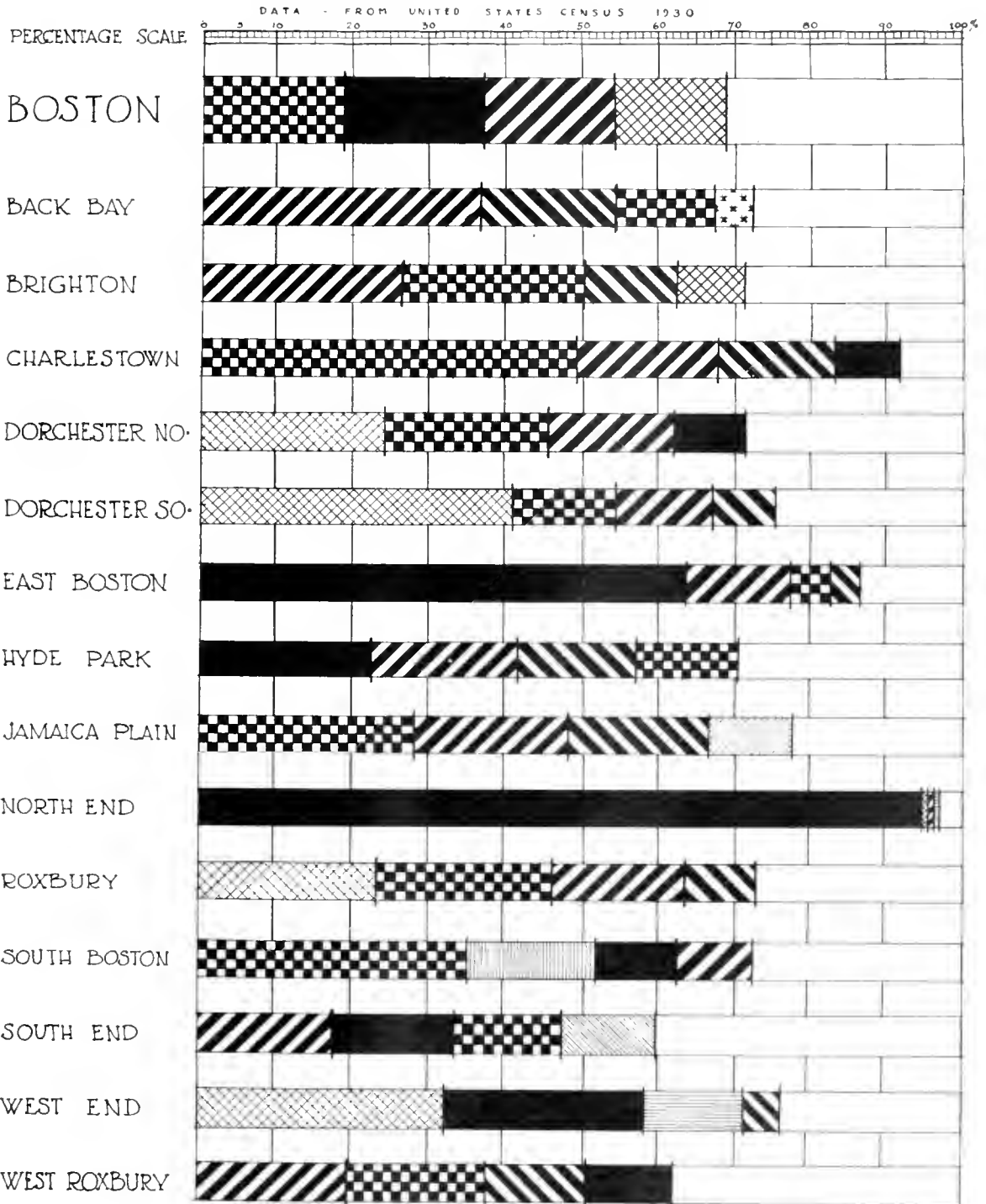
[White box]	0 - 199
[Dotted box]	20 - 299
[Cross-hatched box]	30 - 399
[Diagonal lines box]	40 - 499
[Dotted box]	50 - 599
[Cross-hatched box]	60 - 699
[Diagonal lines box]	70 - 799
[Solid black box]	80 - 100 +

SCALE
1 inch = 1 mile

FOREIGN BORN HEADS OF FAMILIES IN BOSTON

BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

BY HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS



PREPARED FOR
 BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
 BY EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU - INC-1933

CHART No II

There are certain national groups, not sufficiently numerous to appear in Table 5, which nevertheless were concentrated in one or two tracts. The Syrian population offers a good example of this fact. There were in Boston 969 heads of families born in Syria, of whom 344 or 35.5 per cent of the total number, lived in tracts G-1 and G-2 in the South End. In G-1 the group comprised 85.6 per cent, and in G-2, 55.9 per cent of the total foreign born heads of families in the tract. In six contiguous tracts of this same area there were 638 heads of families born in Syria - 65.8 per cent of all in Boston.

Citizenship of Foreign Born Residents

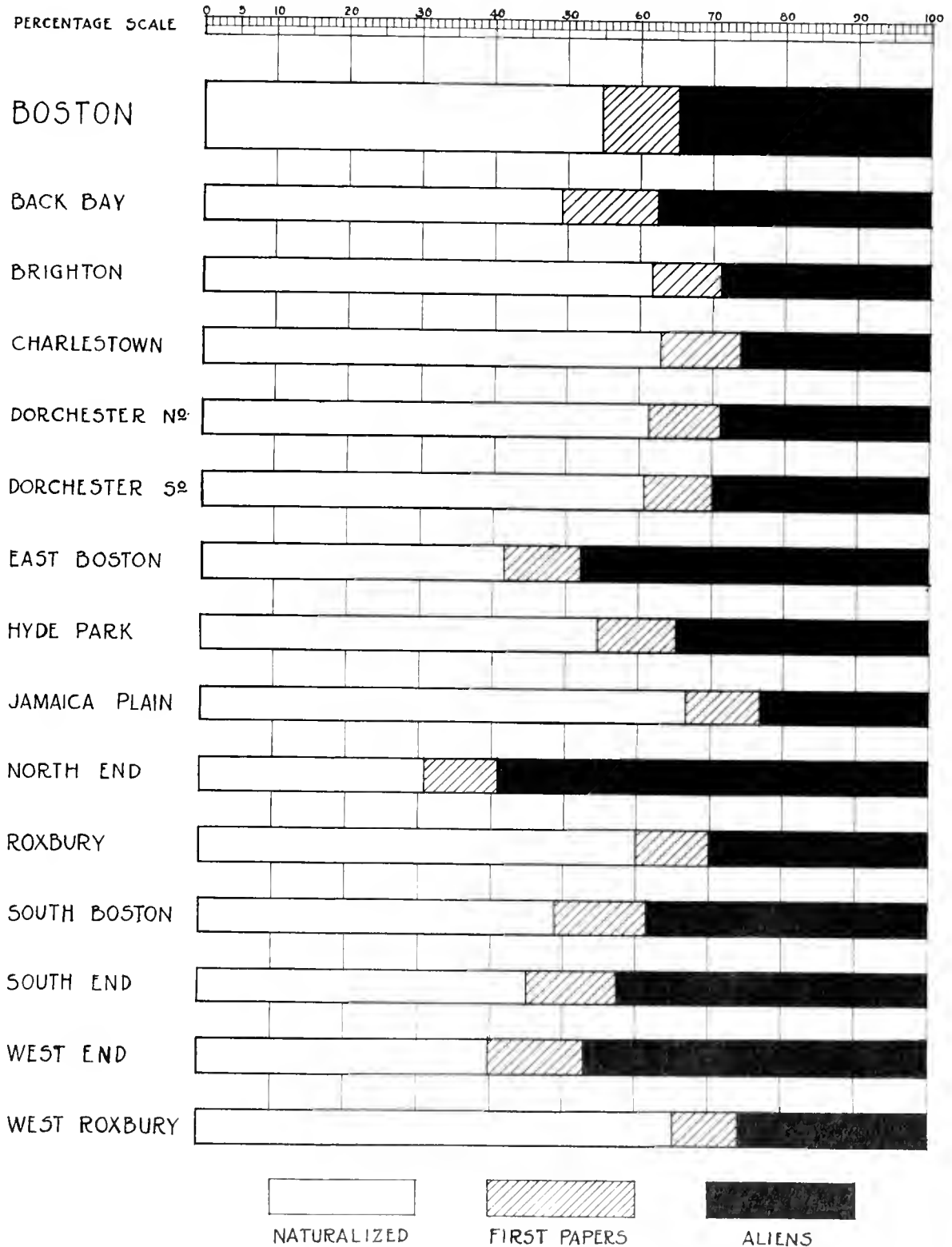
The degree to which the foreign born have assumed United States Citizenship by tracts is shown in Chart III. Table 6 ranks the areas according to the percentage of foreign born citizens in each who have become naturalized, who have taken out their first papers, or who are aliens.

TABLE 6. CITIZENSHIP OF THE FOREIGN BORN 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS.

Health and Welfare Area	Total Foreign Born with Known Citizenship		Naturalized		First Papers		Aliens	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<u>Boston</u>	<u>207,510</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>113,142</u>	<u>54.5</u>	<u>22,084</u>	<u>10.6</u>	<u>72,284</u>	<u>34.8</u>
Jamaica Plain-----	10,326	100.0	6,917	66.9	1,038	10.1	2,371	23.0
West Roxbury-----	10,765	100.0	7,027	65.2	966	9.0	2,772	25.8
Charlestown -----	6,867	100.0	4,324	63.0	765	11.2	1,778	25.8
Brighton -----	12,225	100.0	7,561	61.8	1,178	9.6	3,486	28.5
Dorchester North -	31,687	100.0	19,496	61.5	3,129	9.9	9,062	28.6
Dorchester South -	21,422	100.0	13,035	60.9	1,977	9.2	6,410	29.9
Roxbury -----	27,317	100.0	16,398	60.0	2,737	10.0	8,182	30.0
Hyde Park -----	5,720	100.0	3,107	54.3	588	10.3	2,025	35.4
Back Bay -----	9,606	100.0	4,719	49.2	1,271	13.2	3,616	37.6
South Boston -----	16,108	100.0	7,896	49.0	2,056	12.8	6,156	38.2
South End -----	18,487	100.0	8,454	45.2	2,282	12.4	7,751	42.4
East Boston -----	18,110	100.0	7,531	41.6	1,913	10.5	8,666	47.9
West End -----	9,527	100.0	3,794	39.8	1,253	13.2	4,480	47.0
North End -----	9,343	100.0	2,883	30.9	931	10.0	5,529	59.1

CITIZENSHIP OF FOREIGN BORN 21 YEARS AND OVER IN BOSTON BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

DATA - FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS 1930



PREPARED FOR
BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC. BOSTON MASS - 1933

ECONOMIC STATUS

The Federal Census, in the information which it contains about home ownership, the values of these homes, and the amounts of rent paid, offers valuable clues to the economic levels of different neighborhoods. Median values or median rentals for a given tract may be considered as rough but significant gauges of the general economic status of families in the district. While the figures used in this report are based on facts collected in 1930 and while conditions concerning rents and values have undoubtedly changed in the interim, the differences in the economic levels of the tracts is still significant.

Home Ownership

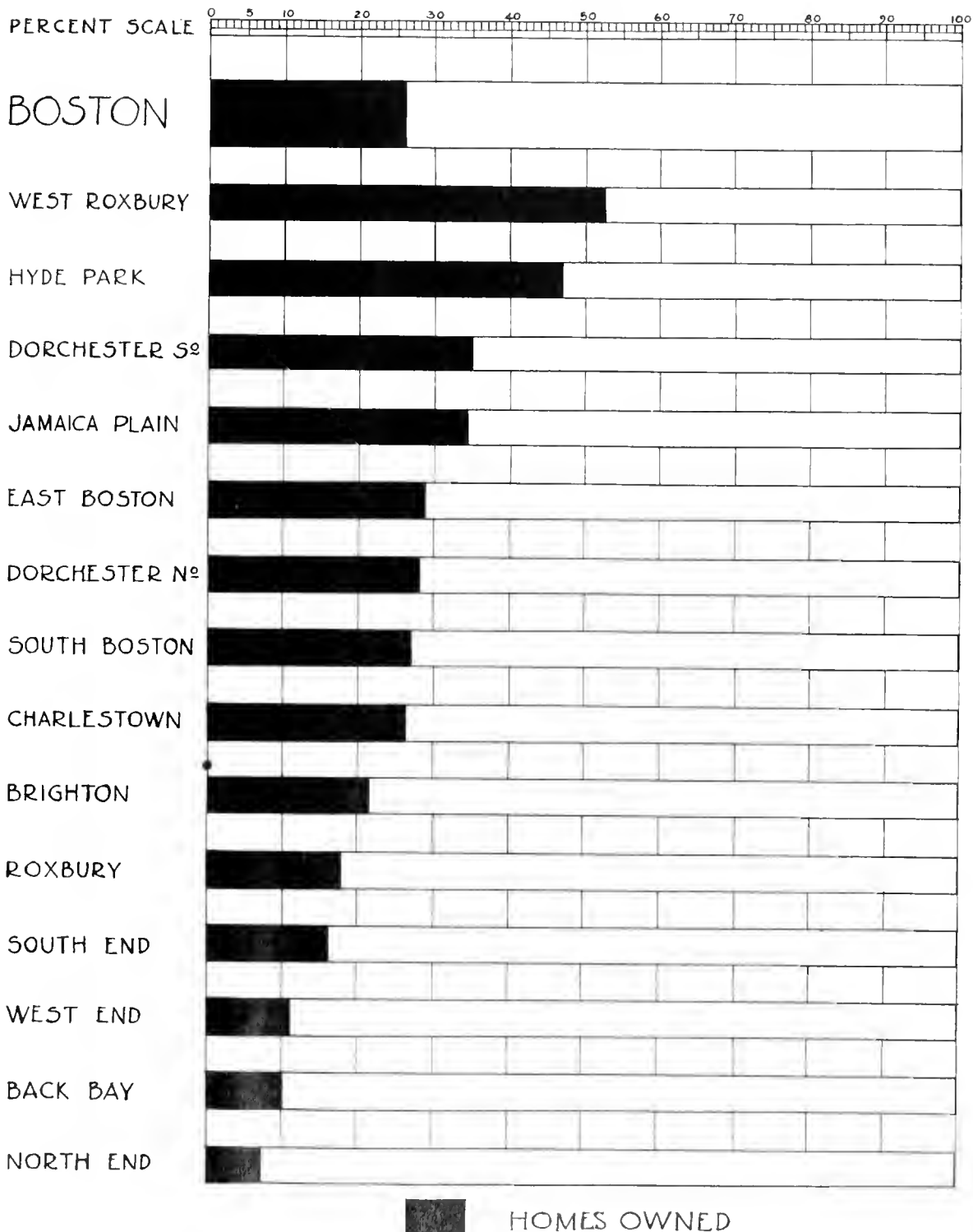
Home ownership is one means by which the economic level of a neighborhood is tested, for it is commonly supposed that a district in which a great many people own their homes is of a different calibre from one in which the great proportion of people pay rent. The percentage of homes owned in the health areas ranged from 52.7 per cent in West Roxbury to 4 per cent in the West End.

TABLE 7. HOME OWNERSHIP BY AREAS.

Health and Welfare Area	Total Homes with Known Tenures		Homes Owned		Homes Rented	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<u>Boston</u>	<u>176,188</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>46,014</u>	<u>26.1</u>	<u>130,174</u>	<u>73.9</u>
West Roxbury -----	10,913	100.0	5,754	52.7	5,159	47.3
Hyde Park -----	5,496	100.0	2,576	46.9	2,918	53.1
Dorchester South --	16,677	100.0	5,829	35.0	10,848	65.0
Jamaica Plain ---	10,811	100.0	3,700	34.2	7,111	65.8
East Boston -----	12,411	100.0	3,571	28.8	8,840	71.2
Dorchester North --	27,571	100.0	7,711	28.0	19,860	72.0
South Boston -----	13,097	100.0	3,527	26.9	9,570	73.1
Charlestown -----	6,548	100.0	1,724	26.3	4,824	73.7
Brighton -----	15,594	100.0	3,336	21.3	12,258	78.7
Roxbury -----	25,068	100.0	4,452	17.8	20,616	82.2
South End -----	10,124	100.0	1,636	16.1	8,488	83.9
West End -----	6,001	100.0	739	12.3	5,262	87.7
Back Bay -----	11,301	100.0	1,131	10.1	10,170	89.9
North End -----	4,576	100.0	326	7.1	4,250	92.9

HOME OWNERSHIP IN BOSTON BY HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS PROPORTION OF PERSONS IN DWELLINGS WHICH THEY OWN

DATA - FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS 1930



 HOMES OWNED

PREPARED FOR

BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC. BOSTON MASS-1933

CHART NO IV



Median Rentals

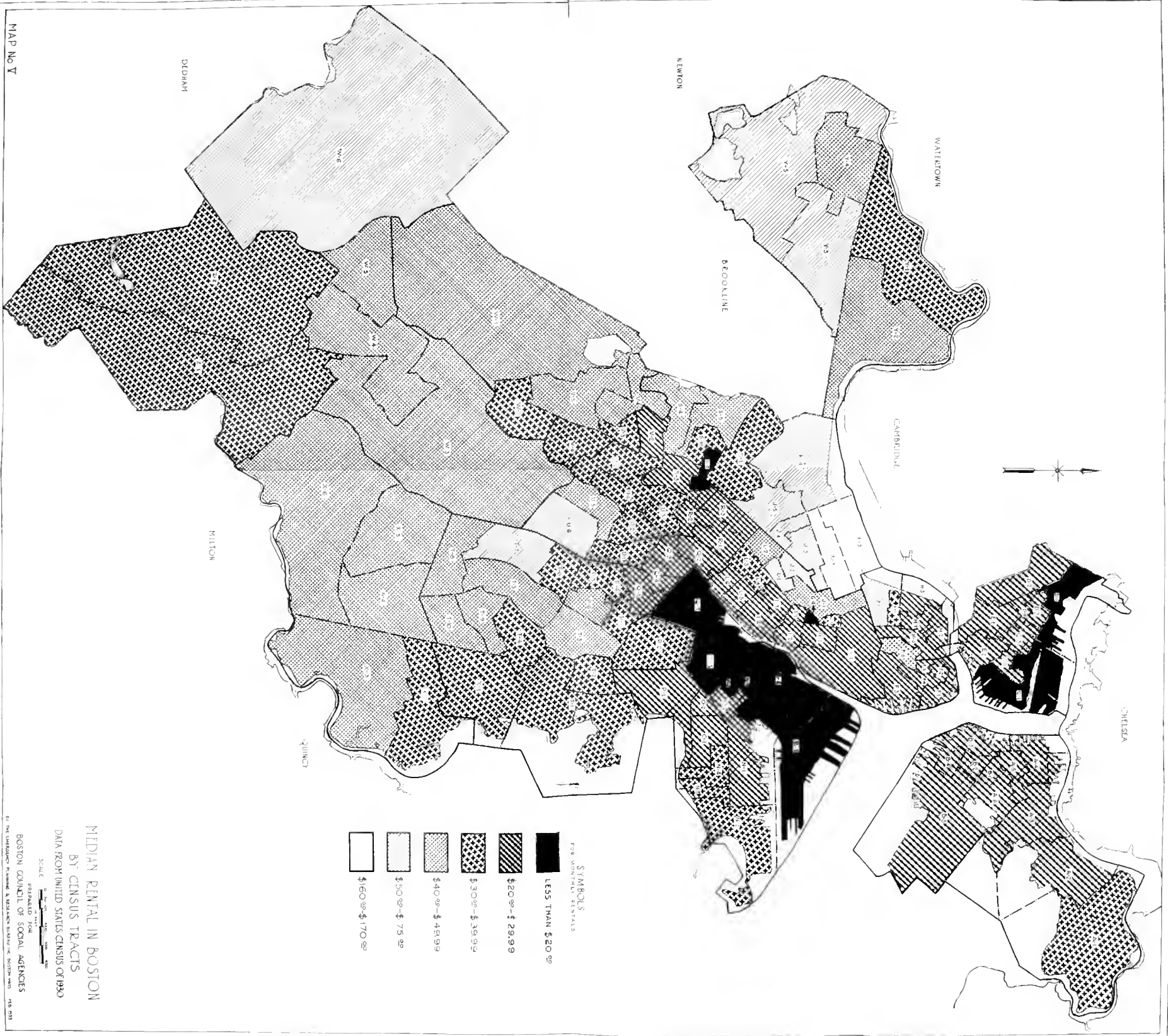
In this discussion the item of rent rather than that of assessed valuation,* is used to determine economic status, as it probably gives a truer picture of the actual living conditions in the area. In the North End, for example, real estate is valuable, and assessed values are high. Rents, however, are low because people crowd into tenements. Since 73.9 per cent of the people in Boston pay rent, the median rent is a sound basis for calculation.

