

**HEALTHY
BOSTON
INITIATIVE**



**COMMUNITY
COALITION
ASSESSMENTS**

THE CHINATOWN COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



**PRODUCED BY
THE CHINATOWN COALITION**

華埠社區聯盟

JULY 1994

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**THE CHINATOWN COALITION
NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

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The Chinatown Coalition 華埠社區聯盟

C/O PEACH CORPORATION 322 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON MA 02116 TEL: (617) 654-2946

July 20, 1994

Dear Reader,

Members of The Chinatown Coalition began working with the Healthy Boston Initiative in 1991. In 1992 when we selected a name for the coalition we articulated our shared vision of a healthy community. Our vision encompasses hope and caring, respect, quality housing, personal safety, communication, commitment, jobs, choices, schools which work in partnerships with parents and students, space and opportunity to grow physically, spiritually, intellectually and economically.

When we completed our vision statement it was two pages long. Confucius had managed to summarize the most important aspects of a healthy community and society in one paragraph 2,500 years ago when he described his vision of a great society.

For decades Boston's Chinatown was a small, six-block community located in the heart of the city. The community was comprised primarily of males who had immigrated to the United States for work and who intended to return to China to rejoin their families. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and subsequent laws imposed barriers to immigration from Asia and thus prevented the establishment of a community which included families, though a handful of families did settle and establish roots in Chinatown.

Changes in immigration policies and world events including the Second World War, the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, and the war in Southeast Asia resulted in, at first, a slow but steady growth in the community, and then a rapid expansion both in numbers and the cultural and ethnic diversity of its newest members. The growth of the community has been most dramatic in the last twenty years.

Chinatown and the many organizations based in the neighborhood have attempted to meet the needs of the new immigrants as well as those of long time residents. This community needs assessment has been prepared to achieve a number of goals including:

- enlisting the participation of community members who are not affiliated with specific agencies or programs
- affording community members the opportunity to identify and prioritize issues they feel are critical to the health of the community
- sharing with newcomers and public officials our definition of community which cannot be defined by geographic boundaries
- preparing a document which any new community member, or interested party, can use to become familiar with the community and the issues confronting it
- determining which issue can be addressed by The Chinatown Coalition and Healthy Boston.

The Chinatown Coalition represents a broad coalition of community members and community agencies and institutions. Our strength, and success, has been based upon our diversity and our commitment to serve the community. There is still much to be done. On behalf of the members of The Chinatown Coalition. I invite you to join The Chinatown Coalition and lend your efforts to ensuring the health, vitality and diversity of our community. Join us and fulfill your vision of a healthy community!

Sincerely,



Beverly Wing
Coalition Coordinator

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many community members who responded to surveys and who participated in focus groups to give us the benefit of their in-put. Our thanks also to the many key informants who have worked on behalf of the community and who give so willingly of their time and expertise.

Our very special thanks to Carlton Sagara, Peter Kiang and Tom Chung. Carlton designed the wonderful maps and charts which illustrate the growth and changes in the neighborhood and community. Peter's knowledge of the community helped to establish a focus for the community assessment and its relationship to the Chinatown Plan. Tom developed the survey and the strategies for engaging community respondents.

This community needs and resource assessment could not have been completed without the support and contributions of the many members of The Chinatown Coalition and project staff, Sue Kim and Beverly Wing and the document design team of Marlene Knepper and Herbert Lee.

INTRODUCTION

When we initiated the community needs and resource assessment, we had some very specific goals in mind. We wanted to build upon the work of community members who developed the Chinatown Community Plan: A Plan to Manage Growth and to incorporate the input of individual community members in identifying the concerns and/or issues most important to them. They offered their perspectives and surprised us initially. Despite some very obvious issues, such as the very high unemployment for restaurant workers or the lack of available housing and health care benefits, jobs and job training, were a lower priority than public safety and the physical cleanliness of the neighborhood.

Coalition members and staff had to deal with the question of who defines the community and how they define it. We, in the community, achieved consensus on the general physical boundaries for the community only to discover that each city department had its own. In some cases it was considerably different from ours. At times it was a challenge to reconcile the data and in some instances, we did not even try. We present the differences to illustrate how difficult it is to obtain good data for the Asian community¹ and to pose the question about who should define the community. Is it the community itself, or some external entity? And should there be some consistency which supports good data collection? For the moment, these will remain rhetorical questions, which we will revisit again.

¹ **Problems With Data on Asian Americans.** Data on Asian Americans are typically problematic due to aggregations, undercounting, and errors in coding. When Asians are aggregated together, then differences between nationalities and localities are masked and confused. Undercounting in the 1990 Census due to linguistic, cultural, and community barriers in the field as well as the failure of the Census Bureau to adjust the figures after completion, also limits the reliability of data. Errors in coding also confound the reliability of data on Asian Americans. Dr. Peter Kiang 24 Feb. 1994

A. THE CHINATOWN COALITION

The Chinatown Coalition (TCC) is one of 21 coalitions sponsored by the City's Healthy Boston Initiative. TCC was established in 1991, and its membership is comprised of organizations, institutions and agencies primarily based in the neighborhood of Chinatown and Asian American residents, both in Chinatown and throughout the Boston area, who relate to Chinatown as their cultural, social, political, economic and service center.

Our members live and/or work in the neighborhood and share a deep concern for the well-being of the community. Our goals are to strengthen the community through a coalition which represents a multi-sectoral partnership of residents, community members, businesses, organizations, institutions and city government to coordinate resources and to design solutions for needs identified by the community.

In 1993, TCC sought to expand the coalition by reaching out to organizations in and around Chinatown, and to non-Chinatown groups which may share areas of mutual interest and to include more individual community members in the coalition.

Other TCC activities have included the convening of an Economic Town Meeting and the completion of this community needs assessment report.

The Economic Town Meeting was the first such event for Boston's Asian community. Held in September, 1993, the event included four program components: a plenary session focused on economic trends and opportunities, a job training fair, job fair and a resource fair for small businesses.

The structure of The Chinatown Coalition offers two levels of membership. This flexibility offers members the opportunity to contribute to the Healthy Boston Initiative or to specific TCC projects. In this second phase of Healthy Boston activities, TCC members include the following organizations and institutions: Asian American Civic Association, Asian Community Development Corporation, Asian American Resource Workshop, Boston Asian Youth Essential Services, Boston Children's Services, Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, Chinese Progressive Association, Mass Pike Towers, New England Medical Center, PEACH Corporation, Josiah Quincy Elementary School (Boston Public School), Quincy School Community Council, South Cove Community Healthy Center, South Cove YMCA and Tufts University.

B. HISTORY OF CHINATOWN

The first Asians to settle in Boston were Chinese. They arrived in the early 1870's. Some were college students sent here to study by the Chinese government while others included laborers who had helped to construct the transcontinental railroad. The workers settled in the South Cove on Oxford Street in the area now considered the heart of Chinatown's business district.

For decades the community remained contained within a six block area bounded by Harrison Avenue, Essex, Hudson and Kneeland Street. The community was comprised primarily of men who entered the United States as contract workers. The population remained static due to restrictive immigration laws. All Chinese were barred from the country with the enactment of the Exclusion Act of 1882. Only those Chinese who were born in the United States and were, therefore, United States citizens could establish families. Their wives and children were allowed to immigrate to the United States.

TABLE B1 CHINESE POPULATION IN BOSTON, 1890-1970 ¹					
YEAR	CHINATOWN	BOSTON ²	YEAR	CHINATOWN	BOSTON ²
1890	200	250	1940	1,300	1,600
1900	500	600	1950	1,600	2,000
1910	900	1,100	1960	1,600	5,200
1920	1,000	1,250	1970	1,900	7,900
1930	1,200	1,500			

¹Estimates for 1890-1950 based on Rhoades Murphy, "Boston's Chinatown," *Economic Geography*, Vol. 28, No. 3, p. 248; for 1960, on Census reports of "Other Races" in tracts G-1 and G-2; and, for 1970, on ABCD projections of school enrollment data.

²Calculated by Murphy as twenty-five percent greater than Chinatown's population from 1890 to 1940.

The Chinese community began to grow slowly in the late 1940's and early 1950's. First as a result of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the enactment of the War Brides Act, a Presidential Directive authorized the admission of Chinese wives and children after the Second World War, without regard to quotas. Additional Chinese immigrants were admitted to the United States under the Displaced Persons Act or Refugee Relief Acts after the war between the Nationalists and Communists in China.

As the population began to grow in the 1950's due to the relaxation of immigration laws and the increased numbers of families, the community began to spread south across Kneeland Street towards Broadway (now Marginal Road) to housing that had previously been occupied by earlier waves of new immigrants such as the Irish, Syrians and Lebanese. Between 1910 and 1950, 80 percent of the Chinese in Boston resided in Chinatown.