TABLE 8. MEDIAN MONTHLY RENTALS BY AREAS.

<u>Health and Welfare Area</u>	<u>Median Monthly Rental</u>
<u>Boston</u>	\$36.70
Charlestown -----	21.70
North End -----	24.10
South Boston -----	24.16
East Boston -----	25.51
South End -----	27.59
West End -----	28.95
Roxbury -----	33.53
Hyde Park -----	35.87
Dorchester North -----	39.79
Jamaica Plain -----	40.94
Dorchester South -----	42.25
West Roxbury -----	45.98
Brighton -----	52.92
Back Bay -----	54.60

Median monthly rentals for each tract are shown in Map V. In almost half of the tracts, the median rentals were less than \$30 per month, and in almost three-quarters, less than \$40 per month. With the exception of three tracts where rentals were high (K-3 and K-5 in the Back Bay and K-2 in the West End) and of ten where they were less than \$20 per month (C-1 and D-1 in Charlestown, S-2 in Roxbury, M-1, M-2, M-3, M-4 and O-4 in South Boston, and G-4 and Q-1 in the South End), in almost nine-tenths of the tracts the median rents ranged from \$20 to \$50 per month.

*Complete tabulations of assessed valuations are on file at the Council office.



MAP No. V

OLDHAM

NEWTON

WATER TOWN

BEACON HILL

CAMBRIDGE

MILTON

QUINCY

CHELSEA



SYMBOLS
FOR RENTAL TRACTS

- LESS THAN \$20.00
- ▨ \$20.00-\$29.99
- ▩ \$30.00-\$39.99
- ▧ \$40.00-\$49.99
- ▦ \$50.00-\$75.00
- \$160.00-\$170.00

MEDIAN RENTAL IN BOSTON
BY CENSUS TRACTS
DATA FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS OF 1930

PREPARED FOR
BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
BY THE STATISTICAL BUREAU, A MEMORANDUM SERVICE OF BOSTON, 1933

SCALE: 1" = 1/2 MILE

If excessively low rents indicate bad housing with its attendant effects upon living and health conditions in general, then those particular districts where they exist become of immediate interest.

HOUSING

Boarding and Lodging Houses

The presence of large numbers of lodging houses and hotels influences the character of a neighborhood. Whereas less than 3 per cent of the total population of Boston was so lodged, there were certain areas in which this proportion was very much higher. Almost 20 per cent of every one living in the South End, for example, resided in one or the other of these two kinds of domiciles. In one tract - I-3 - of the area, 31.4 per cent of the inhabitants lived in lodging houses.

TABLE 9. PROPORTION OF POPULATION LIVING IN LODGING HOUSES AND HOTELS BY AREAS.

Health and Welfare Area	Population	Per cent of Population Living in Lodging Houses and Hotels		
		In Both	In Lodging Houses	In Hotels
<u>Boston</u>	<u>778,976</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>.7</u>
South End -----	60,506	18.3	14.2	4.1
Back Bay -----	38,887	9.2	4.8	4.4
West End -----	28,028	7.4	5.8	1.6
North End -----	27,818	5.9	2.7	3.2
<u>All Others</u> -----	<u>623,737</u>	<u>.3</u>	<u>.3</u>	<u>—</u>

Seventy-five and three tenths per cent of that portion of the population of Boston living in hotels and lodgings was concentrated in two of the Health and Welfare Areas,- the South End and the Back Bay. These two with the West End and North End areas, contained over 95 per cent of the city's hotel and lodging house dwellers. Table 10 gives the distribution in these areas, and shows that 56.8 per cent of the persons living in lodging houses and hotels in Boston live in the South End.

TABLE 10. PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS LIVING IN LODGING HOUSES AND HOTELS.

Health and Welfare Area	Persons Living in Lodging Houses and Hotels					
	Total		In Lodging Houses		In Hotels	
	Number	Per cent Distribution	Number	Per cent Distribution	Number	Per cent Distribution
<u>Boston</u>	<u>19,552</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>13,993</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>5,559</u>	<u>100.0</u>
South End -----	11,112	56.8	8,650	61.8	2,462	44.2
Back Bay -----	3,620	18.5	1,890	13.5	1,730	31.1
West End -----	2,090	10.7	1,634	11.6	456	8.2
North End -----	1,637	8.4	743	5.4	894	16.1
All Others -----	1,093	5.6	1,076	7.7	17	.4

HEALTH

Mention has already been made of the fact that health statistics covering Infant Mortality, Tuberculosis, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, based upon the records of the City Health Department, and prepared by the Boston Health League, are available by Health and Welfare Areas and by Census Tracts for the years 1930 and 1931.

As these statistics are studied, two facts must be borne in mind:

1. In many instances, especially in the case of figures which deal with births and infant deaths, the numbers for individual tracts are often small. Accordingly fluctuations in rates are disproportionately great.
2. These figures cover the span of two years, a period too short for the building up of statistical evidence of great social significance.

It is only when small numbers follow a consistent trend over a long period of time that they become of real significance. High morbidity rates in any given area therefore should be considered as danger signals indicating the need of careful case study of conditions affecting the area rather than as absolute factual evidence.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate for Boston in 1931 was 59.4 per 1,000 live births,- the lowest rate on record. In the previous year - 1930 - it was 66.6 In this two-year period, rates in eleven of the fourteen areas decreased in varying degrees. The rates in three areas,- Back Bay, Charlestown and Hyde Park,- increased in 1931. In both years, the Hyde Park area had a rate below the general rate for the city. The rate in the Back Bay equalled that of the city in 1930, and was greater in 1931. Charlestown's rate in both years was decidedly above that of the city, and increased markedly in 1931. In contrast, the West End, a district which compares in many other respects with Charlestown, had the best record for infant mortality of all the areas,* having the next to the lowest rate in 1930 and the lowest in 1931. (Chart V.)

TABLE 11. INFANT MORTALITY BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS.

Health and Welfare Area	Number of Births		Number of Infant Deaths Under 1 Year		Rate per 1000 Births	
	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931
<u>Boston</u>	<u>13,892</u>	<u>12,975</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>772</u>	<u>66.6</u>	<u>59.4</u>
Back Bay -----	329	337	22	27	66.8	80.1
Brighton -----	1,045	944	59	48	56.4	50.8
Charlestown ----	543	454	45	52	82.8	114.5
Dorchester North	2,206	2,049	153	107	69.3	52.2
Dorchester South	1,274	1,267	69	61	54.1	48.1
East Boston ----	1,310	1,228	103	86	78.6	70.0
Hyde Park -----	454	436	17	24	37.4	55.0
Jamaica Plain --	837	732	39	32	46.5	43.7
North End -----	495	461	40	37	80.8	80.2
Roxbury -----	2,160	1,975	140	118	64.8	59.7
South Boston ---	1,176	1,086	105	76	89.2	69.9
South End -----	857	797	76	58	88.6	72.7
West End -----	408	440	19	13	46.5	29.5
West Roxbury ---	798	769	39	33	48.8	42.9

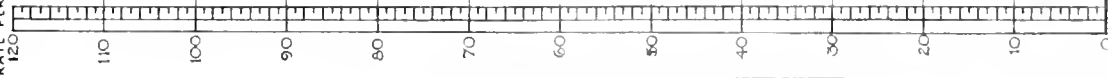
*The Boston Health League co-operating with the Harvard University School of Public Health, the City Health Department, and the Bureau of Research and Studies of the Boston Council of Social Agencies, is sponsoring a study which involves a medical and social investigation of infant deaths occurring in these two areas, in the first six months of 1933.

INFANT MORTALITY IN BOSTON RATE PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS FOR 14 HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS

1930 & 1931

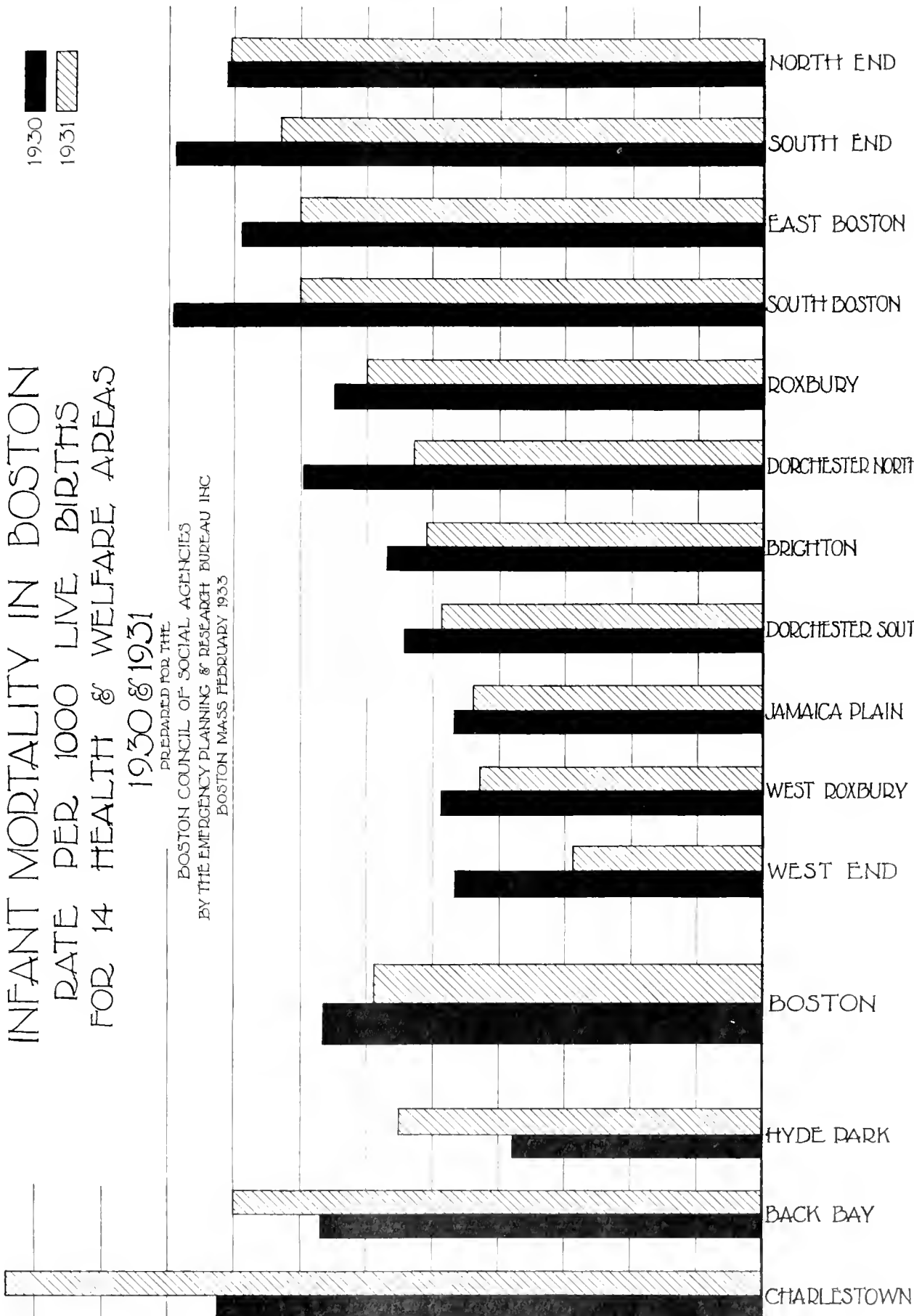
PREPARED FOR THE
BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC
BOSTON MASS FEBRUARY 1933

RATE PER 1000



1930
1931

NORTH END
SOUTH END
EAST BOSTON
SOUTH BOSTON
ROXBURY
DORCHESTER NORTH
BRIGHTON
DORCHESTER SOUTH
JAMAICA PLAIN
WEST ROXBURY
WEST END
BOSTON
HYDE PARK
BACK BAY
CHARLESTOWN





Tuberculosis

Two sets of rates concerning tuberculosis are available,- that for new cases and that for deaths. (Chart VI.)

The rate for cases of Tuberculosis decreased in 1931, falling to 148.0 from 170.0 in 1930. Rates in twelve of the fourteen areas showed a similar trend. The rates in two areas only,- the North End and East Boston,- increased in 1931.

TABLE 12. TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION.

Health and Welfare Area	Total Population	Number of New Cases		Rate per 100,000	
		1930	1931	1930	1931
<u>Boston</u>	<u>778,976</u>	<u>1,324</u>	<u>1,155</u>	<u>170.0</u>	<u>148.0</u>
Back Bay -----	38,887	68	43	174.8	110.5
Brighton -----	56,362	65	52	115.3	92.2
Charlestown -----	31,663	62	59	195.8	186.3
Dorchester North ----	120,053	168	131	139.9	109.1
Dorchester South ----	74,445	75	75	100.7	100.7
East Boston -----	59,242	81	94	136.7	158.7
Hyde Park -----	24,498	31	28	126.5	114.3
Jamaica Plain -----	44,542	57	42	127.9	94.2
North End -----	27,818	40	48	143.7	172.5
Roxbury -----	105,790	192	176	181.4	166.3
South Boston -----	59,728	120	93	201.0	156.0
South End -----	60,506	240	214	396.7	353.6
West End -----	28,028	53	41	189.0	146.0
West Roxbury -----	47,414	72	59	151.8	124.4

Although the rate for new cases for the city was smaller in 1931 than it was in 1930, the rate for deaths from tuberculosis increased from 57.0 per 100,000 population in 1930, to 65.0 in 1931. Four areas - Dorchester North, Hyde Park, and South and West Ends - showed improved rates for the two-year period. Of these four, three had rates for 1931 lower than that for the city as a whole; but the rate for the South End was more than twice as large as the rate for the city.

The South End area, as Tables 12 and 13 reveal, has excessively high

TUBERCULOSIS IN BOSTON

NEW CASES & DEATHS

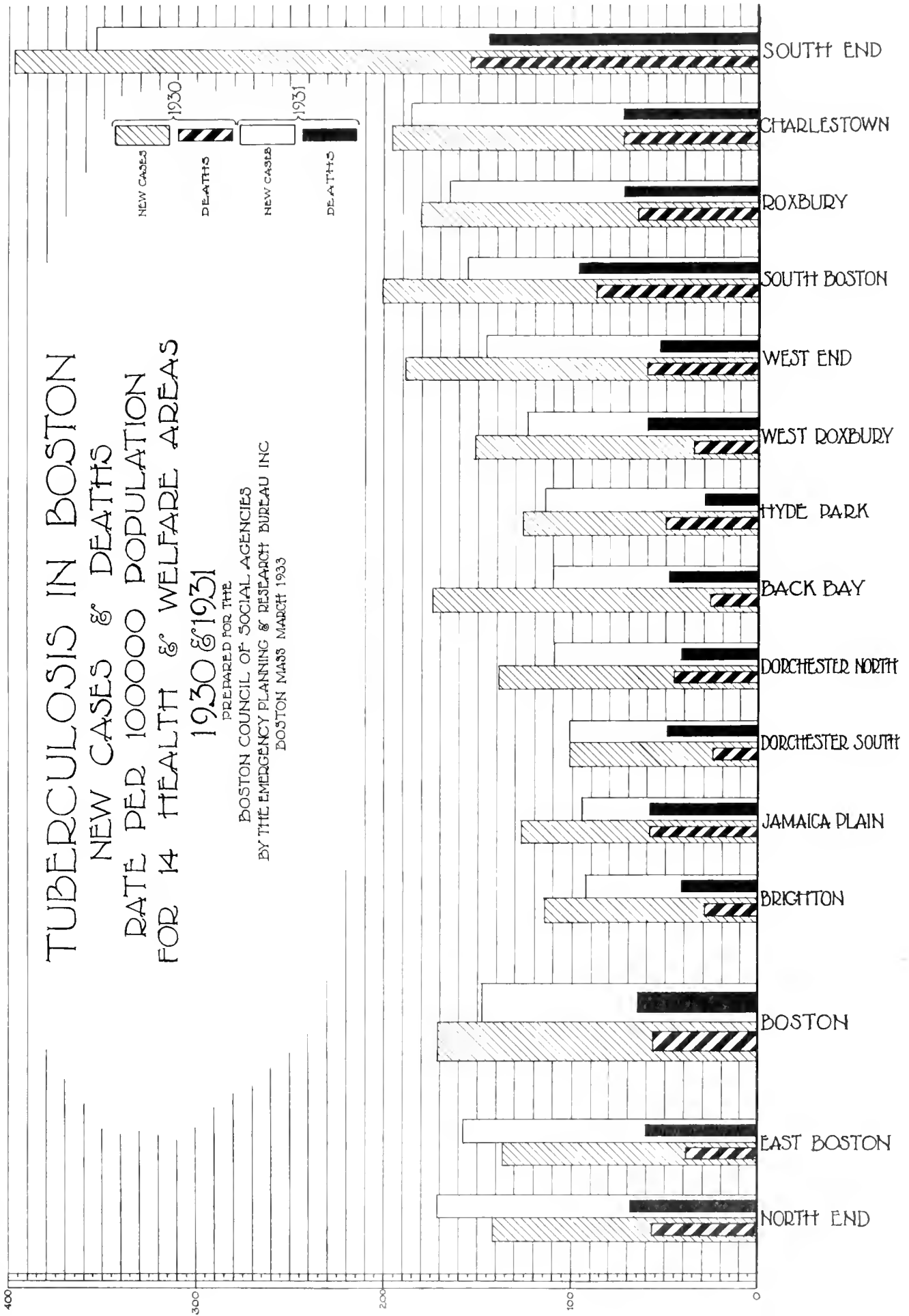
RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION

FOR 14 HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS

1930 & 1931

PREPARED FOR THE
 BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
 BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC
 BOSTON MASS MARCH 1933

RATE PER 100,000



tuberculosis rates. Both for new cases and for deaths, these rates were the highest of any area in the city.

TABLE 13. TUBERCULOSIS - DEATH RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION.

Health and Welfare Area	Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis		Death Rate per 100,000	
	1930	1931	1930	1931
<u>Boston</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>57.0</u>	<u>65.0</u>
Back Bay -----	10	19	25.7	48.8
Brighton -----	16	23	28.3	40.8
Charlestown -----	23	23	72.6	72.6
Dorchester North -----	55	49	45.8	40.8
Dorchester South -----	18	37	24.1	49.7
East Boston -----	23	36	38.8	60.7
Hyde Park -----	10	7	48.8	26.5
Jamaica Plain -----	26	26	58.3	58.3
North End -----	16	19	57.5	68.3
Roxbury -----	70	77	66.1	72.7
South Boston -----	52	58	87.0	97.1
South End -----	94	88	155.4	145.4
West End -----	17	15	60.6	53.5
West Roxbury -----	18	28	37.9	59.0

DELINQUENCY

Statistics for delinquency for two age groups - children from 7-16 years of age, and minors from 17-20 years of age - have been gathered and made available by the Massachusetts Board of Probation, for the two years from October, 1930, to October, 1932.* These young delinquents have been distributed, not according to the court in which they were dealt with but according to their residence. If a child is charged with several offenses at the same time, he is counted only once in these statistics. If, however, he appears in court more than once in the same year, he is tallied for each appearance.

* Strictly speaking the term "delinquency" applies only to offenders below the age of 17. For convenience it is used in this discussion as applied also to those offenders in the ages of minority.

The total number of delinquents may not, therefore, mean an equal number of individual children. It is unlikely, however, that there are many instances in which the same child is counted more than once in the same year. (Chart VII.)

The fact that the age groups of the Federal Census and those of the Massachusetts Board of Probation did not coincide, presented a difficulty in calculating delinquency rates. However, since delinquency rates are of greater significance if based on the population of the same age, rather than upon the total population, estimates were made of the number of children 7 - 16 years of age, and those 17 - 20 years of age residing in each tract.*

From Table 14 two conclusions may be drawn. In the first place, the rates were much higher for the older than for the juvenile group. For Boston as a whole, the ratio was four to one. Often it was greater; seldom was it less. In the second place, six areas - Charlestown, South Boston, the South, North and West Ends and East Boston - were consistently high in each group for both years.

*

Method of Estimating Child Population:

In making the following estimates it was assumed that the number of individuals in a census age group was equally distributed throughout the years. For example, there were 66,229 children in the census age group of 5 - 9 years. On this basis, each one of the five years represented was estimated to consist of 13,246 children. The number of children from 7 - 9 years of age - those ages included in the delinquency age group - was estimated to be three-fifths of the total, or 39,738.

For Children 7-16 Years of Age:

Age group	Total Census Population	Estimated Population
	5-17 Years	7-16 Years
Federal Census -----	169,821	130,464
5-9 years -----	66,229	39,738 (3/5 of total Census group)
10-14 " -----	64,998	64,998 (Total of " ")
15-17 " -----	38,594	25,728 (2/3 of total " ")

For Minors 17-20 Years of Age:

Age group	Total Census Population	Estimated Population
	15-24 Years	17-20 Years
Federal Census -----	136,722	54,386
15-17 years -----	38,594	12,864 (1/3 of total Census group)
18-19 " -----	27,371	27,371 (Total of " ")
20-24 " -----	70,757	14,151 (1/5 of total " ")

TABLE 14. JUVENILE DELINQUENTS AND DELINQUENTS 17-20 YEARS OF AGE, BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS.

Health and Welfare Area	Juvenile Delinquents:				Delinquents 17-20 Years of Age:				
	Estimated Total Population 7-16 Years of Age	Number		Rate per 1000 Population 7-16 Years of Age	Estimated Total Population 17-20 Years of Age	Number		Rate per 1000 Population 17-20 Years of Age	
		1930	1931			1930	1931		
Boston	130,442	2,530	2,696	19.4	54,715	4,883	4,847	89.2	88.6
Back Bay	2,183	40	45	18.3	2,216	152	159	68.5	71.7
Brighton	7,700	104	105	13.5	3,429	217	237	63.3	69.1
Charlestown	5,784	186	173	32.2	2,339	241	313	103.0	133.8
Dorchester North	20,657	294	286	14.2	8,837	722	639	81.7	72.3
Dorchester South	13,400	130	119	9.7	5,593	423	421	75.6	75.3
East Boston	13,562	468	458	34.5	4,733	456	369	96.3	78.0
Hyde Park	4,920	71	45	14.4	1,771	132	127	74.5	71.7
Jamaica Plain	7,128	103	79	14.5	2,891	221	177	76.4	61.2
North End	5,866	133	228	22.7	2,244	240	218	107.0	97.1
Roxbury	18,236	293	378	16.1	7,428	675	722	90.9	97.2
South Boston	12,615	371	284	29.4	4,437	556	598	125.3	134.8
South End	6,585	138	223	21.0	3,358	373	392	111.1	116.7
West End	4,430	134	207	30.2	2,061	272	263	132.0	127.6
West Roxbury	7,377	65	66	8.8	3,376	203	212	60.1	62.8

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

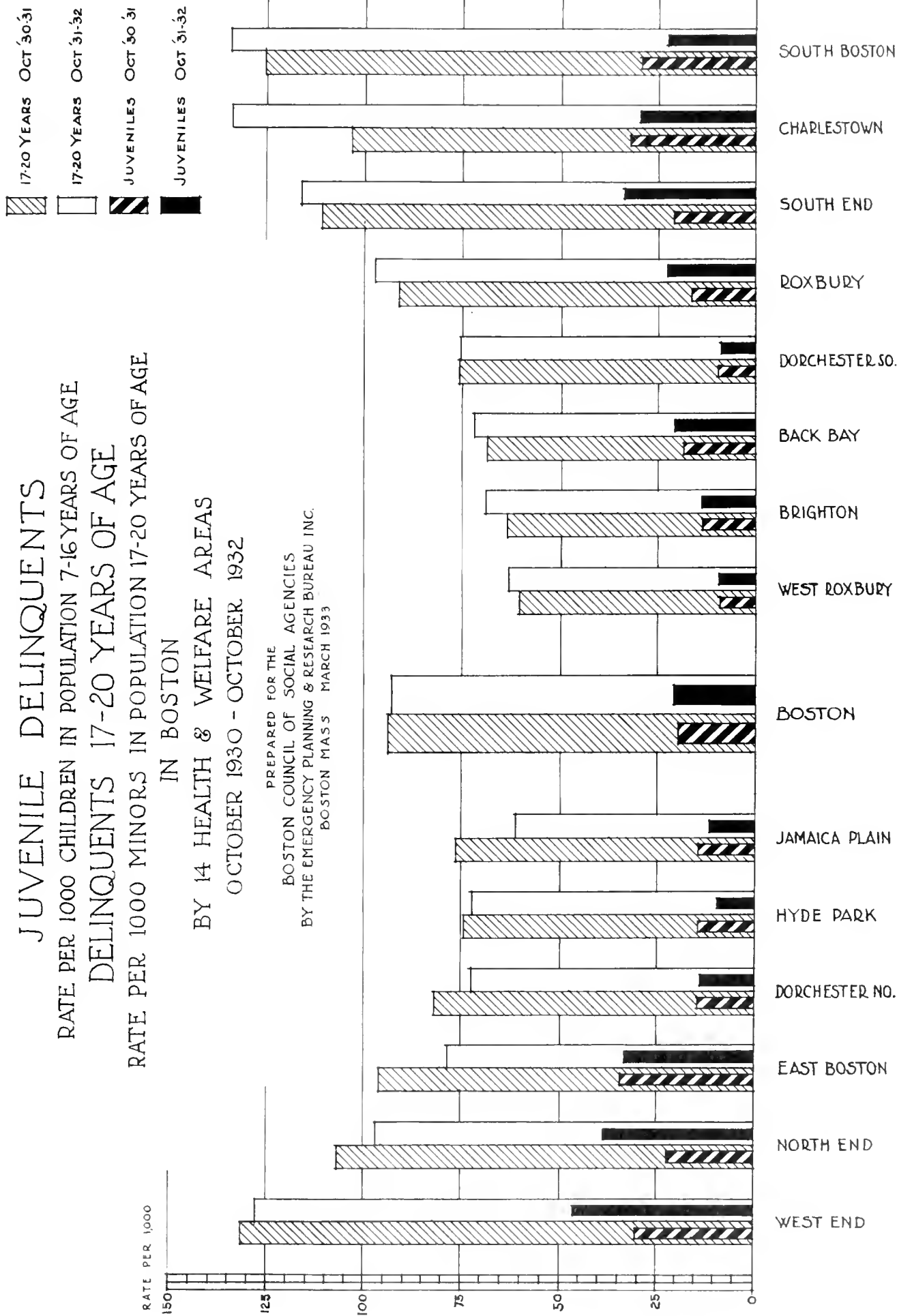
RATE PER 1000 CHILDREN IN POPULATION 7-16 YEARS OF AGE
 DELINQUENTS 17-20 YEARS OF AGE

RATE PER 1000 MINORS IN POPULATION 17-20 YEARS OF AGE
 IN BOSTON

BY 14 HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS

OCTOBER 1930 - OCTOBER 1932

PREPARED FOR THE
 BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
 BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC.
 BOSTON MASS MARCH 1933



RELIEF

The statistics upon which the following relief figures are based were obtained from the Department of Public Welfare and the Family Welfare Society, the Boston Provident Association, and the Jewish Family Welfare Association. The original plan called for a study of all cases active on a given day, in each of the four agencies. Differences in record keeping and office organization made this impossible, and modifications had to be made. The figures were finally obtained upon the following basis:

1. Three Private Agencies Families receiving relief or service during the month of October, 1932.
2. Department of Public Welfare Families receiving relief from the first of November, 1932, to the first of March, 1933. In obtaining the information the mailing list of the Department was used. This list is divided into four sections: Old Age Assistance, Mothers' Aid, Dependent Aid (chronic cases) and Dependent Aid (unemployment cases). As the already hard-pressed addressograph operators had to run off the almost twenty-nine thousand addresses at odd moments, it took four months to complete the lists. Figures for Old Age Assistance and Mothers' Aid came through quickly because they were less numerous. They represented, therefore, the number of families receiving these two types of aid at some time in November. Figures for the two classes of Dependent Aid were received in seven lots during December, January and February, the chronic cases being the first to come through. As the case load for these four months showed a steady increase, rising from 26,817 on the first of November, to 32,197 on the first of March, these figures do not give as accurate a picture of the work of the Department as would a complete count taken in all divisions on the same day. These were, however, impossible to obtain.

Department of Public Welfare

A family is defined by the United States Census of 1930 as "--- a group of persons ---- who live together as one household ---. Single persons living alone are counted as families, however, as are a few small groups of unrelated persons sharing the same living accommodations as 'partners'. Households reporting more than 10 lodgers are classified as boarding or lodging houses rather than as families."

Figures from the Department of Public Welfare are based upon its case load. Under their system a case may be either a family consisting of a group of persons, or a single person living alone.

There is one point only at which a family, as defined by the census, and a case as defined by the Department of Public Welfare fail as suitable units of comparison. A lodging house keeper with less than ten lodgers is counted in the census as a head of a family. The lodgers are excluded from the count. Each of the lodgers who may be receiving aid, however, is counted as a case by the Department of Public Welfare. As a result, in the districts in which there are large numbers of lodging houses, relief rates are unduly high. Since, however, these districts are few and are definitely recognized as such (Tables 9, 10.) due allowance for this discrepancy can easily be made. Since then, the unit known as a "family" in the census, and as a "case" by the Department of Public Welfare, are the same with the above exception, they will be defined as "families" throughout this discussion.

Since the number of individuals aided by the Department of Public Welfare, while estimated, is not definitely known, no valid calculations can be made of the percentage of individuals in Boston and its areas who are receiving relief. The following tables (Tables 15 and 18.) give the percentage of families receiving relief based on the number of families as enumerated by the

FAMILIES IN HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS RECEIVING RELIEF FROM THE BOSTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE



 WORK RELIEF  OLD AGE ASSISTANCE
 DEPENDENT AID  MOTHERS' AID

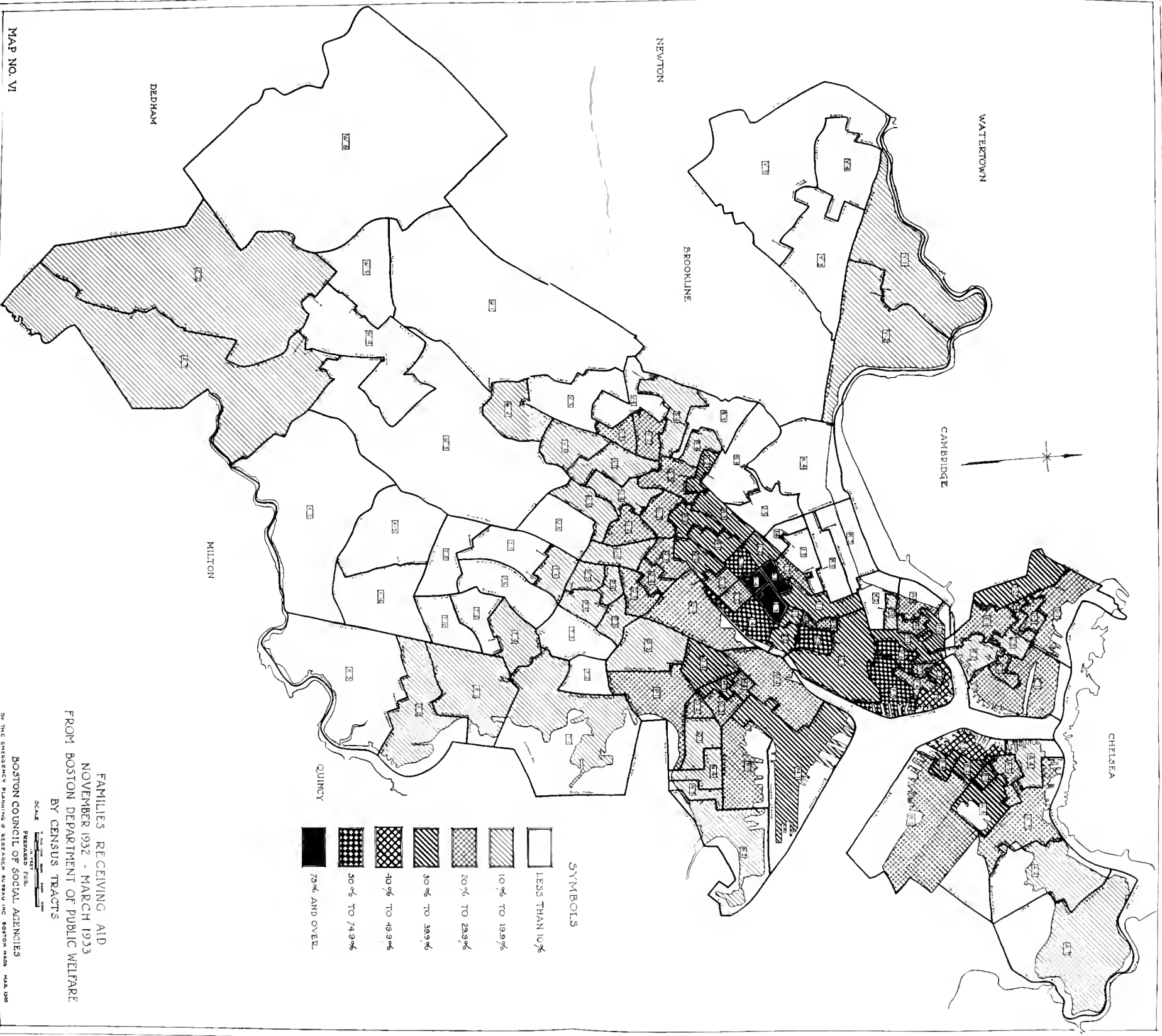
PREPARED FOR
THE BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
 BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC.
 BOSTON, MASS. 1933.

1930 census. While the proportion, 46.3 per cent, of families receiving aid in the South End is undoubtedly an overstatement as compared with the percentages shown by the other areas, its relief load is the heaviest of all.

TABLE 15. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF FAMILIES RECEIVING RELIEF FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS. NOVEMBER 1, 1932 - MARCH 1, 1933.

Health and Welfare Area	Total Number of Families	Families Receiving Relief	
		Number	Per cent
<u>Boston</u>	<u>179,189</u>	<u>28,938</u>	<u>16.1</u>
South End -----	10,562	4,885	46.3
North End -----	4,649	1,588	34.2
East Boston -----	12,581	3,210	25.5
West End -----	6,194	1,459	23.6
Charlestown -----	6,691	1,498	22.4
South Boston -----	13,235	2,863	21.6
Roxbury -----	25,492	5,073	19.9
Hyde Park -----	5,540	791	14.3
Dorchester North -----	27,941	3,257	11.7
Jamaica Plain -----	11,008	1,085	9.9
Dorchester South -----	16,847	1,264	7.5
Brighton -----	15,814	912	5.8
West Roxbury -----	11,074	524	4.7
Back Bay -----	11,561	529	4.6

The proportion of families receiving aid is indicated by census tracts. (Map VI.) Figures very much higher than those shown by Health and Welfare areas are to be found. Tracts in the South End, which showed the highest percentage of all, are omitted from this discussion, because of the fact already pointed out that they are probably not comparable to other districts. Tracts in other areas with especially heavy relief loads were F-1 (47.1 per cent), F-3 (69.8 per cent) and F-6 (58.9 per cent), in the North End; A-6 (38.6 per cent) and B-3 (40.8 per cent), in East Boston; and H-4 (38.2 per cent), in the West End.



FAMILIES RECEIVING AID
 NOVEMBER 1932 - MARCH 1933
 FROM BOSTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
 BY CENSUS TRACTS

QUINCY

SYMBOLS

- LESS THAN 10%
- ▨ 10% TO 19.9%
- ▩ 20% TO 29.9%
- ▧ 30% TO 39.9%
- ▦ 40% TO 49.9%
- ▤ 50% TO 74.9%
- 75% AND OVER.

SCALE

PREPARED FOR:
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Mention has already been made of the classification of types of aid given, by the Department of Public Welfare. The areas varied widely in the proportions of families receiving the different types of aid. (Table 16.) Straight unemployment cases ranged all the way from 33 per cent of all cases in the Back Bay to 62 per cent in South Boston, and 68 per cent in East Boston. The chronic cases showed a much narrower range of variation. Old Age Assistance fluctuated from 2.5 per cent in the North End and 5 per cent in East Boston, to 27.6 per cent in the Back Bay. Mothers' Aid, almost negligible in the South End, rose to 6 per cent of all cases in Dorchester South.

TABLE 16. NUMBER AND PER CENT OF FAMILIES RECEIVING SPECIFIED TYPES OF AID FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, IN HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS. NOVEMBER 1, 1932 - MARCH 1, 1933.