As the population outgrew the static supply of housing stock, many community members sought housing in the adjacent neighborhoods: the South End and South End/Back Bay area. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, Chinatown's residential growth was cut short as the community lost one-third of its housing and one-half of its land area because of the construction of the Central Artery, the Mass Turnpike and urban renewal. The Boston Redevelopment Authority estimates that 1,200 people (approximately 200 families) were displaced forcing the community to disperse and re-group in smaller clusters in sites accessible by public transportation, such as Allston, Brighton and Brookline.

The most dramatic changes occurred in the 1970's. The normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, the war in Southeast Asia, changes in immigration laws and the enactment

of the Refugee Act resulted in increased immigration to the Boston area and precipitated a demand for housing, medical, educational and social services which continues unabated. Family and social organizations could no longer meet the needs of the newcomers. Human service agencies were created to meet the needs of an expanding and increasingly diverse community of Asians.

TABLE B2 ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION IN BOSTON, 1980-1990			
YEAR	BOSTON	CHINATOWN	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION (%)
1980	15,150	5,100 ¹	2.69
1990	30,000	4,694 ²	5.16

¹Source: BRA Household Survey, 1985

²Source: Neighborhood Statistical Area

Prior to the late 1970's, most Asians residing in Boston and Chinatown were of Chinese ancestry. In the last 15 years there has been an increase in the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and political diversity; Asians living in Chinatown and Boston are of Vietnamese, Vietnamese-Chinese, Burmese-Chinese, Laotian and Cambodian ancestry. Recent Chinese immigrants come from a number of provinces in China or from Taiwan.

Our goal in providing this brief history of the community is to help the reader to understand that not everyone who wants to live in the neighborhood can. There simply isn't enough housing to meet the demand. Of the 500 units proposed by the Chinatown Housing Improvement Project in 1989, only 88 are currently under construction. Chinatown has the most severe overcrowding conditions in the City of Boston. This has been substantiated by studies conducted by the Boston Redevelopment Authority. There remains only one remaining parcel of land designated for housing development, Parcel A, in the Chinatown area and its developer has been unable to raise the necessary funds for the development of the property.

Maps A and B will illustrate the expansion of the community from 1890 through 1990. Map C illustrates the current boundaries of Chinatown, the historical, commercial and residential areas within the neighborhood. The open spaces indicated in Map C are currently used for institutional parking, and are earmarked for institutional expansion. Of the 46 acres attributed to Chinatown, approximately 30 percent is owned or committed for non-community use.

Asian Americans living in Boston utilize Chinatown for their shopping needs especially for food items. They use the community-based service providers because they are linguistically accessible and culturally sensitive. Table B3 from the South Cove Community Health Center provides a visual snapshot of how Chinatown-based agencies serve "the community" and not just the geographic community. Only 20 percent of the users surveyed in "Chinatown User Survey" resided in Chinatown.

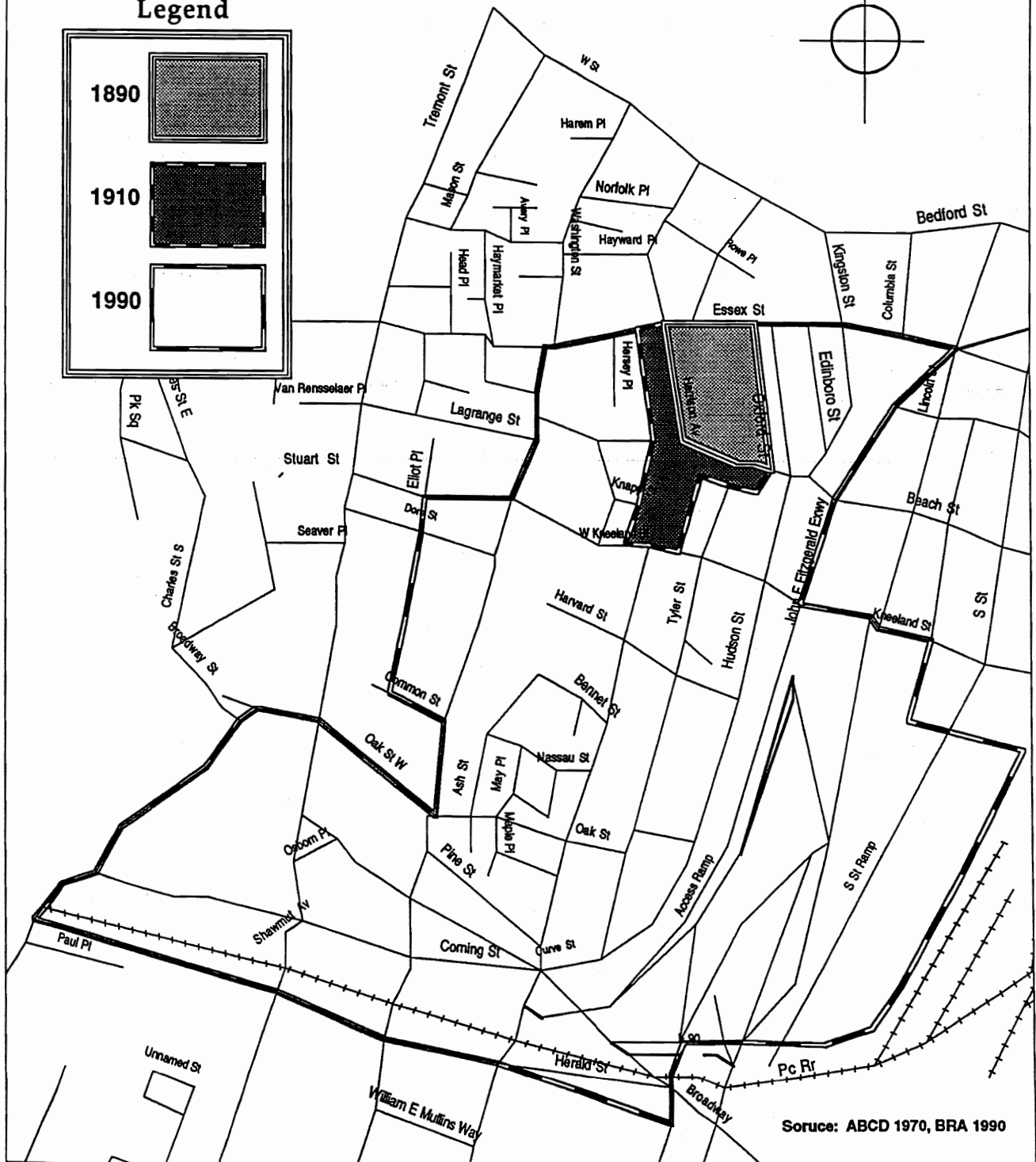
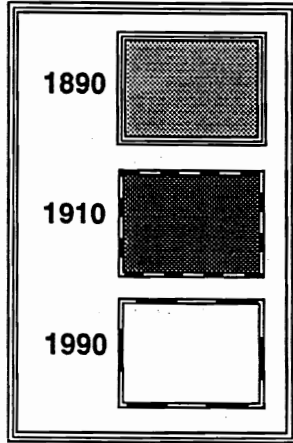
When agencies based in Chinatown identify their target populations, they struggle constantly with the definition of community. Government agencies and funding sources define target populations in geographical terms which do not reflect the reality for Chinatown and the Asian community in Greater Boston.

The reader needs only to walk through Chinatown to experience the dearth of open spaces, gardens, playgrounds, or even residential parking spaces; yet in that same walk, the reader can experience the vitality of the community and its commitment to survive, thrive and serve.