Health and Welfare Area	Families Receiving Aid:									
	Total		Unemployment Aid		Dependent Aid		Old Age Assistance		Mothers' Aid	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<u>Boston</u>	28,938	100	15,870	54.8	8,653	29.9	3,324	11.5	1,091	3.8
Back Bay ---	529	100	176	33.2	203	38.4	146	27.6	4	.8
Brighton -----	912	100	388	42.5	311	34.2	168	18.4	45	4.9
Charlestown ---	1,498	100	807	53.9	420	28.0	194	13.0	77	5.1
Dorchester North	3,257	100	1,763	54.1	854	26.2	455	14.0	185	5.7
Dorchester South	1,264	100	631	49.9	303	24.0	255	20.2	75	5.9
East Boston ----	3,210	100	2,168	67.6	749	23.3	165	5.1	128	4.0
Hyde Park -----	791	100	485	61.3	192	24.3	83	10.5	31	3.9
West Roxbury ---	524	100	260	49.6	137	26.2	98	18.7	29	5.5
Jamaica Plain --	1,085	100	642	59.2	234	21.6	160	14.7	49	4.5
North End -----	1,588	100	950	59.8	520	32.8	40	2.5	78	4.9
Roxbury -----	5,073	100	2,614	51.5	1,689	33.3	600	11.8	170	3.4
South Boston ---	2,863	100	1,756	61.4	737	25.7	244	8.5	126	4.4
South End -----	4,885	100	2,470	50.6	1,768	36.2	613	12.5	34	.7
West End -----	1,459	100	760	52.1	536	36.7	103	7.1	60	4.1

Private Agencies

The case loads of the three private agencies,- the Family Welfare Society, the Boston Provident Association and the Jewish Family Welfare Association,- totalled 2,789 families. Many of the persons included in these families were undoubtedly counted in the statistics of the Department of Public Welfare, because of the practice of the private agencies of giving supplementary relief and case work service to families aided by the public department. Because of the fact that names of the Department of Public Welfare families were not given, no checking of individuals could be done. Accordingly no attempt should be made to total the two sets of figures.

There are, however, comparisons which can be made:

1. The distribution of families by Health and Welfare Areas.
2. The proportion of cases receiving relief by Health and Welfare Areas.

Study of the distribution of families by areas revealed a similarity between those known to public and private agencies, in all save those of East Boston, Dorchester North and Dorchester South. Eleven and one-tenth per cent of all families known to the Department of Public Welfare lived in East Boston; while the corresponding figure was but 4.4 per cent for the private agencies. In the other two areas the private agencies were carrying relatively heavier loads, the difference being 17.6 per cent as against 11.3 per cent for Dorchester North and 9.1 per cent as against 4.4 per cent for Dorchester South. (Table 17, p. 27.)

Of all the families living in Boston, 16.1 per cent, or about one-sixth, were on the lists of the Department of Public Welfare; while 1.6 per cent were receiving relief or service from the three private agencies. The South End, already indicated as the district in which the greatest proportion of families were receiving relief from the Department of Public Welfare, occupied a similar position in relation to other areas as regards relief and service given by the private agencies. (Table 18, p. 27.)

TABLE 17. DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES KNOWN TO RELIEF AGENCIES BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS.

Department of Public Welfare			Three Private Agencies		
Health and Welfare Area	Number of Families	Per cent of Distribution of Families	Health and Welfare Area	Number of Families	Per cent of Distribution of Families
<u>Boston</u>	28,938	100.0	<u>Boston</u>	2,789	100.0
Roxbury -----	5,073	17.5	Roxbury -----	508	18.2
South End -----	4,885	16.9	Dorchester North -	491	17.6
Dorchester North --	3,257	11.3	South End -----	369	13.2
East Boston -----	3,210	11.1	Dorchester South -	254	9.1
South Boston -----	2,863	9.9	South Boston -----	208	7.4
North End -----	1,588	5.5	West End -----	207	7.4
Charlestown -----	1,498	5.2	East Boston -----	123	4.4
West End -----	1,459	5.0	Hyde Park -----	115	4.1
Dorchester South --	1,264	4.4	Charlestown -----	113	4.1
Jamaica Plain -----	1,085	3.7	Back Bay -----	105	3.8
Brighton -----	912	3.2	West Roxbury -----	84	3.1
Hyde Park -----	791	2.7	Jamaica Plain -----	81	2.9
Back Bay -----	529	1.8	Brighton -----	76	2.7
West Roxbury -----	524	1.8	North End -----	55	2.0

TABLE 18. PERCENT OF FAMILIES KNOWN TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS.

Department of Public Welfare		Three Private Agencies	
<u>Boston</u>	<u>16.1</u>	<u>Boston</u>	<u>1.6</u>
South End -----	46.3	South End -----	3.5
North End -----	34.2	West End -----	3.3
East Boston -----	25.5	Hyde Park -----	2.1
West End -----	23.6	Roxbury -----	2.0
Charlestown -----	22.4	Dorchester North --	1.8
South Boston -----	21.6	Charlestown -----	1.7
Roxbury -----	19.9	South Boston -----	1.6
Hyde Park -----	14.3	Dorchester South --	1.5
Dorchester North --	11.7	North End -----	1.2
Jamaica Plain -----	9.9	East Boston -----	1.0
Dorchester South --	7.5	Back Bay -----	.9
Brighton -----	5.8	West Roxbury -----	.8
West Roxbury -----	4.7	Jamaica Plain -----	.7
Back Bay -----	4.6	Brighton -----	.5

CORRELATIONS

Discussion up to this point has centered upon the analysis by tables, maps and charts, of the various sets of statistics available for the study of neighborhoods. As already stated, this material in no way represents final evaluation, but outlines a method for study of material which lends itself to wide interpretation. Conditions which appear to be of significance about any one area or tract have been pointed out throughout. Because of the complexities of modern city life, however, one fact about a city or a neighborhood should not be considered except in its relationship to other facts.

Therefore, the attempt is now made to bring together all of the social and health factors which have been already considered separately, in order to discover, if possible, whether any correlations exist between them.

In Table 19, the standing shown by the fourteen Health and Welfare areas in each of the many subjects already discussed, is considered, and ratings from (1) to (14) are given, (1) signifying for the most part unsatisfactory conditions. So far as the foreign born are concerned (1) stands for the highest proportion of foreign born, and of aliens; while (14) signifies the lowest proportion of foreign born and of aliens. For the rest:

- (1) stands for the lowest median rents, the smallest percentage of owned homes, the densest population, the highest rates for deaths, disease and delinquency, and the largest percentage of persons aided.
- (14) on the other hand, signifies the highest median rents, the largest percentage of owned homes, the least dense population, the lowest rates for deaths, disease and delinquency, and the smallest proportion of persons aided.

In so rough a correlation, the only point of significance is the presence or absence of high or low numbers for any one area. The shades of

TABLE 19. RATING SCALE OF AREAS FOR SOCIAL AND HEALTH FACTORS

Area	Population Changes	Predominant Foreign Born Group	Foreign Born	Alliens	Home Owner-ship	Density of Population	Infant Mortality	Health				Delinquency				Relief				
								Tuberculosis New Cases		Deaths		Juvenile		17-20 Years						
								1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951					
Back Bay	-	Canada	14	6	5	14	7	5	6	10	13	11	13	14	7	8	12	11	14	11
Brighton	+	Canada	13	11	6	13	10	10	13	14	12	12	14	12	12	10	13	12	12	14
Charlestown	-	Irish Free State	10	12	7	1	4	3	1	2	3	4	4	1	2	5	5	2	5	8
Dorchester North	+	Russia	6	10	9	9	9	8	9	11	9	13	6	7	11	9	8	9	9	5
Dorchester South	+	Russia	5	9	12	11	11	10	14	12	14	10	10	10	13	14	10	8	11	8
East Boston	-	Italy	2	2	10	4	6	5	10	5	10	6	6	5	1	4	6	7	3	10
Hyde Park	+	Italy	9	7	13	8	14	14	12	9	8	14	14	12	13	10	12	11	10	3
Jamaica Plain	+	Irish Free State	11	14	11	10	12	12	11	13	6	8	9	9	9	11	9	14	10	13
North End	-	Italy	1	1	1	2	1	4	2	3	7	5	5	2	5	2	4	6	2	9
Roxbury	+	Russia	8	8	5	7	8	8	7	4	4	3	7	8	8	7	7	5	7	4
South Boston	-	Irish Free State	4	5	8	3	5	1	6	2	2	2	8	6	4	6	2	1	6	7
South End	-	Canada	7	4	4	5	3	2	4	1	1	1	2	3	6	3	3	4	1	1
West End	-	Russia	3	3	2	6	2	13	14	4	7	5	9	4	3	1	1	5	4	2
West Roxbury	+	Canada	12	13	14	12	13	11	15	7	8	11	7	11	14	15	14	13	15	12

1 - Densest Population
 Lowest Median Rent
 Smallest Proportion of Homes Owned
 Highest Rates for Death, Disease and Delinquency
 Largest Proportion of Families Aided
 Largest Proportion of Foreign Born
 Largest Proportion of Aliens

14 - Least Dense Population
 Highest Median Rent
 Largest Proportion of Homes Owned
 Lowest Rates for Death, Disease and Delinquency
 Smallest Proportion of Families Aided
 Smallest Proportion of Foreign Born
 Smallest Proportion of Aliens

difference which exist in the various rankings cannot be indicated by such a scheme.

Study of this table reveals a preponderance of low numbers in the South End. It had consistently the worst record of all the areas for tuberculosis and for relief; and its infant death rate was high. Charlestown was another area which presented an almost equally dreary picture. South Boston and the North End were next in order.

On the other hand, the Back Bay, in spite of its somewhat heterogeneous makeup, including as it does not only the district commonly known as the Back Bay, but a rather poor apartment house district around the Fenway as well, and the suburban areas were on a distinctly higher economic level than many of the others, and had rather consistently good records - Brighton perhaps the most uniformly so.

Out of dreary mediocrity or of good or bad extremes, however, appeared certain inconsistencies so intriguing as to make further study a necessity. Why, for example, did West Roxbury, with a record otherwise so good, make so poor a showing as regards its rates for new cases of tuberculosis? Why had the West End, whose ranking for every other item was poor, the proudest record for infant mortality? Why was the Back Bay so spotty as regards delinquency, and certain health figures?

CONCLUSIONS

Only more intensive study of the figures now available by census tracts, and of the danger signals which they raise, can bring a more exact knowledge and a deeper understanding of the problems with which the constructive forces in Boston must grapple, if they are to achieve results commensurate with their potentialities.

The Council of Social Agencies is accordingly bringing to its member agencies this outline of a new method of study in the confident expectation that they will use the rich material to which it is a key, as a measuring stick for the neighborhoods in which they are working, and as a stepping stone to the collection of still more facts helpful in meeting the problems with which social work is concerned.

SOCIAL STATISTICS

BY

CENSUS TRACTS IN BOSTON

VOLUME II

BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES

43 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON

JULY, 1935

SOCIAL STATISTICS

BY

CENSUS TRACTS IN BOSTON

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Boston Council of Social Agencies

Bureau of Research and Studies

43 Tremont Street, Boston

July, 1935

BB

Nov. 22, 1935
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1935 Suppl.

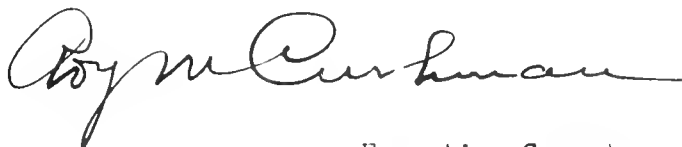
FOREWORD

This is the second report dealing with the interpretation of social statistics on the basis of census tracts which the Boston Council of Social Agencies has published.

The occasion for producing this second report is found in the recent Massachusetts Census of Unemployment, undertaken in 1934 as a C. W. A. project for women, which provides population statistics more recent than those of the Federal Census of 1930.

We wish to express our thanks to those organizations which have supplied the data used in the report. We are especially indebted to Roswell F. Phelps, Director of the Division of Statistics of the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries, under whose sponsorship the census project was carried out; and to the members of the census staff with whom we have had cordial cooperation from the beginning to the end of the project. We are likewise again indebted to the Massachusetts Board of Probation, the Boston Health Department, and the Family Welfare Society of Boston, all of whom furnished valuable statistical data; and to the Emergency Planning and Research Bureau for the preparation of maps and charts.

This report, like the first, was prepared under the direction of Mary A. Clapp, Director of the Bureau of Research and Studies.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roy M. Curhman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the title "Executive Secretary."

Executive Secretary.

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CENSUS TRACTS AND HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

In 1933 the Boston Council of Social Agencies issued a report, "Social Statistics by Census Tracts in Boston", which outlined at some length the method of and reasons for collecting statistics by census tracts, stressed the advisability of defining districts or neighborhoods, and cited statistics from the United States Census, the Boston Health Department, the Public Welfare Department, the Massachusetts Probation Commission, and three private family service agencies.

Since that time, there has been an increasing use of census tract material - an indication of a growing demand on the part of social and health agencies for comparable and reliable statistics.

(1)

At the risk of repeating what has already been outlined at length, it should be stated that a census tract is a geographical unit with fixed boundaries, laid out by the United States Census Bureau for enumeration purposes. Thus it differs from the ward, a political division, the boundaries of which are changed from time to time. For this reason, in any two periods, figures for tracts can be safely compared, while those for wards may be utterly incomparable. Since the census tract is a fairly small unit - Boston is divided into 128 - it has seemed advisable to group them into a number of larger districts. Quite arbitrarily, then, but with an honest endeavor to make boundaries conform in so far as possible to those of well-accepted neighborhoods, fourteen so-called "Health and Welfare Areas" have been established. (See Appendix.)

Several social agencies in Boston operate on a district plan. Few of

(1) - "Social Statistics by Census Tracts in Boston", 1933, p.3.

their boundaries, even though their districts go by the selfsame names,- Roxbury, the West End, Hyde Park, Dorchester,- exactly coincide. It would obviously be impossible, then, to compare the figures for "Roxbury" as given by one agency with those as given by another.

Undoubtedly, the boundaries of these various operating districts are entirely satisfactory to the various agencies. Possibly they think that the boundaries of some census tracts or health and welfare areas are quaint and illogical, and they see no reason why they should change their districts to conform. However, what may seem fantastic to one may be perfectly logical to another, for, in the final analysis, boundaries are nebulous things,- largely matters of opinion and association. By and large, the boundaries of the health and welfare areas conform to the common conception of the districts whose names they bear.

However, districts for operation and districts for statistical recording may well be two quite separate things. Although it may be that the obstacles in the path of uniform operating districts are too many and too high to surmount, there is little excuse for not having uniformity in district recording, when the device for carrying it on is so simple.

MASSACHUSETTS CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Early in 1934, a census, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries, and carried on as a woman's project under the program of the Civil Works Administration, was made to determine the amount of unemployment in the state. At the very outset, the Boston Council of Social Agencies became interested in that part of the project which concerned the City of Boston. In

(1)

spite of the fact that it was not an official census, it is a well-checked enumeration of the population of Boston at a point almost midway between the Federal Census of 1930 and that of 1940, for, in preparing it, constant reference was made to the Federal Census of 1930, and discrepancies were carefully checked, in a few instances whole census tracts being re-enumerated. In addition, it offers a new base for the computation of rates of various kinds. Since it includes a tabulation of children and young people in each age group from 7 to 20 years of age, it affords more satisfactory bases for delinquency rates than does the Federal Census, the age groupings of which do not coincide with the Massachusetts delinquency age groupings, thereby making it necessary to estimate the total number of children of appropriate age in the population. The preliminary report of this census has already been published by the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries, and the final report is about to be issued.

(2)

(3)

(1) - Report of the Census of Unemployment (Preliminary Report), Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries, 1934:

"In order that the census might be exhaustive, it was necessary to make a thorough house-to-house canvass in each city and town. Incidentally, the population of the cities and towns was ascertained, but the census should not be considered as an official census of the population of the State or of the individual cities and towns. (p.2)

"Although this census was not an official census of the population, it is believed that the population returns are substantially correct, because a thorough house-to-house canvass in each city and town was made, in order to secure information relative to all persons who were unemployed." (p.13)

(2) - "Social Statistics by Census Tracts in Boston", 1933, p.20.

(3) - If there are apparent discrepancies between the figures cited in this report and those published in the preliminary report of the census, it is due to the fact that the former includes staff members and inmates of institutions in order that they may be comparable to those of the Federal Census which includes the inmates of institutions. The population of health and welfare areas, as given in the Preliminary Report, (p.218), excludes the staff and inmates of Boston Home for Incurables, Boston Psychopathic Hospital, Boston State Hospital, Charlestown State Prison, Mattapan Sanatorium, Suffolk County Jail, and the institutions in the harbor islands. With all adjustments made, the two sets of figures check.

POPULATION TRENDS

By this census the population of Boston (as of January 2, 1934), exclusive of census tract B-6, which is composed of the population of the harbor islands, was found to be 774,470. ⁽¹⁾ According to the Federal Census of 1930, the comparable figure was 778,978. In the four-year period, then, there has ⁽²⁾ been a slight decrease in the population of the city - 4508 or .6 per cent.