MAP A

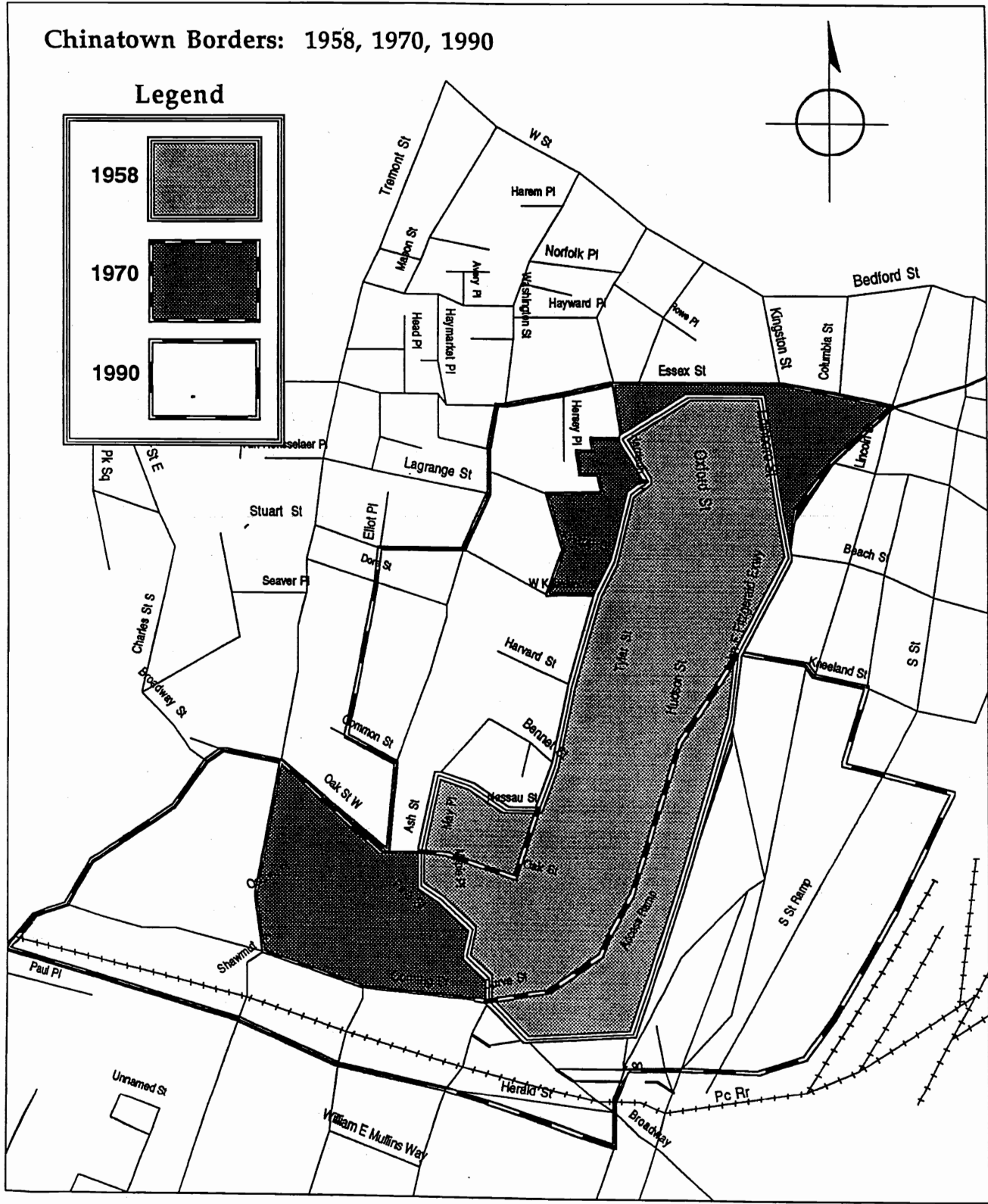
Chinatown Borders: 1890, 1910, 1990

Legend



MAP B

Chinatown Borders: 1958, 1970, 1990



MAP C

Land Use Zoning

Land Use	FAR
Chinatown Gateway	7
Turnpike Air Rights	7
Residential Chinatown	6
Commercial Chinatown	6
Historic Chinatown	3
Posner Hall	6
Institution Subdistrict	6



Legend

Residential	
Historic & Commercial Chinatown	
Institution	
Proposed Air-Rights/Gateway	

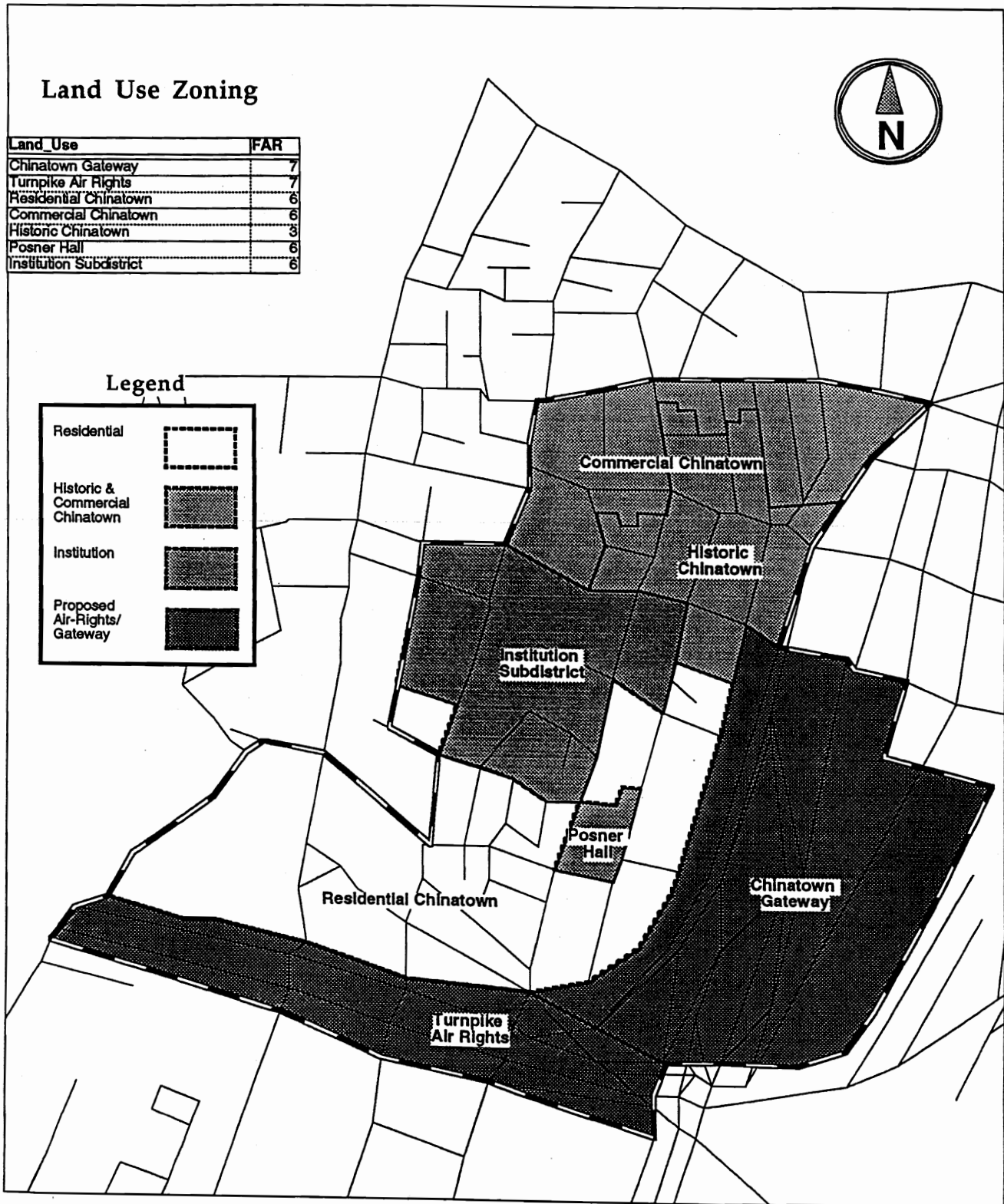


TABLE B3
FY92 GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF SOUTH COVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER SITES USERS* & PROGRAMS

CITY/TOWN	SITES	SCCHC USERS %	SCHOOLS	PROGRAMS
Chinatown/ South Cove/ Back Bay	SCCHC School Based Elderly Complexes	23.38%	Quincy School Boston Tech H.S.	Primary Care Site Health Education Elderly Living-at-Home
Brighton/ Allston	B.A.S.E.	18.80%	Brighton H.S. Edison H.S.	Afterschool Programs MICAS/SAFE
Quincy	Mental Health	12.41%		Mental Health
South End		8.89%		
Malden		5.93%		
Other Boston Neighborhoods		3.67%		
Dorchester	MICAS	3.59%		Vietnamese Youth & Family Center
Brockton		2.69%		
South Boston	School Based	2.26%	S. Boston H.S.	MICAS/Counselling
East Boston		2.22%		
Randolph		1.98%		
Cambridge		1.86%		
Somerville		1.13%		
Newton		0.85%		
Chelsea	School Based	0.84%	Chelsea H.S. Williams School Shurtleff Elem.	MICAS Consultation/Referral
Arlington		0.52%		
Framingham		0.43%		
Everett		0.40%		
Burlington		0.38%		
Medford		0.34%		
Watertown		0.26%		
Braintree		0.26%		
Revere	School Based	0.25%	Revere H.S. Garfield Elem. Garfield H.S.	MICAS/SAFE Counselling
Belmont		0.24%		
Lexington		0.24%		
Others		6.18%		

*Number does not include outreach and school-based services.

C. METHODOLOGY & ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS

The Chinatown Coalition administered a questionnaire regarding community needs and priorities to persons in attendance at two events: The August Moon Festival in August, 1993, and a Chinatown economic town meeting on September 26, 1993. The self-administered, written questionnaires were available in Chinese, English and Vietnamese.