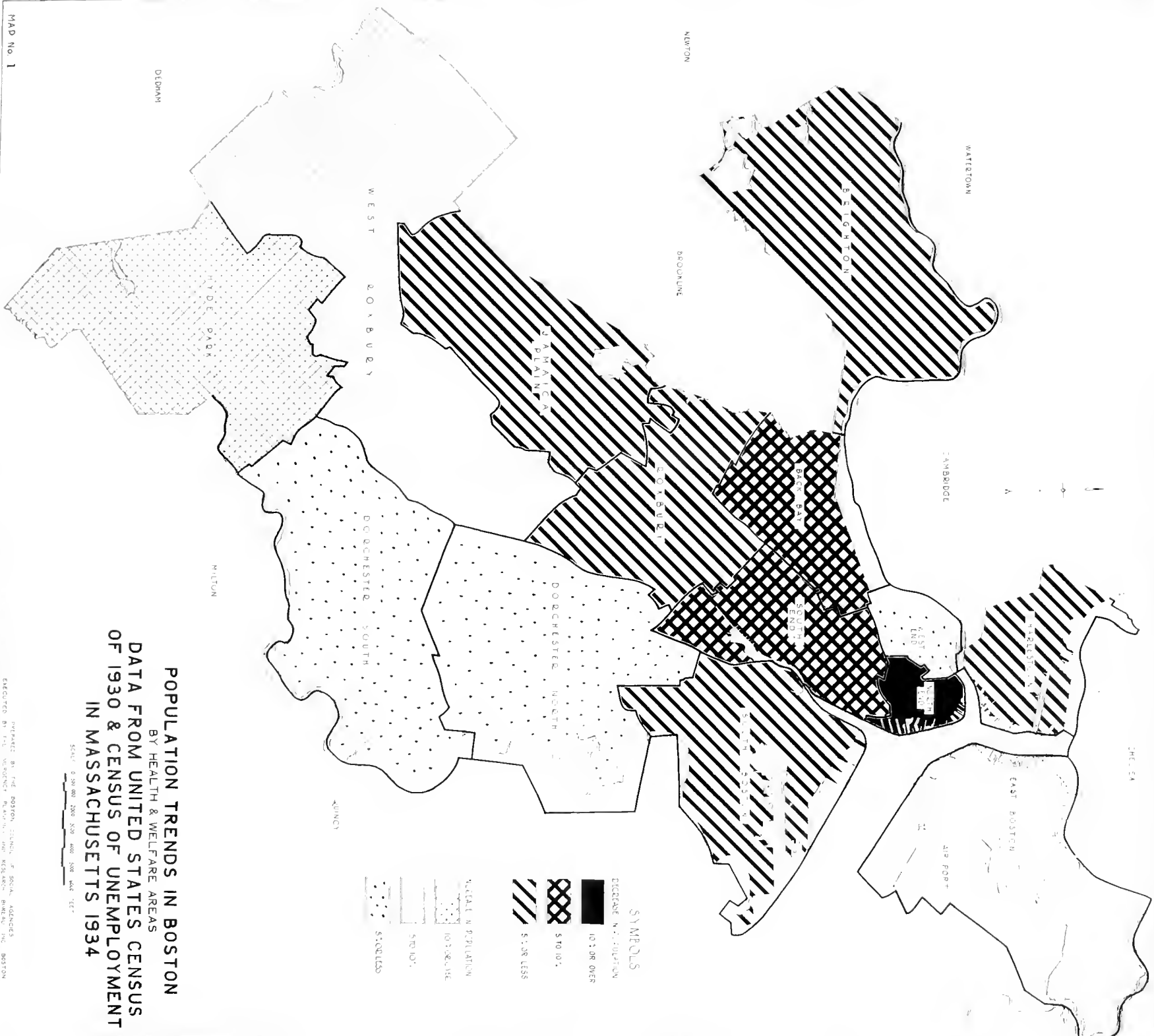
In the preceding decade, 1920-1930, wide changes of population took place in some health and welfare areas, the general rule being decreases in the congested central areas and increases in the less densely settled outer areas. For the most part, the same trends have continued, though in less degree, in the four-year period. (Table 1 and Map I.) Back Bay, Charlestown, the North End, South Boston, and the South End showed decreases in both periods; Dorchester North, Dorchester South, Hyde Park, and West Roxbury consistently increased. Roxbury and East Boston showed little change. Although Brighton, Jamaica Plain, and the West End fluctuated considerably, examination of the figures shows that in general greater movements in population took place in the ten-year period from 1920 to 1930, than in the shorter four-year period between 1930 and 1934. The

(1) - See Footnote 3, p.5.

(2) - Substantiation of this decrease in population is found in the figures of elementary school attendance for the same period. Elementary school attendance bears a fairly constant ratio to total population from year to year, and is, accordingly, a check on it. In Boston, in the five-year period, it, too, has decreased slightly.

Elementary School Enrollment (Grades I- VIII)
in Boston Public and Parochial Schools 1929-1934

	<u>Autumn</u> <u>1934</u>	<u>Autumn</u> <u>1935</u>	<u>Autumn</u> <u>1929</u>
Total	<u>110,195</u>	<u>112,021</u>	<u>115,446</u>
Public Schools	82,656	84,143	87,287
Parochial Schools	27,539	27,878	28,159



POPULATION TRENDS IN BOSTON
 BY HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS
DATA FROM UNITED STATES CENSUS
OF 1930 & CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT
IN MASSACHUSETTS 1934

SCALE: 0 500 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 FEET

PREPARED BY THE BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
 EXECUTED BY THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING AND RESEARCH BUREAU OF BOSTON

movement away from the heart of the city to its outer fringes, noted after the 1930 tabulations, is still in progress.

TABLE 1. POPULATION TRENDS IN BOSTON BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS
1920-1930-1934

Figures for 1920 and 1930 from United States Census;
for 1934 from Massachusetts Census of Unemployment

Health and Welfare Area	Total Population			Increase or Decrease in Population			
				Number		Per cent	
	1920	1930	1934	1920-1930	1930-1934	1920-1930	1930-1934
Boston	748,060	778,976	774,470	+30,916	-4,508	+ 4.1	- 0.6
Back Bay	39,971	38,887	36,191	- 1,084	-2,696	- 2.7	- 6.9
Brighton	42,104	56,362	54,965	+14,258	-1,397	+33.9	- 2.5
Charlestown	34,272	31,663	30,232	- 2,609	-1,431	- 7.6	- 4.5
Dorchester North	114,627	120,053	122,093	+ 5,426	+2,040	+ 4.7	+ 1.7
Dorchester South	50,947	74,445	78,128	+23,498	+3,683	+46.1	+ 4.9
East Boston	60,778	59,242	62,365	- 1,536	+3,123	- 2.6	+ 5.3
Hyde Park	18,209	24,498	27,502	+ 6,289	+3,004	+34.5	+12.3
Jamaica Plain	36,808	44,542	43,451	+ 7,734	-1,091	+21.0	- 2.4
North End	31,683	27,818	23,411	- 3,865	-4,407	-12.2	-15.8
Roxbury	105,771	105,790	104,518	+ 19	-1,272	—	- 1.2
South Boston	65,439	59,728	57,362	- 5,711	-2,366	- 8.7	- 4.0
South End	72,819	60,506	55,293	-12,313	-5,213	-16.9	- 8.6
West End	40,699	28,028	28,687	-12,671	+ 659	-31.1	+ 2.4
West Roxbury	51,256	47,414	50,272	+16,158	+2,858	+51.7	+ 6.0

DENSITY OF POPULATION

Similarly, the changes of population have not been great in the four-year period. No great industrial or business projects have been constructed to clear away whole residential sections, and large housing projects have not as yet been started. (Table 2.)

When figures for 1920, 1930, and 1934 were compared, it was found that those for census tracts F-3 and F-6 fluctuated considerably, due to a different tabulation of the inhabitants of the Wayfarers' Lodge, and the men stationed with the Coast Guard in 1930. Undoubtedly, therefore, the population of the North End as given in the 1930 census was greater and its density higher than in actuality; but even if corrections were made, it would have been then, as it still is, by far the most densely populated district in the whole city. (Map III.)



DEDHAM

WATERTOWN

BROOKLINE

CAMBRIDGE

MILTON

QUINCY

ELLENDALE

- Broad Highway
- Street
- Railroad
- Airport
- Institutions
- Parks & Recreation
- Civic & Public Buildings
- Back Bay

USE OF LAND IN BOSTON

BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

Prepared for the Commission on Urban Planning, Boston, Mass., Dec. 1947



**DENSITY OF POPULATION
IN BOSTON
BY CENSUS TRACTS
DATA FROM CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT
IN MASSACHUSETTS - 1934**



TABLE 2. DENSITY OF POPULATION IN 1930 AND 1934 BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

Health and Welfare Area	Number of Acres Inhabited		Number of Persons per Inhabited Acre	
	1930	1934	1930	1934
Boston	6,945	7,028	112	110
Back Bay	233	235	167	155
Brighton	712	728	79	76
Charlestown	124	119	256	256
Dorchester North	1,105	1,106	109	110
Dorchester South	955	961	78	81
East Boston	295	292	201	214
Hyde Park	539	550	46	50
Jamaica Plain	648	655	69	66
North End	35	35	799	675
Roxbury	730	730	145	143
South Boston	280	275	214	210
South End	188	188	322	295
West End	84	84	334	342
West Roxbury	1,017	1,074	47	47

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment Among General Population

The "Census of Unemployment in Massachusetts" contains information as to the number and kinds of persons who were unemployed on January 2, 1934. In every city and town of the state a house-to-house canvass was made, and persons were classified according to age, sex, color, usual occupation, whether or not they were wholly or partially employed, whether or not they desired jobs, and, if unemployed, for how long. Certain figures were compiled by census tracts, and while not appearing in the published report, except in one summary table, are on file in the office of the Boston Council of Social Agencies for the use of those interested.

(1) - Report of the Census of Unemployment in Massachusetts, p. 218.

One fact which this census determined was the number of employable
 (1) workers - those actually at work, or seeking work - in each tract and area. The number of employable persons has been used here as the base in calculating the percentage of unemployment, rather than the total population, which includes children, old people, and persons not seeking employment, a group which varies considerably in different areas.

TABLE 3. EMPLOYABLE PERSONS IN POPULATION, JANUARY 2, 1934
 (2)
 Figures from Massachusetts Census of Unemployment

Health and Welfare Area	Total Population		Persons Not Seeking Employment		Employable Persons	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Boston	774,470	100	437,403	56.5	337,067	43.5
Back Bay	56,191	100	14,398	39.8	21,793	60.2
Brighton	54,965	100	29,937	54.5	25,028	45.5
Charlestown	30,232	100	18,069	59.8	12,163	40.2
Dorchester North	122,093	100	70,658	57.9	51,435	42.1
Dorchester South	78,128	100	46,240	59.2	31,888	40.8
East Boston	62,365	100	39,273	63.0	23,092	37.0
Hyde Park	27,502	100	16,906	61.5	10,596	38.5
Jamaica Plain	43,451	100	25,030	57.6	18,421	42.4
North End	23,411	100	13,635	58.2	9,776	41.8
Roxbury	104,518	100	60,104	57.5	44,414	42.5
South Boston	57,362	100	34,271	59.7	23,091	40.3
South End	55,293	100	23,903	43.2	31,390	56.8
West End	28,687	100	14,149	49.3	14,538	50.7
West Roxbury	50,272	100	30,830	61.3	19,442	38.7

(1)- "Employable Persons - Includes all persons 14 years of age or over, who were employed or who were able to work and seeking employment. Pupils in school, housewives, persons unable to work, retired and aged persons, and persons voluntarily unemployed for other reasons were not considered as employable. For purposes of this census, children under 14 years of age were considered as unemployable for the reason that under the provisions of the National Recovery Act the employment of children under 14 years of age is prohibited." Report on the Census of Unemployment in Massachusetts, p.10.

(2)- The figures in Table 3 and Table 4 differ in several instances from those already published in the preliminary report. This is due to two reasons:
 (a) The figures in this text include the inhabitants of all institutions, whereas those in the preliminary report exclude a certain number already noted.
 (b) The figures in this text were compiled from tabulations obtained from the Census of Unemployment. Later adjustments, concerned largely with the institutional population, have proved, under present conditions, to be extremely difficult to check. However, in no instance is the discrepancy so great that it materially alters the percentage in any one category.

The percentage of persons who were wholly unemployed, on this basis, ranged all the way from 40.2 per cent in the North End to 12 per cent in Back Bay. (Table 4, Chart I). It must be remembered that the census of unemployment was taken before the establishment of the ERA, and that the CWA had not even reached its peak. The census listed those employed on government projects, 11,948 for the whole city. Though the North End health and welfare area shows the greatest proportion of unemployment, two census tracts in East Boston, however, - B-1 with 51 per cent and B-4 with 49.9 per cent - show the highest percentage of unemployment in the city. (Map IV.)

Twice before, unemployment figures by census tracts have been available. The number of unemployed was established when the United States Census was compiled on April 15, 1930. A second count was made by the Census Bureau in January of the following year. In these tabulations unemployed persons were grouped in one of two categories: first, that composed of persons out of a job, able to work and looking for work; and second, that composed of persons having jobs but on lay-off without pay. All persons who were sick or voluntarily idle were not considered to be unemployed. (Table 5.) Actual comparisons of the three tabulations do not yield valid results. Since the first two were made in different months, there were bound to be seasonal fluctuations. Again, no exact comparison with the figures of the Census of Unemployment can be made as the total number of employable persons is used as a base in this discussion, while the percentages of the other two are based on the total population.

However, these three tabulations can be tied together by ranking the health and welfare areas according to the degree of unemployment in any one, no matter how figured, and then comparing these relative ratings. In Table 6 the area which has the highest percentage of unemployment in any one year is rated as one, while that with the lowest is rated as fourteen, the others com-

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF EMPLOYABLE PERSONS ON JANUARY 2, 1954

TABLE 4.

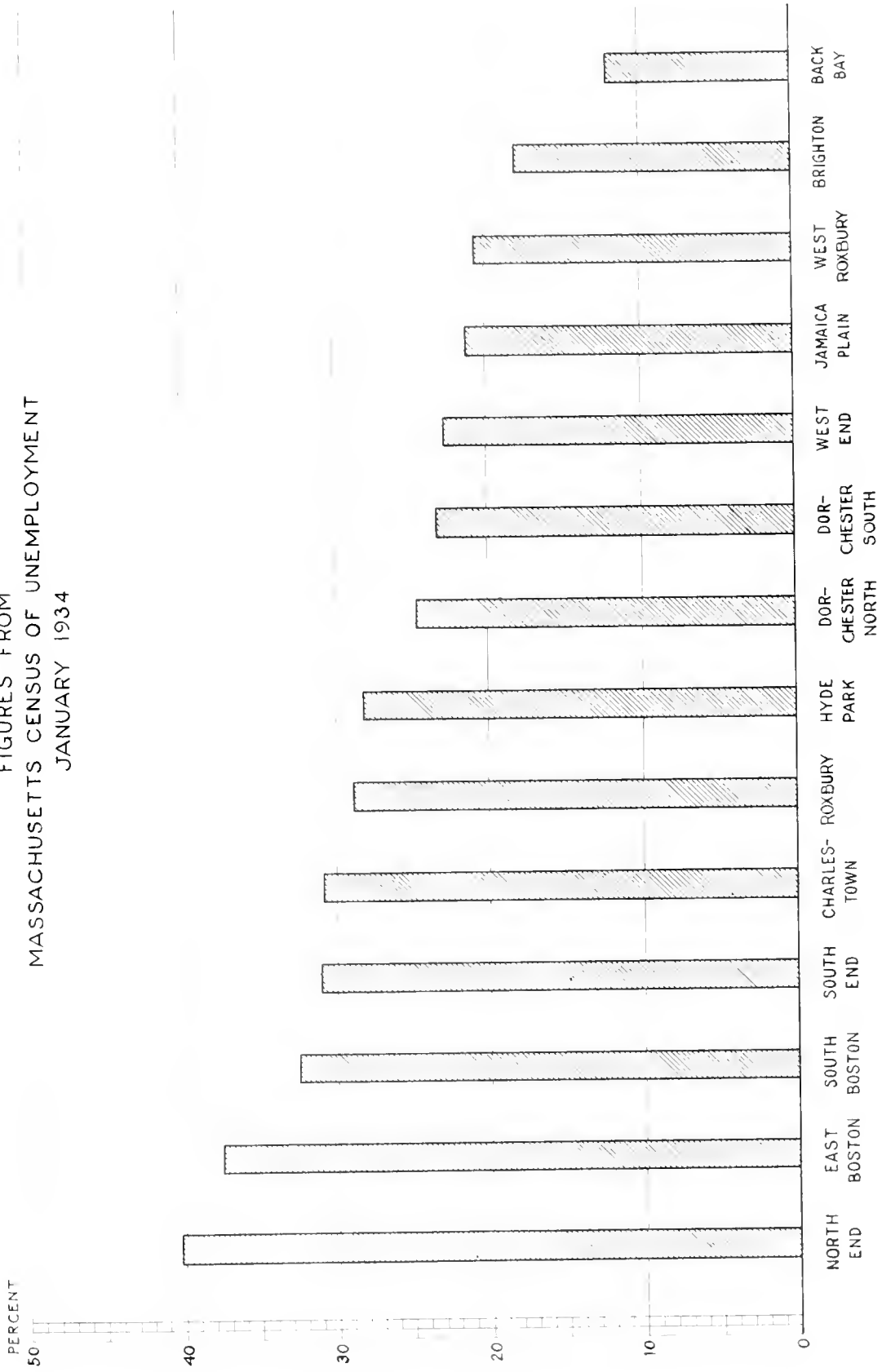
Figures from Massachusetts Census of Unemployment

Health and Welfare Area	Employable Persons		Persons Fully Employed		Persons Partially Employed		Persons Employed on Government Projects		Persons Wholly Unemployed	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Boston	337,067	100.0	211,005	62.6	26,318	7.8	11,669	3.5	88,075	26.1
Back Bay	21,793	100.0	18,246	83.7	685	3.2	241	1.1	2,621	12.0
Brighton	25,028	100.0	18,724	74.8	1,137	4.5	614	2.5	4,553	18.2
Charlestown	12,163	100.0	6,303	51.8	1,398	11.5	714	5.9	3,748	30.8
Dorchester North	51,435	100.0	33,049	64.3	3,926	7.6	1,741	3.4	12,719	24.7
Dorchester South	31,888	100.0	21,564	67.6	2,089	6.5	787	2.5	7,448	23.4
East Boston	23,092	100.0	10,671	46.2	2,601	11.3	1,154	5.0	8,666	37.5
Hyde Park	10,596	100.0	6,120	57.8	1,004	9.4	475	4.5	2,997	28.3
Jamaica Plain	18,421	100.0	12,421	67.4	1,226	6.6	859	4.7	3,915	21.3
North End	9,776	100.0	4,266	43.6	1,292	13.2	291	3.0	3,927	40.2
Roxbury	44,414	100.0	26,098	58.8	3,586	8.1	1,896	4.2	12,834	28.9
South Boston	23,091	100.0	12,524	54.2	1,810	7.8	1,261	5.5	7,496	32.5
South End	31,390	100.0	17,754	56.6	3,090	9.8	760	2.4	9,786	31.2
West End	14,538	100.0	9,730	66.9	1,211	8.3	256	1.8	3,341	23.0
West Roxbury	19,442	100.0	13,535	69.6	1,263	6.5	620	3.2	4,024	20.7