A total of 271 responses were returned; 161 at the August Moon Festival and 110 at the town meeting. Of these responses, 147 questionnaires were in English and 124 in Chinese. (A version was available in Vietnamese but no one used it.) Most respondents did not live in Chinatown. A total of 61 reported that they live in the 02111, 02116 or 02118 zip codes which would mean that they may live in or near Chinatown proper. The remainder were scattered throughout Boston, and a few lived outside Boston altogether. The only others with numbers in the double-digits were 02134 (Allston), 02170 and 02171 (Quincy), each with 10-12 respondents.

Most respondents, 248, were of Chinese ethnicity; 16 were of other Asian ethnicity, mostly mixed, and seven were non-Asian. The demographic profile of respondents did differ somewhat from the demographic profile of Boston's Asian community in that there were relatively few elders. Just seven of 239 respondents who gave their age were 65 or older. The respondents also had a strong tendency to be foreign-born (70 percent). The preponderance of foreign-born persons and the preference for the Chinese language is typical of Chinatown, but not of all Chinese in Boston.

Respondents were asked an open-ended question about what they viewed as the three most critical problems facing their community. The answers were reviewed and reduced to a set of standard codes by two separate coders, who achieved a very high degree of inter-rater reliability. This coding was used to produce the data presented here.

Among all respondents, crime was by far the most frequently cited first priority, followed by employment and education. Another method of ranking priorities which takes into account all three responses would be to assign three points for a highest priority, two points for a second priority, and one point for a third priority. Table C1 shows the coded priorities with the number of first, second and third choices given to each, and the overall score.

TABLE C1 OVERALL RANKING OF PRIORITIES				
PRIORITY ISSUE	# 1 CHOICES	# 2 CHOICES	# 3 CHOICES	SCORE
Crime	75	31	23	310
Employment	28	29	21	163
Education	17	31	21	134
Clean Streets	15	22	21	110
Housing	9	18	8	62
Insurance	11	10	16	58
Business/ Economic Development	13	10	2	48
Pollution	6	7	5	48

TABLE C1 Continued Next Page

TABLE C1 CONTINUED OVERALL RANKING OF PRIORITIES				
PRIORITY ISSUE	# 1 CHOICES	# 2 CHOICES	# 3 CHOICES	SCORE
Health Care	8	2	9	37
Youth	6	3	9	33
Immigrant Resettlement	4	5	5	27
Alcohol/Drug Abuse	5	5	0	25
Culture	3	5	5	24
Child Health	1	4	9	20
Child Care	1	6	4	19
Parking/Traffic	1	3	10	19
Smoking	4	2	1	17
Elderly	3	1	3	14
Mental Health	1	2	5	12
Translation	0	4	3	11
Immunization	2	1	0	8
Rehabilitation	0	1	3	5
Other	10	14	16	--
NOTE: Prenatal care received one third place vote				

A wide range of "other" responses were given, which were sufficiently infrequent that codes were not assigned. Table C2 shows how the coders represented these.

TABLE C2 LISTING OF "OTHER" PRIORITIES GIVEN		
# 1 CHOICES	# 2 CHOICES	# 3 CHOICES
Prostitution	Population	City services (2)
Racism	Community	Family
Political Representation (2)	Child Abuse	Recreation
Segregation	Family	Aids Prevention (2)
Job Training	Racism	Peer Pressures
Nutritional Information	Multi-culturalism	Peace
	Exercise	Stress Management
	Scholarships	Cultural Diversity
		Rent Control

One might well ask whether answers differed for Chinatown residents vs. non-residents. Table C3 shows a cross-tabulation of number one priorities by area of residence, both in and out of the Chinatown area (as defined by our broad zip-code definition).

TABLE C3 # 1 PRIORITIES BY RESIDENTIAL AREA				
FIRST PRIORITY	OUTSIDE CHINATOWN		CHINATOWN AREA	
Crime	57	27.1%	18	29.5%
Employment	23	11.0%	5	8.2%
Education	15	7.1%	2	3.3%
Business/Economic Development	12	5.7%	1	1.6%
Clean Streets	11	5.2%	4	6.5%
Insurance	10	4.8%	1	1.6%
Housing	6	2.9%	3	4.9%
Youth	5	2.4%	1	1.6%
Pollution	5	2.4%	1	1.6%
Health Care	5	2.4%	3	4.9%
Smoking	4	2.0%	0	
Immigrant Resettlement	3	1.4%	1	1.6%
Alcohol/Drugs	3	1.4%	2	3.3%
Rehabilitation	2	1.0%	0	
Cultural	1	.5%	2	3.3%
Elderly	1	.5%	2	3.3%
Immunization	1	.5%	1	1.6%
Mental Health	1	.5%	0	
Child Care	0	--	1	1.6%
Parking/Traffic/Transportation	0	--	1	1.6%
Child Health	0	--	1	1.6%
Other	7	3.3%	3	
Not Coded				
COLUMN TOTALS	210	77.5%	61	22.5%

There are actually, surprisingly, few differences between residents of the Chinatown area and others in their choice of highest priority. It is of interest, that concern about crime is as high outside of Chinatown as it is inside, although many respondents live in relatively low-crime areas. There were also no significant differences between male and female respondents. Not surprisingly, of the 25

unemployed people in the sample, a slightly disproportionate number (4) gave employment as their first priority. Two gave education and two, economic development, also slightly disproportionate. However, they, like everyone, were most likely to rate crime as their highest priority. U.S. and foreign-born respondents also differed little.

Conclusions: Respondents, by a large margin, have crime as their greatest concern. However, this result should be interpreted with caution. It seems unrelated to place of residence. People everywhere in the U.S. have a very high degree of concern about crime, although crime rates in the country have been falling for some time. It may be that media sensationalism contributes as much to this fear as does reality.

The Asian community in Boston is concerned about pretty much the same issues that concern everyone in the city: crime, jobs, education and quality of life issues.

Bart Laws
Social Action Resources

D. BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

The generally accepted boundaries for Chinatown are Essex Street on the north, Surface Artery on the east, Marginal Street on the south and Washington and Tremont Streets on the west. These boundaries are reflected in the 1990 Chinatown Plan: A Plan to Manage Growth and various BRA studies. Approximately 5,000 community members reside within these boundaries.

Chinatown proper encompasses parts of Census Tract 701 and 702 (refer to MAP D).

The Healthy Boston Initiative has expanded the boundaries of Chinatown in recognition of the growth of the community and the significant numbers of Asians who now live in the adjacent neighborhoods of the South End and Bay Village. The northern boundary continues to be Essex Street. On the east, however, the boundary has been extended to Lincoln Street in the area most Bostonians refer to as the Leather District. The southern boundary has been extended beyond the Mass. Turnpike to include the Castle Square Apartments which historically has been considered part of the South End. The western boundary now includes parts of Bay Village. The new boundaries are on the south and west, thus including the Castle Square Apartments in the south and the Bay Village on the west.

This recognition that the Asian community has grown and expanded beyond the historical and generally accepted definition of the Chinatown neighborhood presented a number of challenges for the completion of this needs assessment. Maps which reflected the community's definition of the neighborhood had already been completed. Demographic information had to be revised to provide a framework for the reader.

Obtaining good data for Asians is a difficult task. Changing neighborhood boundaries exacerbates the difficulties, especially for a needs assessment of this modest scope. Comparisons of data and demographics over time is not possible because of the geographic changes; and reconciling data requires resources beyond those available to the Coalition.

The inclusion of additional housing units from two adjacent neighborhoods affects data on income and the diversity of national and ethnic backgrounds. Bay Village residents' income are generally higher than the average Asian family's. The ethnic diversity in Castle Square increases the representation of African American and Latino in "Chinatown". To assist the reader, demographic information will be identified as either Chinatown Proper, or Healthy Boston Chinatown. In instances where the reference states only Chinatown, the data applies to Chinatown Proper.

Maps A through C in Section B illustrate the generally accepted boundaries for Chinatown which we will refer to as Chinatown Proper. Map E illustrates the boundaries of Healthy Boston-Chinatown. The analysis of Chinatown demographics prepared by Bart Laws of Social Action Research (Appendix A) reflects the Healthy Boston definition of Chinatown and includes parts of Census Tract 704.

Chart D1 was prepared to provide the reader with the basic demographic information for Chinatown Proper and Chinatown-Healthy Boston. The emphasis, however, is on Chinatown Proper.