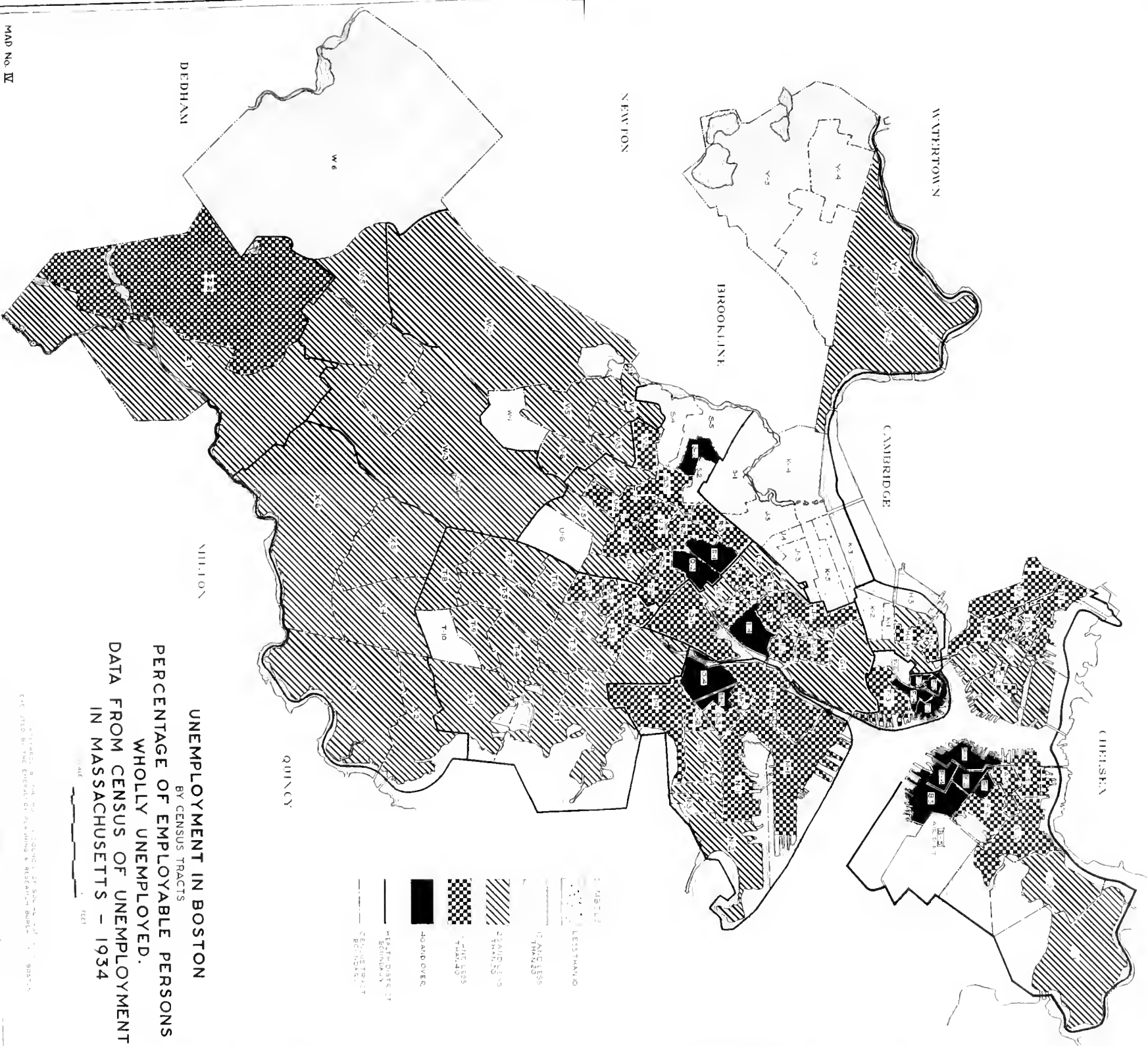
UNEMPLOYMENT IN BOSTON

BY HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS

FIGURES FROM
 MASSACHUSETTS CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT
 JANUARY 1934



PREPARED BY THE BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
 EXECUTED BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC. BOSTON



UNEMPLOYMENT IN BOSTON
 BY CENSUS TRACTS
 PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYABLE PERSONS
 WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED.
 DATA FROM CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT
 IN MASSACHUSETTS - 1934

SCALE 1:250,000

- 1. METRO
- 2. CANTON
- 3. ROSTON
- 4. BOSTON
- 5. QUINCY
- 6. MILLION
- 7. BROOKLINE
- 8. CAMBRIDGE
- 9. WATERTOWN
- 10. DEDHANI
- 11. NEWTON
- 12. UNEMPLOYED
- 13. EMPLOYED
- 14. HOARD OVER
- 15. BOUNDARY
- 16. CENSUS TRACT BOUNDARY

UNEMPLOYMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1934. BOSTON: BUREAU OF STATISTICS, 1935.

TABLE 5.

UNEMPLOYMENT BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS, APRIL, 1930, AND JANUARY, 1931
(1)

Figures from the United States Census

Health and Welfare Area	Unemployed Persons, April, 1930 (2)				Unemployed Persons, January, 1931								
	Total	Class A	Class B	Total	Class A	Class B	Total	Class A	Class B				
	Population	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number				
Boston	778,976	35,014	4.5	26,361	3.4	8,653	1.1	88,790	11.4	70,067	9.0	18,723	2.4
Back Bay	38,887	883	2.3	726	1.9	157	0.4	1,956	5.0	1,741	4.4	215	0.6
Brighton	56,362	1,524	2.7	1,312	2.3	212	0.4	3,447	6.1	2,757	4.9	690	1.2
Charlestown	31,663	1,599	5.0	868	2.7	731	2.3	3,662	11.5	2,801	8.8	861	2.7
Dorchester North	120,053	4,963	4.1	3,907	3.2	1,056	0.9	11,717	9.8	8,741	7.3	2,976	2.5
Dorchester South	74,445	2,278	3.1	1,752	2.4	526	0.7	7,244	9.7	5,318	7.1	1,926	2.6
East Boston	59,242	2,920	4.9	1,962	3.3	958	1.6	9,500	15.7	6,963	11.8	2,537	3.9
Hyde Park	24,498	872	3.6	643	2.6	229	0.9	2,803	11.4	2,001	8.2	802	3.3
Jamaica Plain	44,542	1,395	3.1	1,025	2.3	370	0.8	3,212	7.2	2,808	6.3	404	0.9
North End	27,818	3,538	12.7	3,174	11.4	364	1.3	6,286	22.6	5,436	19.5	850	3.1
Roxbury	105,790	4,452	4.2	3,088	2.9	1,364	1.3	12,546	11.8	10,381	9.8	2,165	2.0
South Boston	59,728	2,840	4.8	2,256	3.8	584	1.0	8,364	14.0	6,683	11.2	1,681	2.8
South End	60,506	5,247	8.7	3,790	6.3	1,457	2.4	11,712	19.4	9,365	15.5	2,347	3.9
West End	28,028	1,186	4.2	1,018	3.6	168	0.6	2,757	9.7	2,242	8.0	495	1.7
West Roxbury	47,414	1,317	2.8	840	1.8	477	1.0	3,804	8.0	2,830	6.0	974	2.0

(1) - These figures for health and welfare areas are based on unpublished material by census tracts furnished by the United States Census Bureau.

(2) - Class A - Persons out of a job, able to work, and looking for a job.

Class B - Persons having jobs but on lay-off without pay, excluding those sick or voluntarily idle.

ing in between. In each of the three years there was little variation in the comparative standing of the areas as regards unemployment. The North End always showed the greatest proportion, while the South End, South Boston and East Boston, and Charlestown varied slightly as to position from year to year, but always showed higher percentages of unemployment than other areas. The Back Bay area in each of the three counts showed the lowest percentage of unemployment.

TABLE 6. RANK OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS IN UNEMPLOYMENT (1)
1930, 1931, AND 1934

Health and Welfare Area	January 1934	January 1931	April 1930
North End	1	1	1
East Boston	2	3	4
South Boston	3	4	5
South End	4	2	2
Charlestown	5	6	3
Roxbury	6	5	6
Hyde Park	7	7	9
Dorchester North	8	8	8
Dorchester South	9	9	10
West End	10	10	7
Jamaica Plain	11	12	11
West Roxbury	12	11	12
Brighton	13	13	13
Back Bay	14	14	14

(1) - 1 - Highest percentage of unemployment.
14 - Lowest percentage of unemployment.

Unemployment Among Young People

Young people who have recently left school and who have been unable to find employment since that time, are probably receiving more study and thought than any other group in the community. Figures showing unemployment among young people by census tracts are not available, but those for the city as a whole show the general trends.

The high percentage of boys and girls from 14 to 17 years of age who were classified as "not seeking employment", was, of course, due to the fact (1) that school attendance is the highest in this group. Not until the 18-year age group was reached did this distribution change. Then, as one would expect, the proportion of those seeking employment became rapidly much greater, especially among boys. (Table 7.)

TABLE 7. EMPLOYABLE WORKERS AND THOSE NOT SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, AMONG YOUNG PERSONS 14-20 YEARS OF AGE, BOSTON

Age Groups	Total		Not Seeking Employment		Employable Workers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<u>Boys</u>						
14 Years	6,395	100.0	6,382	99.8	13	.2
15 "	6,070	100.0	6,027	99.3	43	.7
16 "	6,302	100.0	5,502	87.3	800	12.7
17 "	6,209	100.0	4,256	68.5	1,953	31.5
18 "	6,128	100.0	2,532	41.5	3,596	58.7
19 "	6,169	100.0	1,322	21.4	4,847	78.6
20 "	6,026	100.0	826	13.7	5,200	86.3
21-24 "	24,811	100.0	2,570	10.4	22,241	89.6
<u>Girls</u>						
14 Years	6,407	100.0	6,403	99.9	4	.1
15 "	6,117	100.0	6,075	99.3	42	.7
16 "	6,474	100.0	5,679	87.7	795	12.3
17 "	6,167	100.0	4,254	69.0	1,913	31.0
18 "	6,570	100.0	2,721	41.4	3,849	58.6
19 "	6,458	100.0	1,970	30.5	4,488	69.5
20 "	6,600	100.0	1,768	26.8	4,832	73.2
21-24 "	28,891	100.0	9,810	34.0	19,081	66.0

(1) - The increase in attendance in Boston public high schools in the past six years is noted in the following figures:

1929	26,014	1932	29,466
1930	27,393	1933	30,687
1931	29,089	1934	31,739

Unemployment was particularly high in the younger groups of those seeking work, and diminished rather steadily as the age increased. On the whole, unemployment among the girls was slightly lower than among the boys. (Table 8, Chart II.)

TABLE 8. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF YOUNG PERSONS 14-20 YEARS OF AGE, BOSTON

Age Groups	Employable Workers		Wholly Unemployed	
	Number		Number	Per cent
<u>Boys</u>				
14 Years	13		1	-- *
15 "	43		28	--
16 "	800		582	72.8
17 "	1,953		1,362	69.7
18 "	3,596		2,173	60.4
19 "	4,847		2,472	51.0
20 "	5,200		2,286	44.0
21-24 "	22,241		7,570	34.0
<u>Girls</u>				
14 Years	4		2	-- *
15 "	42		32	--
16 "	795		615	77.4
17 "	1,913		1,290	67.4
18 "	3,849		2,166	56.3
19 "	4,488		2,195	48.9
20 "	4,832		1,912	39.6
21-24 "	19,081		4,634	24.3

* Percentage not computed where base figure is less than 100.

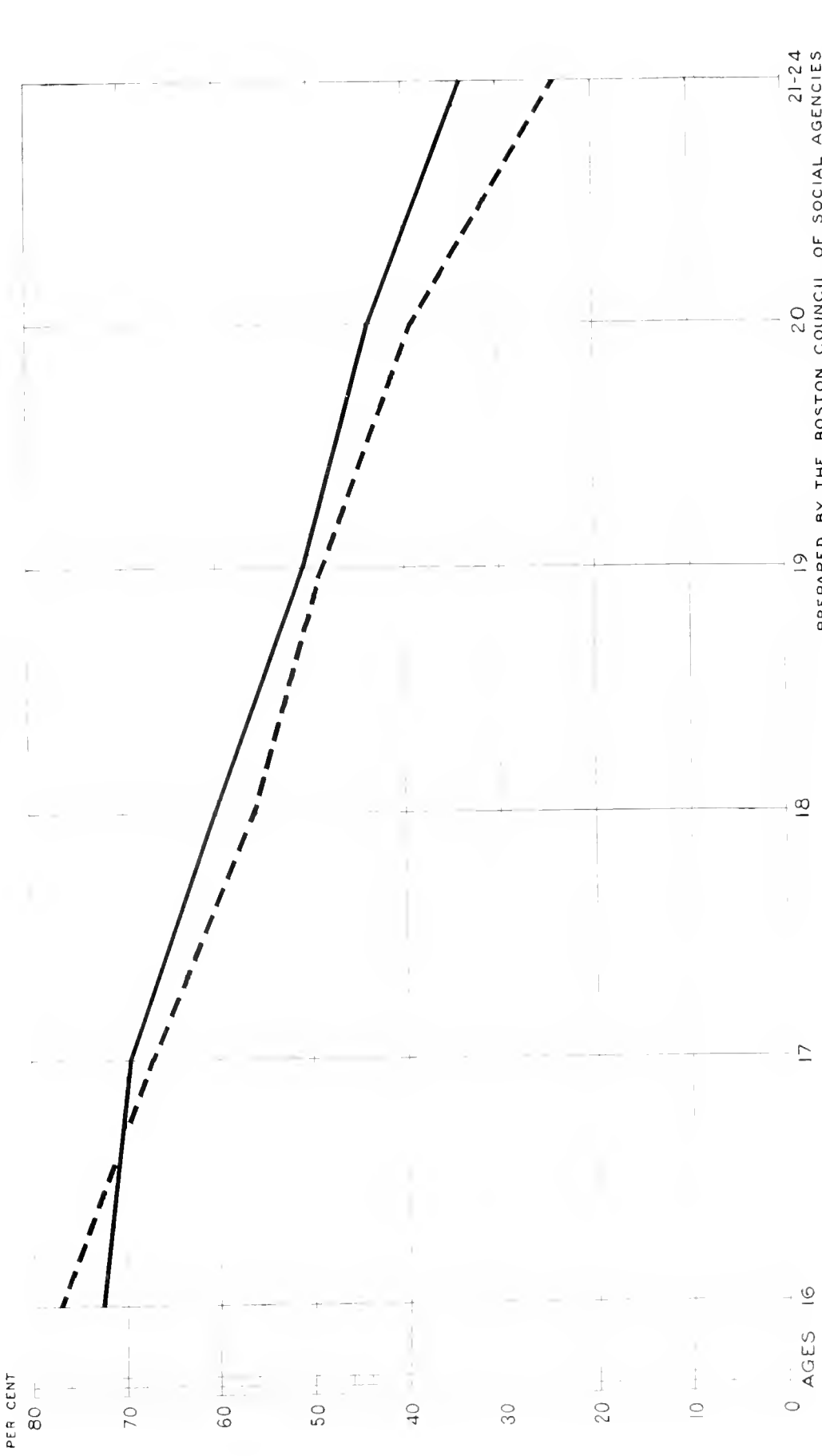
Unemployment Among The Colored

There has been conjecture as to the comparative degree of unemployment among white and colored persons. The 1934 Census of Unemployment furnished information on this point. Two sets of comparable figures, neither of which was altogether satisfactory, were available. First, those which showed the percentage of unemployment among white and colored persons in the city as

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PERSONS IN BOSTON

AGES 16 - 24

FIGURES FROM
MASSACHUSETTS CENSUS OF UNEMPLOYMENT
JANUARY 1934



a whole; and second, those which showed it in a group of census tracts in which colored residents were numerous.

There are nine census tracts in Boston having a colored population of more than 500. Figures for these tracts and for the city as a whole are given in the following tables.

Unemployment among colored persons was higher than it was among white persons for Boston as a whole, being 33.9 per cent in the former, and 25.9 per cent in the latter instance.

TABLE 9. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG RACIAL GROUPS IN BOSTON
JANUARY 2, 1934

Figures from Massachusetts Census of Unemployment

Racial Groups	Employable Persons		Persons Wholly Unemployed	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
White	327,203	100.0	84,734	25.9
Colored	9,965	100.0	3,376	33.9
Other	846	100.0	182	21.5

In the nine census tracts already mentioned, unemployment among the colored residents was generally higher than among the white residents, although in two instances - census tracts R-1 and R-3 - the reverse was true. (Table 10.) Unemployment among colored women was greater than it was among the men in six of the nine tracts, and was also greater than it was among white women in the same number of instances.

DELINQUENCY

Census tract statistics are heir to ills which are common to all statistics. They must, accordingly, be interpreted with discrimination. Great precaution must be taken when numbers are small. This difficulty is met particularly in the matter of delinquency figures, where in any one tract the numbers are small, and are, accordingly, subject to wide statistical fluctuations. For

TABLE 10. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG WHITE AND COLORED PERSONS IN NINE CENSUS TRACTS IN BOSTON, JANUARY 2, 1934

Figures from Massachusetts Census of Unemployment

Census Tract	Number of Employable Workers				Persons Wholly Unemployed				Per cent of Total			
	White		Colored		White		Colored		White	Colored		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Total	9,604	4,253	4,970	3,015	5,112	1,341	1,615	1,126	32.4	31.5	32.5	37.3
R-1	343	131	1,349	835	158	59	516	343	46.1	45.0	38.3	41.1
U-5	1,828	769	685	347	468	235	186	161	25.6	30.3	27.2	46.4
L-2	1,102	458	945	577	226	119	196	147	20.5	26.0	20.7	25.5
R-3	679	274	522	402	251	97	161	131	34.0	35.4	30.8	32.6
R-2	831	301	332	181	329	106	132	82	39.6	35.2	40.1	45.3
I-3	1,342	694	389	263	469	253	165	108	34.9	36.5	42.4	41.1
J-2	902	544	351	210	263	126	98	73	29.2	23.2	48.7	34.8
U-2	1,455	653	238	135	468	197	72	52	32.2	30.2	30.3	38.5
Q-2	1,122	429	159	65	500	151	88	29	44.6	35.2	55.3	44.6

example, a tract may have 500 children between the ages of 7 and 16. In one year 10 juvenile delinquents would give it a delinquency rate of 20 per 1000 juvenile population. In the next year there might be 20 delinquents, which would cause its rate to jump to 40 - a rise probably out of all proportion in apparent importance to the problems involved. The difficulty of small numbers can be overcome in two ways: annual figures can be collected for larger districts, for example, health and welfare areas; or figures for census tracts can be averaged over a period of time. Either process produces larger numbers which are more stable. Rates for individual census tracts for any one year, when numbers are small, should be regarded only as danger signals indicating the need for further and more intensive study.

In 1930 the Massachusetts Probation Commission instituted a comprehensive statistical system which yielded, among other things, counts by census tracts of Boston's delinquents from 7 - 16 (Juvenile Delinquents), and from 17 - 20 years of age. The older group showed a delinquency rate far higher than that of the juvenile group, and seemed, therefore, to present the greater problem of the two. Unfortunately, curtailment in the office of the Probation Commission resulted in the abolition of the compilation of statistics by census tracts of the older group. It is to be hoped that it can be restored in the near future, both because the problems which the older group present are of major importance, and, as already described, because continuity is a factor of prime importance in this method of recording. Since no information is available for the older group which has not already been published, no figures are given here. Fortunately, statistics for juvenile delinquents are available for four years.