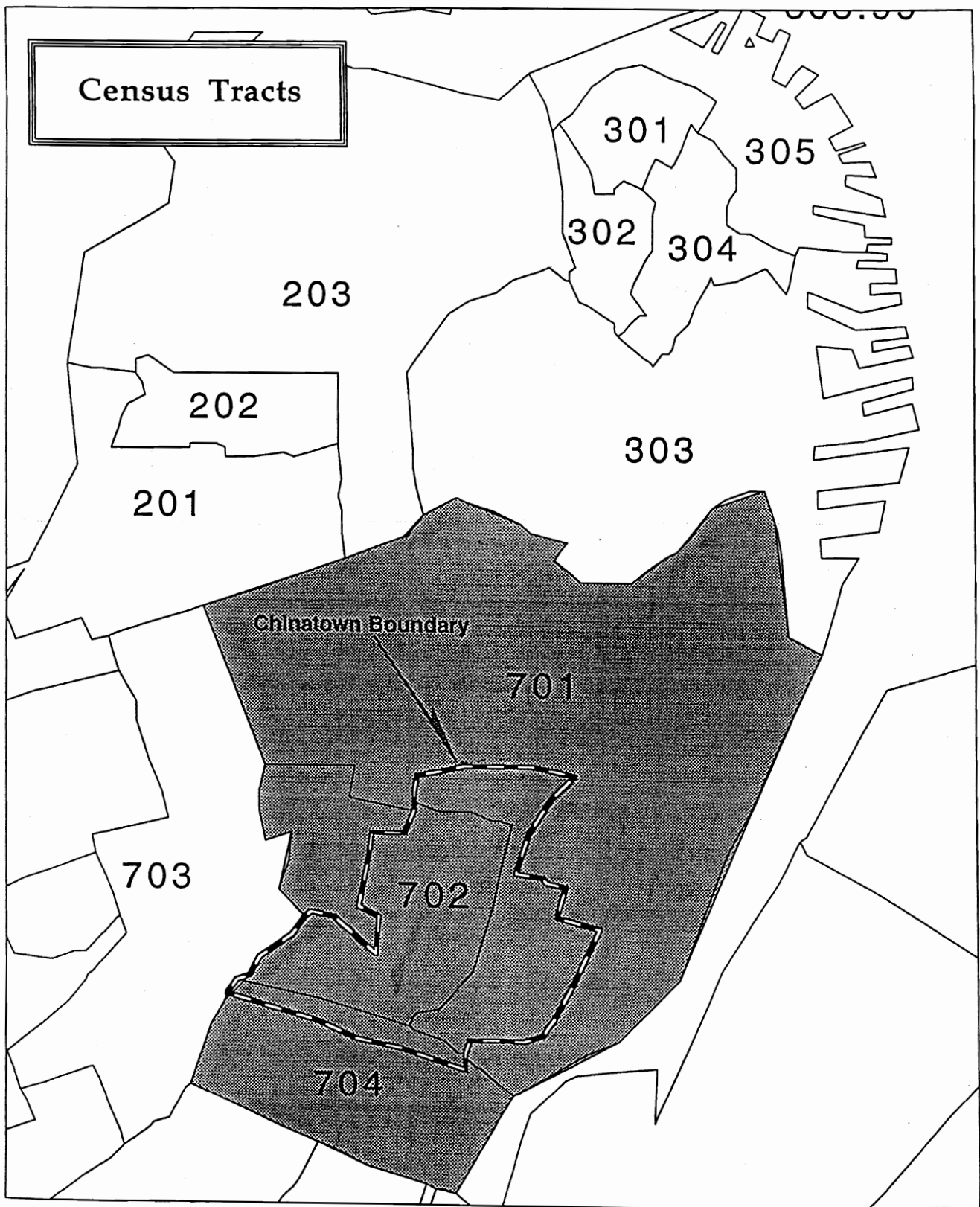
MAP F and CHART D2 have been prepared to provide a snapshot of population and area density for Chinatown Proper.

CHART D1

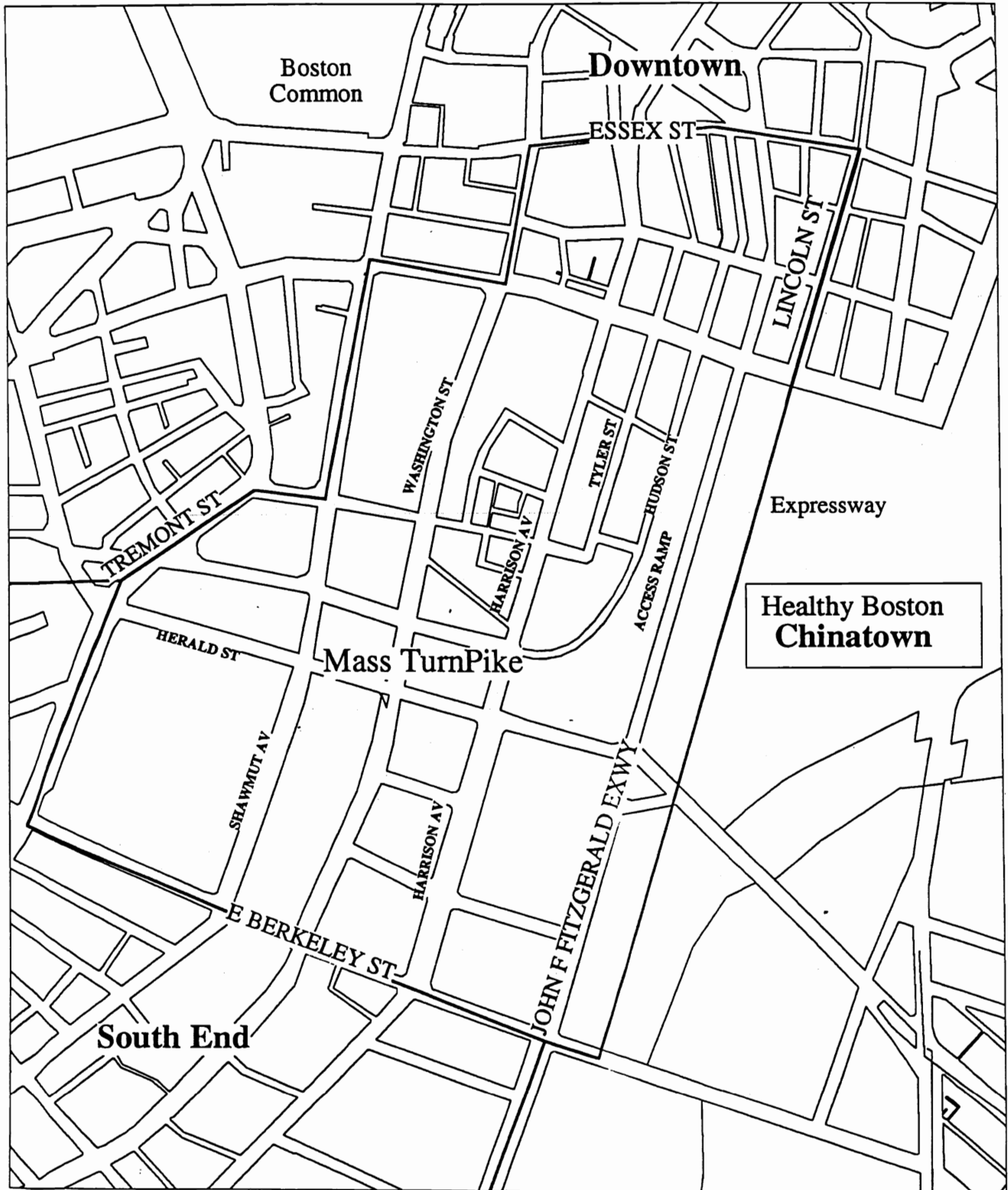
CHINATOWN DEMOGRAPHICS

Asian population of Chinatown Healthy Boston - 4,694	Boston Redevelopment Authority 1990 Census Summary. (1)
91% of Chinatown Proper residents are Chinese	<i>Chinatown Community Plan</i> . Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council, March 1990. (2)
93% of Chinatown Proper residents are Asian	<i>Chinatown Community Plan</i> . (2)
Per capita income for Asians residing in Chinatown Healthy Boston - \$6,539 (1989)	BRA 1990 Census. (1)
Median incomes for Chinatown households \$9,059 compared with \$12,530 for Boston (1980)	<i>Recognizing Poverty in Boston's Asian-American Community</i> . Boston Persistent Poverty Project, Feb. 1992. (3)
Official Chinatown Healthy Boston poverty rate - 28% City of Boston poverty rate - 18.7%	BRA 1990 Census. (1)
25% unemployment rate in Chinese restaurant industry	<i>Healthy Boston/Chinatown Coalition Needs Assessment</i> . Dec. 1992. (4)
Boston's Asian employment/ population ratio - 54.5% versus Boston's - 60.1%	BRA 1990 Census. (1)
40% of Chinatown Proper residents have lived in Boston 5 years or less	<i>Chinatown Housing Survey</i> . BRA Policy Development and Research Dept. 1987. (5)
35.2% Chinatown Healthy Boston residents speak English "not well" or not at all (1990)	BRA 1990 Census. (1)
25% of Chinatown Proper housing units have 5 or more occupants, and 41% have more than one elderly person	<i>Chinatown Housing Survey</i> . (5)
36.7% Chinatown Proper residents live in housing where the number of people outnumber rooms versus Boston's 4.2%	<i>Recognizing Poverty in Boston's Asian-American Community</i> . (3)
Chinatown Proper has the lowest vacancy rate in Boston with 96.8% occupation	<i>Chinatown Community Plan</i> . (2)
52% of restaurants and 68% of grocery/food markets have fewer than 10 employees	<i>Chinatown Business Survey</i> . BRA Policy Development and Research Dept. April 1988. (6)
Average age of Chinatown Proper business 15 years but median age 6 years	<i>Chinatown Business Survey</i> . (6)
53% of surveyed businesses want to expand; 80% of those within Chinatown	<i>Chinatown Business Survey</i> . (6)
65% of Chinatown Proper residents have not completed high school	<i>Chinatown 2000</i> . MIT Urban Design Studio. 1988. (7) <i>Chinatown Housing Survey</i> . (5)
9% of Chinatown Proper residents have completed four or more years of college	<i>Chinatown Housing Survey</i> . (5)