The number of juvenile delinquents has not varied greatly in the city as a whole in any one of the four years for which figures are available. (Table 11, Chart III, Map V.) Generally speaking, the congested districts - Charlestown, East Boston, the North End, South Boston, the South End, and the West End -

TABLE 11. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS, 1931 - 1934

Health and Welfare Area	Population 7-16 Years	(1) Number of Juvenile Delinquents					Juvenile Delinquency Rate per 1000 of Population 7-16 Years				4-Year Period
		1931	1932	1933	1934	1931	1932	1933	1934		
		2,530	2,696	2,263	2,261	20.0	21.3	17.9	17.9		
Boston	126,345	2,530	2,696	2,263	2,261	20.0	21.3	17.9	17.9	19.3	
Back Bay	2,010	40	45	24	24	19.9	22.4	11.9	11.9	16.5	
Brighton	7,426	104	105	74	74	14.0	14.1	9.9	9.9	12.0	
Charlestown	5,627	186	173	143	141	33.1	30.7	25.4	25.1	28.6	
Dorchester North	21,048	294	286	211	291	14.0	13.6	10.0	13.8	12.9	
Dorchester South	14,118	130	119	89	78	9.2	8.4	6.3	5.5	7.4	
East Boston	11,851	468	458	411	449	39.5	38.6	34.7	37.9	37.7	
Hyde Park	5,563	71	45	44	62	12.8	8.1	7.9	11.1	9.8	
Jamaica Plain	6,981	103	79	66	69	14.8	11.3	9.5	9.9	11.3	
North End	4,683	133	228	251	159	28.4	48.7	53.6	33.9	41.2	
Roxbury	18,035	293	378	245	251	16.2	20.9	13.6	13.9	16.2	
South Boston	11,763	371	284	268	316	31.5	24.1	22.8	26.9	26.3	
South End	5,947	138	223	163	133	23.2	37.5	27.4	22.4	27.6	
West End	3,478	134	207	235	168	38.5	59.5	67.6	48.3	53.5	
West Roxbury	7,815	65	66	39	46	8.3	8.4	5.0	5.9	6.9	

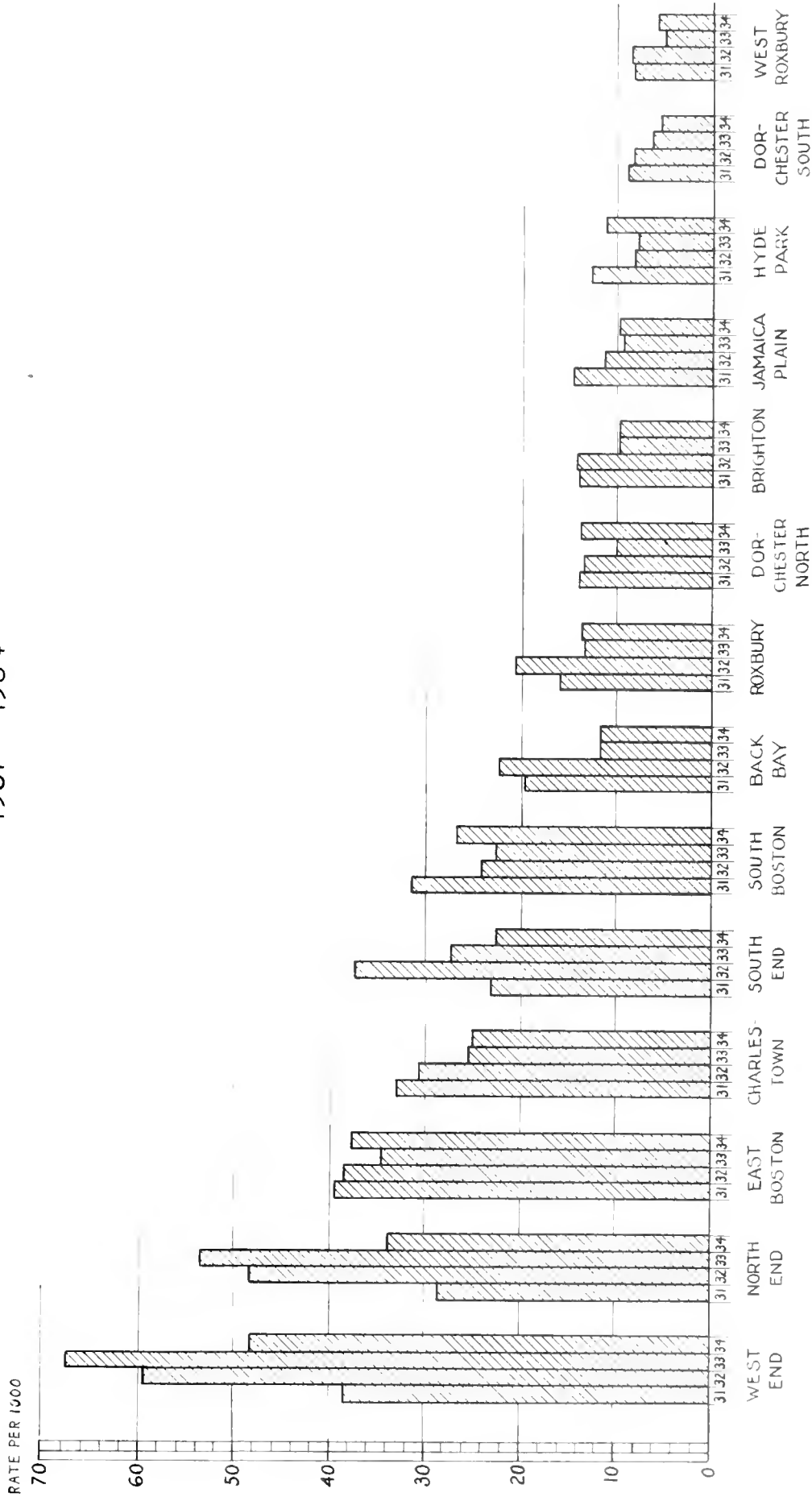
(1) - Figures from the Massachusetts Probation Commission.

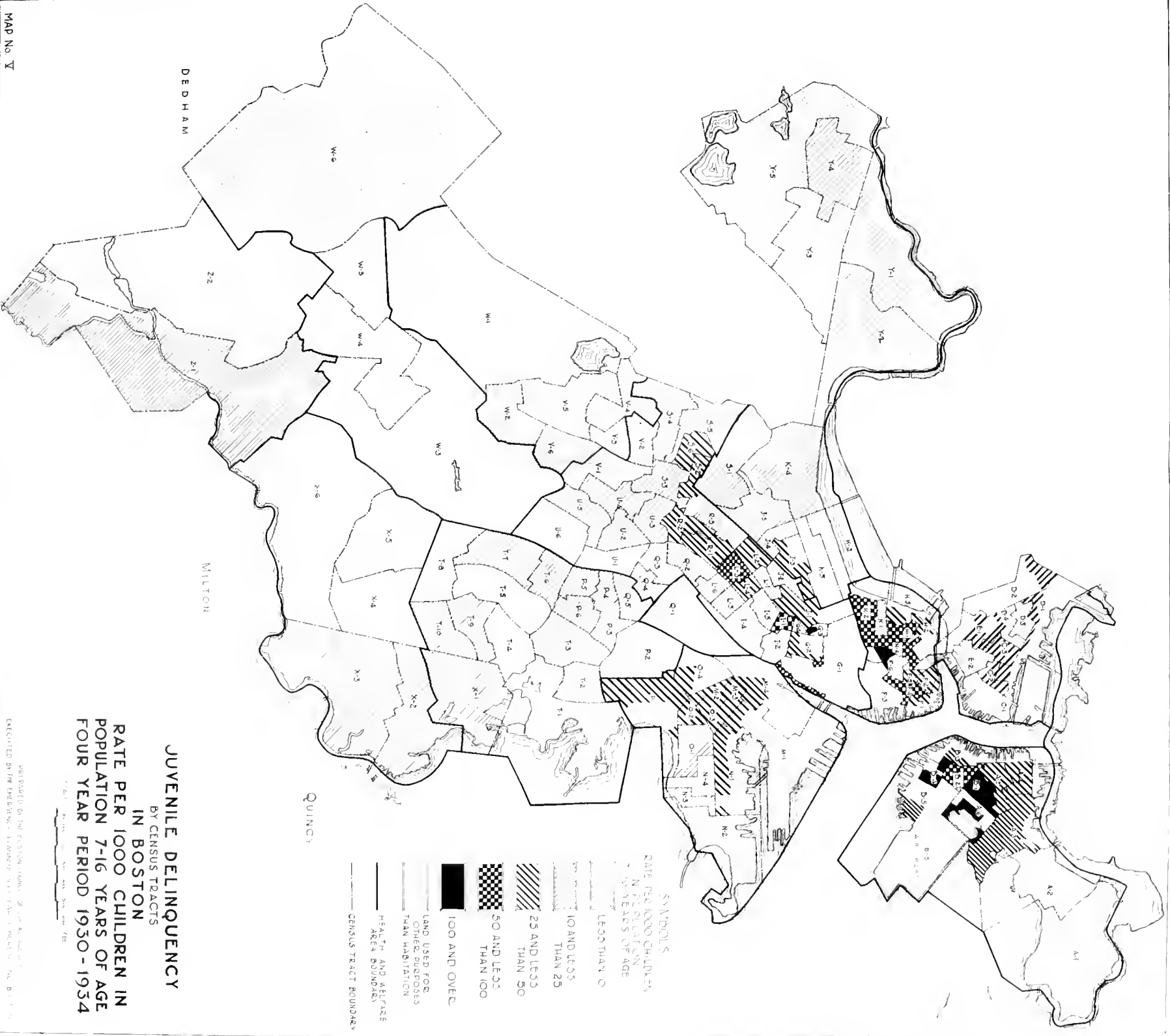
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN BOSTON

BY HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS

RATE PER 1000 CHILDREN IN POPULATION 7-16 YEARS OF AGE

1931 - 1934





**JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
IN BOSTON
BY CENSUS TRACTS**

**RATE PER 1000 CHILDREN IN
POPULATION 7-16 YEARS OF AGE
FOUR YEAR PERIOD 1930 - 1934**

PREPARED BY THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND RESEARCH, CITY OF BOSTON
CALCULATED BY THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

show the highest proportion of delinquency. There is surprisingly little change between the comparative rankings of the different areas from year to year. One may have a delinquency rate which is a little lower in any one year, but by and large, the delinquency rates in each have stayed at a fairly constant level.

(1)

TABLE 12. RANK OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Health and Welfare Area	1934	1933	1932	1931
West End	1	1	1	2
North End	2	2	2	5
East Boston	3	3	3	1
Charlestown	4	5	5	3
South End	5	4	4	11
South Boston	6	6	6	4
Back Bay	7	8	7	6
Roxbury	8	7	8	7
Dorchester North	9	9	10	10
Brighton	10	10	9	9
Jamaica Plain	11	11	11	8
Hyde Park	12	12	14	12
Dorchester South	13	13	12	13
West Roxbury	14	14	13	14

(1) - 1 - Highest delinquency rate.
 14 - Lowest delinquency rate.

The number of juvenile delinquents for the last two years is considerably less than for the first two years - an encouraging sign, perhaps, in these days when the devastating effects of the depression are thought to be undermining morale at every point.

HEALTH

From the first, the Boston Health Department has been one of the organizations most closely concerned with the compilation of statistics by census tracts, for through its good offices the Federal Census figures of 1930 were obtained and the first street list was published. Each year it compiles statistics for general and infant mortality and for tuberculosis.

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rates are the ratio of the number of deaths of infants under one year to the number of births, exclusive of still births, in a calendar year. Since the number of deaths in any one census tract in any one year is usually small, infant mortality rates by census tracts are subject to the pitfalls already outlined in the section on juvenile delinquency. The same precautions must, therefore, be taken in their interpretation as with delinquency rates by census tracts. Annual figures for health and welfare areas, and rates based on the average number of cases in four years for each census tract, are used in these considerations of infant mortality.

The general trend of the infant mortality rate for the city and the state as a whole for the five-year period, 1930-1934, was downward.

<u>Infant Mortality Rates:</u>	<u>Massachusetts</u>	<u>Boston</u>
1930	60.3	66.6
1931	54.8	59.4
1932	52.9	57.5
1933	52.0	58.9
1934	49.2	54.8*

* Includes non-residents. Rate exclusive of non-residents would probably be slightly lower.

Infant mortality rates in the different health and welfare areas fluctuated more than did those of unemployment and delinquency. It has already been shown that certain areas maintain a fairly steady relative rank as regards these other factors. A few areas show a certain degree of consistency in their rank year by year, - Charlestown, East Boston, and the South End, usually having high rates, and Jamaica Plain, Dorchester South, and West Roxbury having low rates; but otherwise the districts fluctuate considerably from year to year. (Table 13, Chart IV, Table 14.)

TABLE 13. INFANT MORTALITY BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

Health and Welfare Area	Number of Births (1)				Number of Deaths (2)				Death Rate per 1,000 Births 4-Year Period				
	1930	1931	1932	1933	1930	1931	1932	1933	1930	1931	1932	1933	
Boston	13,892	12,975	13,091	12,179	326	772	753	717	66.6	59.4	57.5	58.9	60.8
Back Bay	329	337	348	304	22	27	22	14	66.8	80.1	63.2	46.0	64.5
Brighton	1,045	944	967	865	59	48	34	52	56.4	50.8	35.1	60.1	50.5
Charlestown	543	454	515	471	45	52	34	39	82.8	114.5	66.0	82.8	85.7
Dorchester North	2,206	2,049	2,036	1,881	153	107	123	104	69.3	52.2	60.4	55.5	59.6
Dorchester South	1,274	1,267	1,232	1,122	69	61	58	52	54.1	48.1	47.1	46.3	49.0
East Boston	1,310	1,228	1,227	1,126	103	86	70	68	78.6	70.0	57.0	60.4	66.8
Hyde Park	454	436	442	414	17	24	23	19	37.4	55.0	52.0	45.9	47.5
Jamaica Plain	837	732	787	711	39	32	41	36	46.5	43.7	52.1	50.6	48.2
North End	495	461	468	411	40	37	17	21	80.8	80.2	36.3	51.1	62.7
Roxbury	2,160	1,975	1,956	1,847	140	118	135	134	64.8	59.7	69.0	72.5	64.4
South Boston	1,176	1,086	1,051	1,081	105	76	83	63	89.2	69.9	79.0	58.3	74.4
South End	857	797	831	813	76	58	46	61	88.6	72.7	55.3	75.0	73.1
West End	408	440	414	378	19	13	24	24	46.5	29.5	58.0	63.4	48.8
West Roxbury	798	769	817	755	39	33	43	30	48.8	42.9	52.6	39.7	46.2

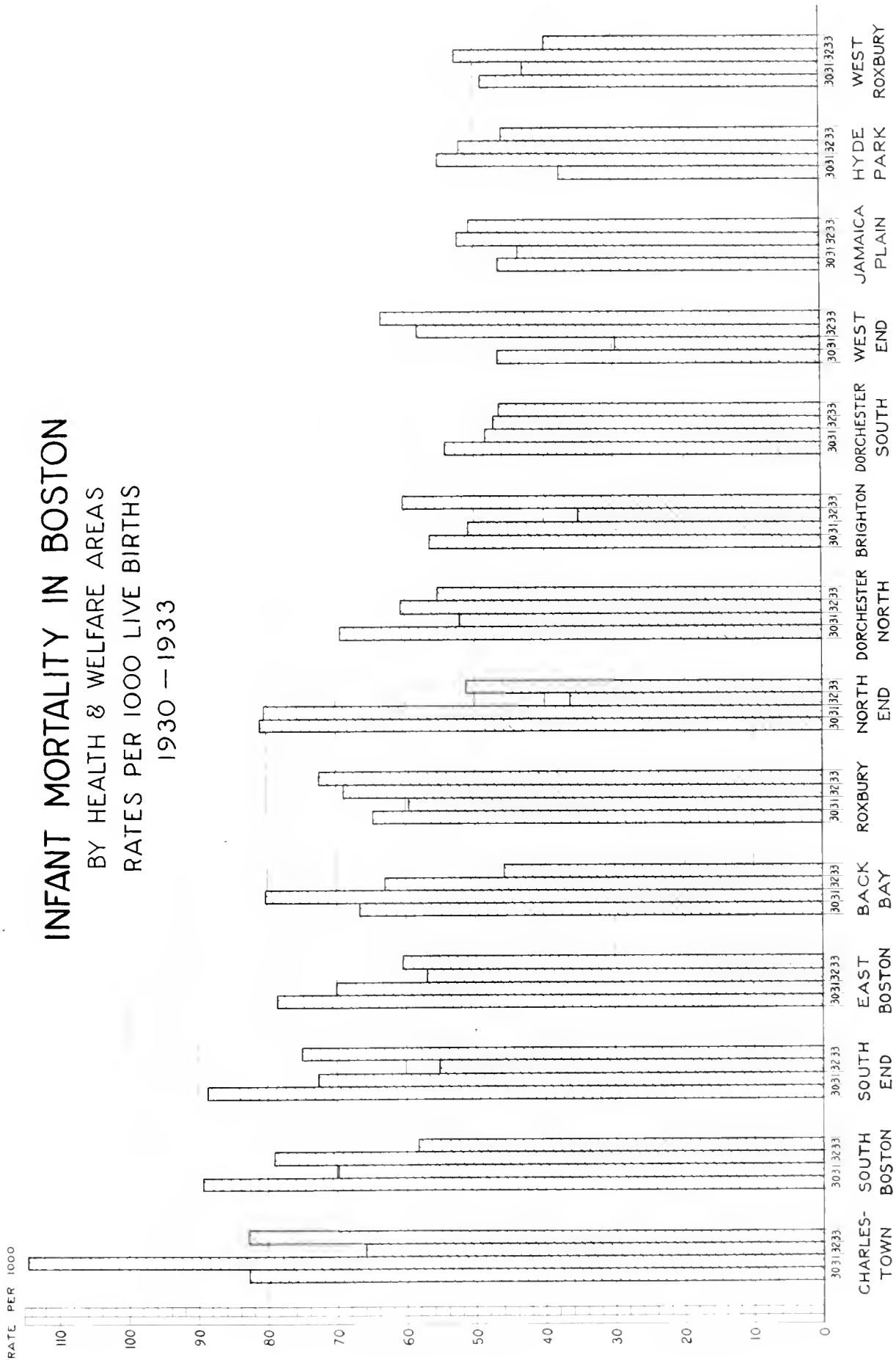
(1) - Figures from Boston Health Department.

(2) - Figures for 1934 not available at time of publication.

INFANT MORTALITY IN BOSTON

BY HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS
 RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS

1930 - 1933



PREPARED BY THE BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
 EXECUTED BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC. BOSTON

(1)

TABLE 14 RANK OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS IN INFANT MORTALITY
1930-1933

Health and Welfare Area	1933	1932	1931	1930
Charlestown	1	3	1	3
South End	2	8	4	2
Roxbury	3	2	7	8
West End	4	6	14	13
East Boston	5	7	5	5
Brighton	6	14	10	9
South Boston	7	1	6	1
Dorchester North	8	5	9	6
North End	9	13	2	4
Jamaica Plain	10	10	12	12
Dorchester South	11	12	11	10
Back Bay	12	4	3	7
Hyde Park	13	11	8	14
West Roxbury	14	9	13	11

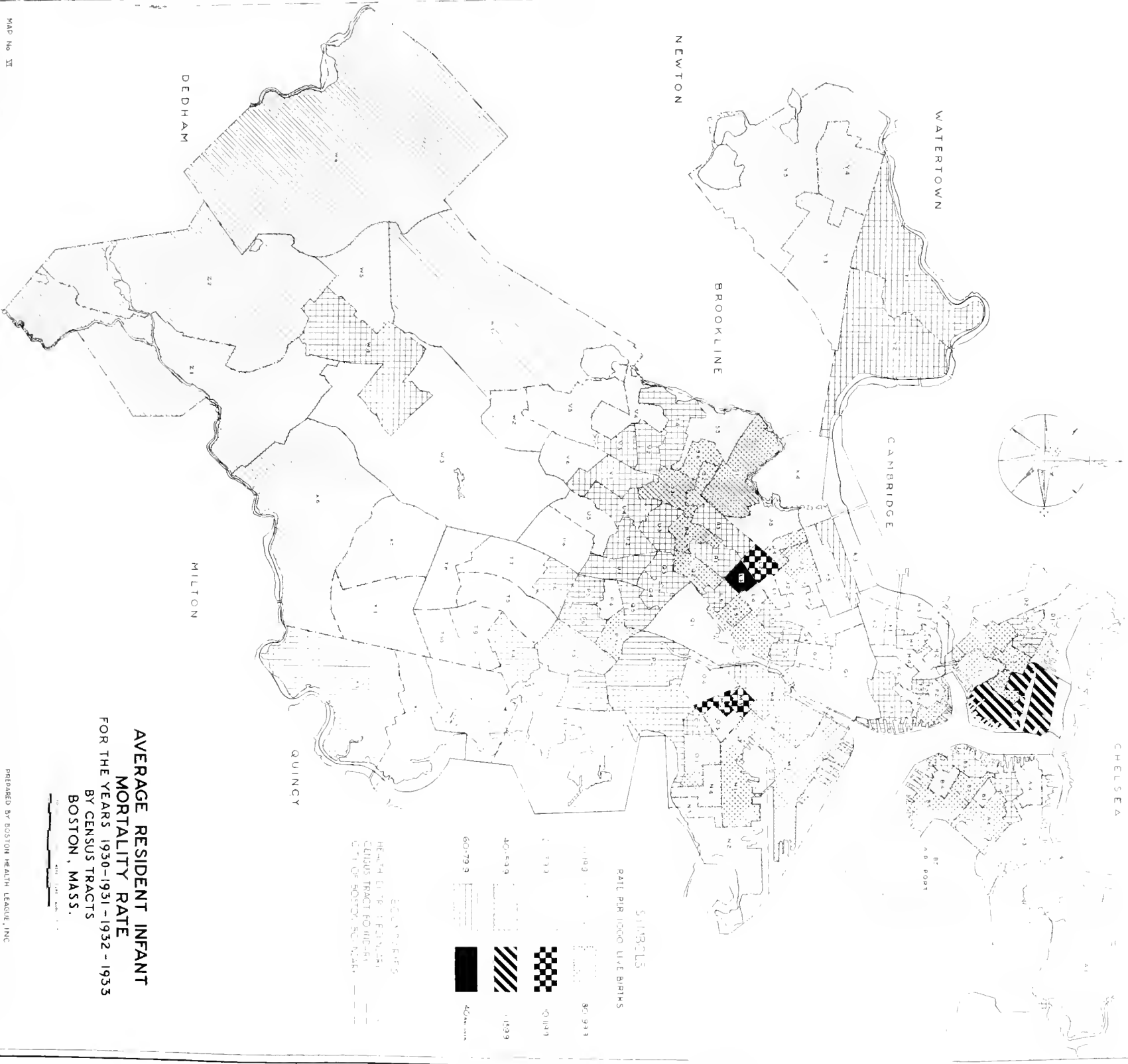
(1) - 1 - Highest infant mortality rate.
14 - Lowest infant mortality rate.

In the four-year period, Charlestown, South Boston, and the South End had the highest infant mortality rates for health and welfare areas; while the following census tracts had the highest rates among the smaller districts.

(Map VI.)

<u>Census Tract</u>	<u>Health and Welfare Area</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>
L-3	South End	152.6
C-1	Charlestown	138.2
L-2	South End	102.7
M-2	South Boston	100.0
M-3	South Boston	100.0

It seems to be an almost impossible task exactly to determine the causes which create high or low infant mortality rates. After the publication of the infant mortality statistics for 1930 and 1931, such interest was aroused



AVERAGE RESIDENT INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR THE YEARS 1930-1931 - 1932 - 1933 BY CENSUS TRACTS BOSTON, MASS.

Prepared by BOSTON HEALTH LEAGUE, INC.
 EXECUTED BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU, INC. BOSTON

over the wide difference in the rates for Charlestown and the West End - two crowded tenement house districts - that a study involving both medical and social factors was made under the auspices of a committee of the Boston Health League. The study failed to isolate any one single fact or group of facts as the primary cause in the differing rates, but pointed toward the need for strengthening the organized medical facilities in Charlestown.

Tuberculosis

The statistics for tuberculosis cover two aspects of the problem,- the number of new cases reported in the course of the year, and the number of deaths.

Since tuberculosis rates are worked out on a basis of one case to every 100,000 population, and since the number either of new cases or deaths in a year is not very great, even in any one health and welfare area, wide fluctuations occur. Hence, only the rates based on the average number of cases for the four-year period for health and welfare areas are used here. Persons concerned with the problems of tuberculosis will, of course, want to study the more detailed figures which, however, because of the difficulties already outlined, should be used only in special research.

The point of greatest significance in this consideration of tuberculosis is the fact that the South End area showed such extraordinarily high rates both for new cases and deaths. Neither is the result of a large number in any one year, but of a rather continuously large number in each of the four years.

(Table 15, Chart V.)

	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>
New Cases	240	214	184	157
Deaths	94	88	80	80

TABLE 15. TUBERCULOSIS IN BOSTON BY HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS
AVERAGE FOR FOUR YEARS, 1930 - 1934

Health and Welfare Area	Total (1) Population	(2) Tuberculosis			
		New Cases		Deaths	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Boston	774,470	4,545	146.7	1,809	58.0
Back Bay	36,191	182	125.0	50	34.5
Brighton	54,965	230	104.6	79	35.9
Charlestown	30,232	208	172.0	93	76.9
Dorchester North	122,093	550	112.6	212	43.4
Dorchester South	78,128	274	87.6	99	31.6
East Boston	62,365	334	133.8	114	45.6
Hyde Park	29,502	107	90.6	39	33.0
Jamaica Plain	43,451	177	101.8	83	47.7
North End	23,411	150	160.1	52	55.5
Roxbury	104,518	717	171.5	306	73.3
South Boston	57,562	387	168.6	196	85.4
South End	55,293	795	359.4	342	154.6
West End	28,687	172	149.0	60	52.2
West Roxbury	50,272	229	113.8	83	41.2

(1) - Rates based on 1934 enumeration of population.

(2) - Figures from the Boston Health Department.

RELIEF AND FAMILY SERVICE

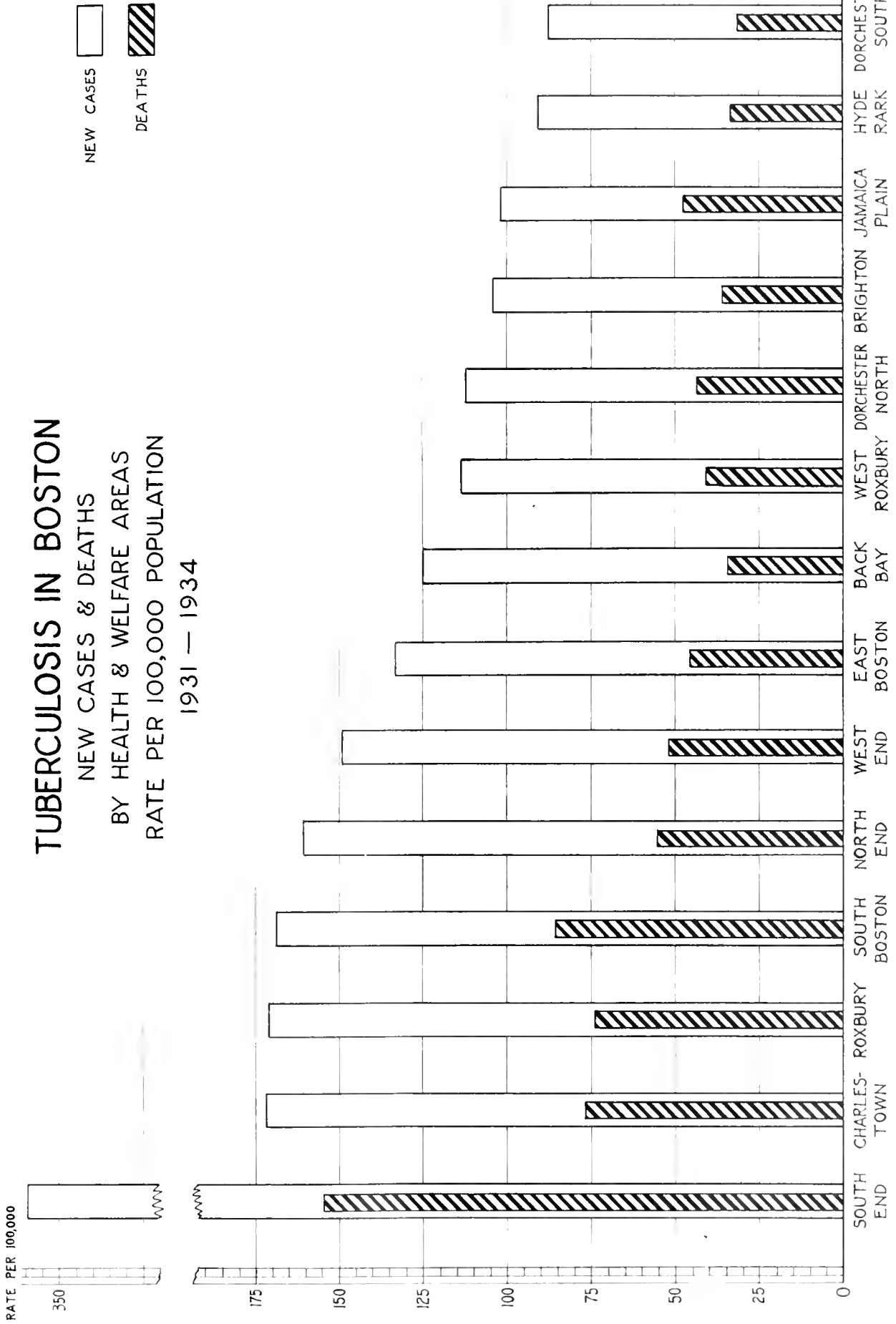
One section of "Social Statistics by Census Tracts in Boston" was devoted to a discussion of the distribution throughout the city of the cases of the Department of Public Welfare, and three private family service agencies, - the Boston Provident Association, the Family Welfare Society, and the Jewish Family Welfare Association. Unfortunately, comparable material is not available at this time as the earlier tabulations were the result of a special experiment.

In the interim, however, the Family Welfare Society has instituted the collection of statistics by census tracts and has just made available figures for its last operating year; and the Department of Public Welfare is

TUBERCULOSIS IN BOSTON

NEW CASES & DEATHS
BY HEALTH & WELFARE AREAS
RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION

1931 — 1934



PREPARED BY THE BOSTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
EXECUTED BY THE EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESEARCH BUREAU INC. BOSTON

incorporating the method into its newly reorganized record system. In the not far distant future; therefore, statistics comparable to those of delinquency and health will be available for this field.

Table 16 correlates the number of major service cases with the number of families in the area. While the proportion of families served in every area is small, it is considerably greater in some areas than in others. The large number of cases in Roxbury, 24 per cent of the total case load, becomes of less relative importance when due recognition is given to the population of the area.

TABLE 16. RATIO OF MAJOR SERVICE CASES OF FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY TO POPULATION

(1) Health and Welfare Area	(2) Families	Family Welfare Society Cases	
		Number	Per cent of Families
Boston (Exclusive of South End Area)	178,747	3,080	1.7
Hyde Park	6,450	223	3.5
Roxbury	26,891	863	3.2
Charlestown	7,135	192	2.7
North End	5,230	121	2.3
South Boston	13,714	308	2.2
Jamaica Plain	11,058	229	2.1
East Boston	13,675	229	1.7
Brighton	15,774	207	1.3
Back Bay	11,824	147	1.2
West End	7,687	91	1.2
West Roxbury	11,906	123	1.0
Dorchester South	17,855	124	.7
Dorchester North	29,548	223	.8

(1) - Figures for the South End, in which there were 554 cases, are omitted from this table as truly comparable figures cannot be obtained because of the presence of large numbers of rooming houses. For a full discussion of this point see "Social Statistics in Boston", 1933, p.23.

(2) - Figures from Massachusetts Census of Unemployment.

A study of these figures raises many questions. Is the greater demand

for service in some districts the result of greater need? Or is it the result of special emergencies which may be present one year and absent the next? Is the demand less in some districts because of greater activities of other family service agencies? Or do the working agreements between all agencies, both public and private, demand different types of service in the different areas? Would more detailed study of other neighborhood problems result in a different division of the load?

CONCLUSIONS

This report summarizes the statistics by census tracts for Boston now available from all sources. From the use which has already been made of them, it is believed that they will be an essential adjunct, especially as their scope becomes widened, to program building both of individual agencies and of neighborhoods. It is to be hoped, therefore, that more and more those agencies which operate on a city-wide basis - hospitals, health agencies, character building agencies, children's agencies, as well as other family service and relief agencies, - will build this method into their record keeping in order that their experience may thus be pooled for this common interpretation of problems and needs.

APPENDIX

BOUNDARIES OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS IN BOSTON

BOUNDARIES OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS IN BOSTON

HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

CENSUS TRACTS

BOUNDARIES

Back Bay

J-3, J-4, J-5
K-3, K-4, K-5,
S-1

Charles River, Berkeley,
Back Sts., Embankment Rd.,
Beacon, Arlington, Provi-
dence, Berkeley, Stanhope
Sts., Trinity Place,
Stuart, Dartmouth Sts.,
N. Y. N. H. & H. track,
Station, Parker, Conant
Sts., Huntington, Longwood
Aves., Muddy River, St.
Mary's, Ashby Sts.

Brighton

Y-1, Y-2, Y-3,
Y-4, Y-5

Charles River, Ashby St.,
Commonwealth Ave., City
Line

Charlestown

C-1, C-2, C-3,
D-1, D-2, D-3,
D-4, E-1, E-2

Mystic River, City Line,
Boston Harbor, Charles
River, City Line

Dorchester North

P-2, P-3, P-4,
P-5, P-6, Q-5,
T-1, T-2, T-3,
T-4, T-5, T-6,
T-7, T-8, T-9,
T-10, X-1

Old Harbor, Freeport St.,
Old Colony Parkway, Pope's
Hill St., Neponset Ave.,
King St., Dorchester,
Centre Aves., Centre St.,
Codman Sq., Talbot Ave.,
Blue Hill Ave., Huckins,
Dennis, Langdon, George,
Magazine Sts., Norfolk
Ave., N. Y. N. H. & H.
track, Southampton,
Ellery, Boston, Ralston
Sts., Dorchester, Crescent
Aves., Dorchester Rapid
Transit, 1925 Ward Line

Dorchester South

X-2, X-3, X-4,
X-5, X-6

Talbot Ave., Centre St.,
Centre, Dorchester Aves.,
King St., Neponset Ave.,
Pope's Hill St., Old
Colony Parkway, Freeport
St., Neponset River, Mat-
tokeeset, River Sts., Randolph
Rd. Rugby Rd., Oakland,
Harvard Sts.

HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

CENSUS TRACTS

BOUNDARIES

East Boston

A-1, A-2, A-3,
A-4, A-5, A-6,
B-1, B-2, B-3,
B-4, B-5

Chelsea Creek, Belle
Isle Inlet, Boston
Harbor.

Hyde Park

Z-1, Z-2

Old Hyde Park Line,
Turtle Pond Rd., Wash-
ington, Beech Sts.,
Clarendon Ave., Haute-
ville, Poplar, Dale,
Burley Sts., Metropoli-
tan Ave., Mansur St.,
Grew Ave., Cliffmont,
Canterbury Sts., Hyde
Park Ave., Richards Ave.,
Newbern, Wilmot, Ash-
land Sts., Randolph Rd.,
Oakland St., Rugby,
Randolph Rds., River,
Mattakeeset Sts., Nepon-
set River, City Line

Jamaica Plain

V-3, V-4, V-5,
V-6, W-1, W-2

Pond Rd., Jamaicaway,
Castleton St., South
Huntington Ave., Floyd,
Cranford, Heath, Day,
Bynner, Creighton,
Centre Sts., N. Y. N. H.
& H. track, Atherton,
Washington, School Sts.,
Walnut Ave., Sigourney
St., Glen Rd., Forest,
Hills St., Morton St.,
Arborway, N. Y. N. H. &
H. track, Asticou Rd.,
South St., Belgrade
Ave., West Roxbury Park-
way, Centre, Church Sts.,
City Line

North End

F-1, F-2, F-3,
F-4, F-5, F-6

Charles River, Boston
Harbor, Northern, Atlan-
tic Aves., Milk, Washing-
ton, School, Beacon, Bow-
doin, Chardon, Portland,
Traverse, Canal, Washing-
ton Sts.

Roxbury

R-1, R-2, R-3,
Q-2, Q-3, Q-4,
U-1, U-2, U-3,
U-4, U-5, U-6,

Longwood, Huntington Aves.,
Conant, Parker, Station
Sts., N. Y. N. H. & H.
track, Camden, Washington,

HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

CENSUS TRACTS

BOUNDARIES

Roxbury (Cont'd)

S-2, S-3, S-4,
S-5, S-6, V-1,
V-2

Northampton Sts., Harrison Ave., E. Lenox, Fellows, Northampton, Albany, Yeoman Sts., Norfolk Ave., Magazine, George, Langdon, Dennis, Huckins Sts., Blue Hill Ave., Seaver St., Walnut Ave., School, Washington, Atherton Sts., N. Y. N. H. & H. track, Centre, Creighton, Bynner, Day, Heath, Cranford, Floyd Sts., South Huntington Ave., Castleton St., Jamaica way, City Line, Muddy River

South Boston

M-1, M-2, M-3,
M-4, N-1, N-2,
N-3, N-4, O-1,
O-2, O-3, O-4,
P-1

Fort Point Channel, Boston Harbor, Old Harbor, 1925 Ward Line, Crescent, Dorchester Aves., Ralston, Boston, Ellery, Southampton Sts., N. Y. N. H. & H. track, South Bay.

South End

G-1, G-2, G-3,
G-4, J-1, J-2,
I-1, I-2, I-3,
I-4, L-1, L-2,
L-3, L-4, L-5,
L-6, Q-1

Fort Point Channel, Northern, Atlantic Aves., Milk, Washington, School, Beacon, Arlington, Providence, Berkeley, Stanhope Sts., Trinity Place, Stuart, Dartmouth Sts., N. Y. N. H. & H. track, Camden, Washington, Northampton Sts., Harrison Ave., E. Lenox, Fellows, Northampton, Albany, Yeoman Sts., Norfolk Ave., N. Y. N. H. & H. track, South Bay

West End

H-1, H-2, H-3,
H-4, K-1, K-2

Charles River, Berkeley, Back Sts., Embankment Rd., Beacon, Bowdoin, Chardon, Portland, Traverse, Canal, Washington Sts.

West Roxbury

W-3, W-4, W-5,
W-6

Arborway, N. Y. N. H. & H. track, Morton, Forest Hills Sts., Glen Rd., Sigourney St., Walnut Ave., Seaver St., Bule Hill Ave.,

HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS

CENSUS TRACTS

BOUNDARIES

West roxbury (Cont'd)

Harvard St., Ashland Ave.,
Wilmot, Newbern Sts.,
Richards, Hyde Park Aves.,
Canterbury, Cliffmont Sts.,
Grew Ave., Mansur St., Met-
ropolitan Ave., Burley,
Dale, Poplar, Hauteville
Sts., Clarendon Ave., Beech,
Washington, Turtle Sts.,
Pond Rd., Old Hyde Park
Line, City Line, Church,
Centre Sts., West Roxbury
Parkway, Belgrade Ave.,
South St.

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