MAP D



MAP E



MAP F

Population Density

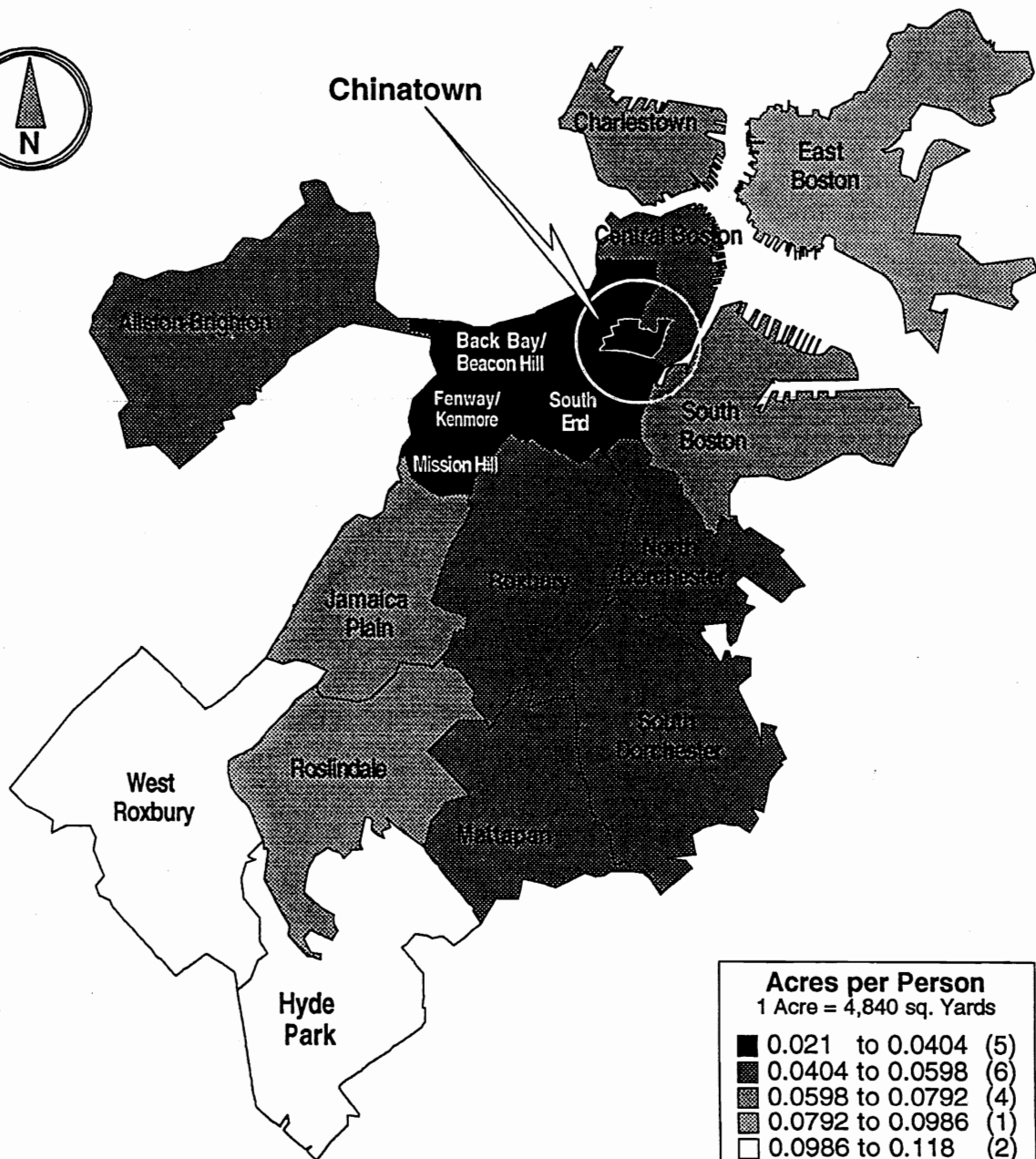
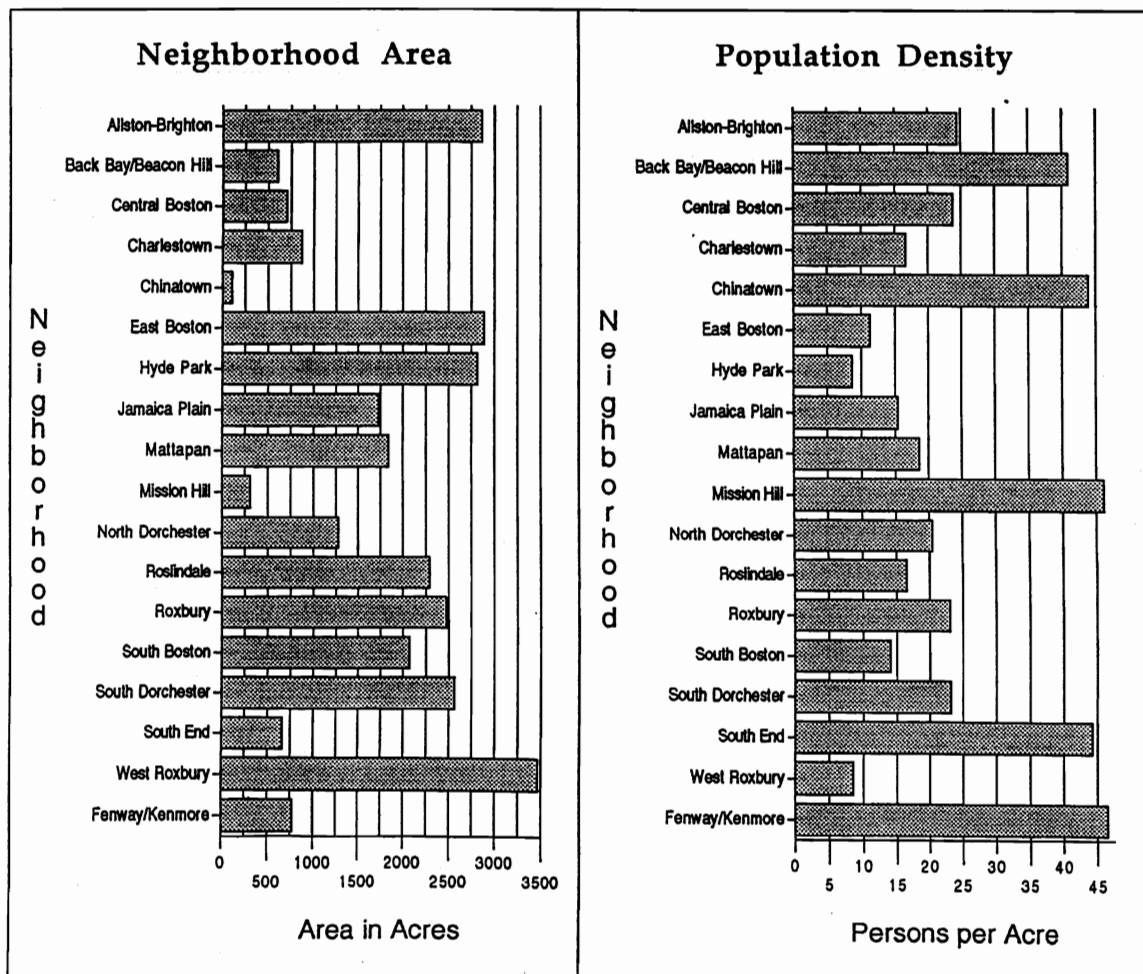


CHART D2

Neighborhood Population, Area and Density

Neighborhood	NghAreaAx	ParkArea	PopDensity	Total_Pop	White	Black	NativeAm	Asian PI	Other	Hispanic
Allston-Brighton	2868.480	383.120	24.502	70284	55002	5075	131	7496	2580	6413
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	610.300	119.110	41.031	25041	22688	735	45	1368	205	747
Central Boston	710.000	32.180	23.920	16983	15861	506	24	465	127	605
Charlestown	876.800	58.110	16.786	14718	14120	109	49	327	113	310
Chinatown	115.700	0.530	44.010	5092	1248	201	5	3611	27	120
East Boston	2893.440	439.660	11.385	32941	28648	835	116	1315	2027	5805
Hyde Park	2824.320	790.830	8.713	24607	17102	6702	62	251	490	1086
Jamaica Plain	1727.360	640.760	15.519	26807	17862	4600	113	848	3384	6980
Mattapan	1848.960	199.510	18.756	34680	3740	29465	139	280	1056	2134
Mission Hill	316.800	29.930	46.215	14841	6597	4261	70	1466	2247	3497
North Dorchester	1285.120	64.200	20.562	26425	14292	6228	145	1656	4104	4123
Roslindale	2300.160	808.580	16.671	38347	32113	3163	54	1125	1892	3975
Roxbury	2478.080	592.900	23.168	57411	5686	43962	291	302	7170	10872
South Boston	2083.200	172.120	14.129	29433	28340	288	93	551	161	434
South Dorchester	2572.800	410.000	23.215	59727	29475	23633	255	2044	4320	6179
South End	668.800	40.290	44.363	29670	11460	12019	150	3356	2685	5142
West Roxbury	3470.080	545.780	8.561	29706	28431	482	26	567	200	625
Fenway/Kenmore	782.720	112.180	46.617	36488	27642	4013	108	3353	1372	2752



E. EDUCATION AND ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Asian Americans comprise 9.4% of the enrollment in the Boston Public Schools. Parents may enroll their children in bilingual classes (Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian or Laotian) or regular education (non-bilingual). In 1993 almost 2100 Asian students were enrolled in bilingual programs in the Boston Public Schools. Many parents enroll their children in the bilingual programs to support their academic abilities while allowing time for the acquisition of English skills. These students do receive English as a Second Language (ESL) as part of their school curriculum.

In the Boston Public Schools' 1991 Annual and Cohort Dropout Rates Report, the following data is available:

- those students who participated in Bilingual Education in grades 9-12 had a lower annual drop-out rate than did Regular Education students 8.7% versus 12.4%;

- Asian students had the lowest drop-out rates of any ethnic group in regular education for grades 9-12 (4.1% versus a 10.0% systemwide rate);

Of importance to members of the Asian community is the risk factors for drop-out from school: being at least two years overaged for one's grade and being held back. These two risk factors may have ramifications for new immigrants and refugees who sometimes are placed in classes with younger children, or who because of language difficulties, or difficulties associated with a re-settlement process, results in their being held back.

A recent article in the Boston Globe analyzed the incidence of Special Needs enrollment for the Boston Public Schools. The participation of Asians in special needs represented on 5% against a systemwide utilization of 22.5%. One hypothesis for the low utilization is the lack of familiarity with special needs education. In Asian countries such as China, special education does not exist. Students are offered three opportunities for promotion. If they fail after the third try, they cannot continue in school and no educational alternatives exist for them.

Adults who have been surveyed in previous needs assessments and information from the 1990 census, suggests that an average of 65% percent of neighborhood residents have less than a high school diploma from their country of origin. The combination of lack of vocational skills or transferable skills and limited English language skills, severely restricts the employment opportunities for new immigrants and makes them very dependent upon one or two industries, such as the Chinese restaurant and garment industries, where wages are either low, or employment cyclical.

Adult English language students often identify lack of information about the job market and job qualifications as a major obstacle to developing an appropriate and realistic employment plan. They cite language barriers, lack of access to information, prior training on equipment or technology that is considered obsolete in the United States, and the lack of career and vocational counseling contributing to their unemployment or underemployment.

A collaborative effort by the Asian American Civic Association and the Quincy School Community Council in 1991, resulted in the development of a career counseling and educational program design which would alleviate many of the above cited barriers. Regrettably, funding was not available to support the desperately needed program. The program would have provided the services to assist Asian adults in learning about the five major employment sectors and the career opportunities in each sector. Counseling and educational courses were designed to assist each student in the development of an appropriate and achievable educational, job training or job placement goal.

The importance of providing educational support for adults is critical to the health of the community. Adults who have the knowledge and skills to exercise choices related to work, housing, health care and education (for themselves and children) not only maximize their individual potential for their personal success, but contribute to the overall development of the community because they can serve as empowered, effective advocates for their own needs and for those of the community.

Very few adults participating in a focus group at the Quincy School Community Council knew of the educational opportunities available to them through adult education programs, continuing education programs, community colleges or technical schools. Nor did they know of the many ways in which they could obtain financial assistance for themselves or their children.

The focus group members also expressed concerns that vocational training programs were inaccessible because of the language requirements. All of the programs funded by the City of Boston are conducted in English, however, most students were aware that even if bilingual training were available, the key to their ultimate job placement was their ability to work in an English only environment. Again, most focus group members were not aware of the programs available in the City of Boston for job training. Only the students in AACA's pre-vocational program and the QSCC's upper levels of AESL were introduced to these types of publicly funded programs.

The demand for English as a Second Language services far exceeds the capacity of the existing agencies and their funding sources. QSCC has a two year (1,100 person) waiting list for classes. Both the QSCC and AACA express concerns about their inability to meet the needs of the very new, English language learner for the basics, such as the alphabet and basic vocabulary and syntax. Many organizations have attempted to help alleviate the acute need for English language classes. The Boston Chinese Evangelical Church has instituted weekly classes. Two of the area's tenant associations have considered implementing programs for their residents with varying degrees of success. The Chinese Economic Development Council initiated a fee for service program a few years ago to help alleviate demand for language classes. Other community organizations such as the Chinese Progressive Association have instituted classes in response to the need for English language classes, as has the American Chinese Christian Educational and Social Services. The Chinese Catholic Pastoral Center has initiated English conversation groups for newcomers, and the Chinese Golden Age Center has begun to offer instruction to their clients. Still the need for language training continues to be acute.

BOSTON • BROOKLINE **Boston Sunday Globe** CAMBRIDGE • SOMERVILLE

QUOTE OF NOTE
I always remember thinking about what I was going to say before I said it.
R. J.
NORTON LIVINGSTON MARTIN
About the journey to his book "The Way to Freedom"
"The Way to Freedom"

CITY
WEEKLY

OFF THE CUFF
Q: What do you think of the latest megaplex proposal?
Page 2

JULY 3, 1994

Some special ed enrollments out of balance

Last of two parts continuing from page 1 of the special report on Special Education. (Continued) and what is the plan to ensure that the city is not overwhelmed by the influx of students?

By Tom Ichniowski

Special Education enrollment in the city of Boston has increased significantly in recent years, and the city is now facing a crisis in providing for the needs of these students. The city's current enrollment of approximately 10,000 students is expected to rise to over 15,000 by the year 2000. This rapid increase has placed a heavy burden on the city's existing facilities and staff, and has led to a situation where many students are being placed in overcrowded classrooms or in temporary facilities. The city's current enrollment of approximately 10,000 students is expected to rise to over 15,000 by the year 2000. This rapid increase has placed a heavy burden on the city's existing facilities and staff, and has led to a situation where many students are being placed in overcrowded classrooms or in temporary facilities.

F. FAMILY SUPPORT

The majority of male heads of households have been employed in the restaurant industry where the typical work week has been six, ten-hour days. Many fathers work until 2 or 3 A.M. This rigorous schedule has left little time for family interaction.

With men earning only low, or moderate, wages in the restaurant industry, and not having health care coverage, women entered the workforce by necessity. The absence of both parents for long hours created a contradiction for the traditional family unit. Children go into daycare, afterschool programs, or remain at home for long periods of time alone and without adult supervision. Some are fortunate and have the support of a grandparent, but many do not.

Father Como and the members of the new Chinese Catholic Pastoral Center have identified a need to support the newly arrived, immigrant families, particularly the parents. The potential threats to the traditional family unit include the traditional generational gap which is aggravated by the differential ease, or difficulty each generation encounters in acquiring English, acculturating and/or reconciling the differences between their own culture and the new American culture and the debate about assimilation. Father Como's assessment is shared all coalition members, in particular Bak Fun Wong.

Bak Fun Wong, the principal of the Josiah Quincy School, has observed the lack of resources and support for the family unit for many years and points to the lack of recreational resources for family entertainment and cites time, language, transportation and financial barriers which preclude families from participating in activities that re-affirm the importance of the family unit and nurtures the relationships between family members.

Members of The Chinatown Coalition concur that this important service -- one that offers newcomers, especially adults, a social and support network to help them with the transition and re-settlement process is not available. This major gap in community services has prompted coalition members to respond to establish a network that is attuned to the issues confronting new immigrants and their families. Such a network, in the past, was available through families and family associations. Economics often limit the support, emotional and otherwise, that is available from family members. Family associations vary in their focus and their capacity to help newcomers.

In the 1980's and 1990's newly arrived and established Asian-American families experience all the current economic and social pressures that deprive families of one precious commodity - time together. Community agencies such as the Quincy School Community Council's (QSCC) Asian Family Network have been developed to encourage parents to spend more time with their children and to assist parents with family outings. The Chinese Progressive Association has supported discussion groups for parents, and CAPAY, the Coalition for Asian Pacific American Youth and Chinatown Against Drugs have all worked to encourage better communication and family relationships.

G. HEALTH

For most Asian immigrants, affordable or free health care was a given in their home country. It is not until a member of the family feels sick that they begin to realize that health care here is expensive, linguistically inaccessible and often at odds with their traditional forms of treatment. With their realization, the community has come to understand the importance of access to quality health care that is culturally sensitive, linguistically accessible and affordable.

Health care reform and managed care programs must incorporate an understanding and sensitivity to how and when Asians incorporate western medicine in the treatment of an illness, and allow the time that is necessary to educate patients to the western approach and reconcile it the "alternative" treatment that has already been tried, or more familiar to the patient. The Asian patient views western medicine as the "alternative".

Chinatown offers residents and Asian community members easy access to traditional medicine. There are numerous herbalists and acupuncturist available to provide treatment for a wide range of illnesses, as well as to assist the individual in maintaining his/her good health. To serve the physical health of community members a blending of traditional and western medicine may be the most sensitive and effective approach.

Limited English language ability affects the quality of health care accessible to community residents. Often times the task of interpreting information falls on children who become cautious about the responsibility they must bear and at the same time turns the parent-child relationship upside down. The need for trained medical interpreters and for bilingual providers is critical to accessing quality care.

Health care reform with its goals of universal coverage will provide health care benefits to many community members who work in industries or businesses which do not currently offer this important benefit. The financial ramifications of mandated employer contributions, however, are not understood well in the community. There has been very little coverage of the various health care reform proposals in the Asian language newspapers.

It is clear, however, that the Chinatown community is dependent, economically, on the success of its many small businesses. The financial impact in these family owned businesses must be taken with consideration in designing a health care reform package that will work for the Asian community.

Health care education is an important role fulfilled by the South Cove Community Health Center (SCCHC). SCCHC has developed materials in the major Asian languages, provides outreach and educational services, to educate members of Boston and Greater Boston's Asian community about the importance of smoking cessation, pre-natal care, diet, health screenings and health maintenance. The health center's multilingual and multicultural staff provide a wide array of educational, medical, social and mental health services. They also provide staff training for other health care providers serving Asian patients.

H. HOUSING

There are currently 1,431 units of Housing in Chinatown Proper for an estimated population of 5,100. This situation has contributed to the worst overcrowding in the City of Boston. Chinatown has a 21 percent rate of overcrowding which exceeds not only the Boston but the national average.

The expanded boundaries for Chinatown by Healthy Boston increases the number of housing units to 2,430. The inclusion of Castle Square Apartments accounts for 500 of the additional units.

Approximately one-third of the housing units in Chinatown are located in brick rowhouses built in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Years of overuse and poor maintenance have contributed to their deterioration. Studies such as "Chinatown 2000" and the "Chinatown Community Plan" describe the sub-standard conditions found in a third of the housing units.

The Chinatown Housing Improvement Program established a goal of constructing 500 units of housing on public parcels between 1990 and 1995. In October of 1993, the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) began construction of 88 units of family housing. The first and only effort towards the 500 unit goal. It is unclear, given recent events, if the commitment from the City of Boston continues, or if the land remains available for housing. Nor is it clear that the public will or resources exist to support the construction of affordable family housing.

To illustrate the housing situation Carol Lee Executive Director of ACDC offers the following information:

- the combined waiting list for area housing developments numbers in excess of 2,000
- many applicants for housing at Tai Tung Village and Mass Pike Towers have been on the waiting lists for over six years
- when Tremont Village a 24 unit development located in an adjacent neighborhood was completed 1,000 people stood in line on day one to apply for housing.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY

Community members, through two survey processes eight months apart, indicated that public safety was critical to the health of the community. Because of the design of the survey tools it was not possible to ascertain if the respondent, or anyone close to the respondent, had a specific reason, or experience which promulgated their concern. It was not possible to ascertain if community members were including "victimless crimes" in their responses. Prostitution has not been contained in the Combat Zone. It has been very evident and very active in the residential sections of Chinatown.

The South Cove/Chinatown Neighborhood Council's Public Safety Committee meets monthly to address issues which include: prostitution, Asian police officers, a community police reporting system, gang activities, assault with deadly weapons, muggings, carjacking, incidents not being reported and witnesses who are unwilling to testify.

The crime rates for the City of Boston have decreased annually for two consecutive years, but the majority of residents and residents of the neighboring communities believe that the incidence of crime has increased. This perception has prompted debates among interested parties about the role the media plays in that perception. The question also arises about the possibility that many crimes go unreported. New immigrants do not report incidents to the police because of language and cultural differences.

Table I1 which has been prepared by the Boston Police Department provides a 5 year comparison of reported crimes. The data, however, is limited to the residential area of Chinatown and does not include the commercial district. This illustrates, once again, the different boundaries assigned by various city departments for Chinatown and the difficulties of reconciling data.

Boston Police Department Reported Part One/Two Crime Chinatown Area (NAC 16) January 1, 1988 through December 14, 1993							
Offense Description	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993*	Total
Part I Crime							
Homicide	0	0	1	6	1	0	8
Rape	7	4	5	4	1	3	24
Robbery	50	65	61	40	42	39	297
Aggravated Assault	30	34	26	23	29	22	164
Burglary	34	19	25	16	30	8	132
Larceny	135	226	187	159	115	110	932
Auto Theft	152	128	117	111	85	60	653
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Part I	408	476	422	359	303	242	2,210
Part II Crime							
Simple Assault	35	17	25	24	29	34	164
Vandalism	62	60	49	42	30	32	275
Weapons	0	1	2	2	3	2	10
Prostitution	8	18	117	158	253	67	621
Drug	8	11	10	17	14	19	79
OUI	10	9	12	4	7	7	49
Disorderly	51	74	149	91	52	6	423
Other Part II	161	143	148	139	154	118	863
Total Part II	335	333	512	477	542	285	2,484
Total Part I & Part II	743	809	934	836	845	527	4,694

Chinatown (Neighborhood Area Code 16)

North: Kneeland St. to Expressway

East: Expressway to Berkeley St.

South: Berkeley St. to Shawmut Ave.

West: Shawmut Ave. to Turnpike to Washington St. to Kneeland St.

Prepared by the Boston Police Department
Office of Planning and Research

J. JOBS AND JOB TRAINING

In the late 1970's, a group of community activists recognized the importance of addressing the employment needs of new immigrants. Their commitment resulted in the development of a pre-vocational, English as a Second Language (ESL) program which would assist newcomers in developing and realizing an employment plan which addressed both their interests and work experience.

The Vocational English Education Program provided intense ESL, vocational counseling and job placements for its students. From 1976 through 1987, the program guided adult students with limited, or non-transferable, job skills to an appropriate training or educational program. Approximately 50 percent of the students were placed in positions where they were able to draw upon previous work experiences.

The AACA currently offers a similar publicly funded program. The number of students who benefit from the program remains basically unchanged from the 1978 slot levels, despite the ever increasing Chinatown and Asian populations.

There are limited employment counseling and job development resources for community members who have job and language skills. The AACA is currently the only agency in Chinatown with a job development/placement capacity through its Neighborhood Employment Center.

Community members have often enrolled in job training programs because of their availability and not, because of a strong interest in the training area. Job training resources are very limited for linguistic minorities, in particular, for males.

The strong economy of the mid- and late-1980's resulted in a decrease in job training funds for the City of Boston. Programs which were based in the community, or had served significant numbers of community residents, sought to support continuation of services by diversifying funding sources. New funding sources, however, placed restrictions on client eligibility and essentially disqualified a number of otherwise appropriate and needy individuals. For examples: ESL and employment funds specifically were targeted refugees, not immigrants; welfare funding excluded General Relief recipients in favor of single, female heads of households; Targeted Assistance Grants prioritized individuals of lower, native literacy, experiencing other barriers, for training in the same compressed time frames.

The community lost the three programs offered by the Chinatown Occupational Training Center (electronics assembly, medical office and data entry) in the late 1980's, leaving AACA as the only agency offering skills training in the community. AACA serves a total of 20 trainees annually.

The Chinatown community lost access to training from the Boston Technical Center (BTC) in South Boston when it diversified its funding sources in 1988. Prior to 1988, BTC had offered training in welding, machine and tool set-up, marine trades, cable installation, electronic testing, etc., to unemployed or underemployed community members, particularly Chinese males. The Chinatown community lost all of its training opportunities when BTC was funded primarily with resources targeted to refugees. The majority of Asians living in the community entered the United States as immigrants, not refugees.

Job training resources for women are more available as the current job training system became more traditionally female oriented with the ET Choices program instituted by Governor Dukakis. The ET Choices program was designed to increase the participation of women in the training system. Office and business skills were emphasized; the mechanical and technical programs were considered non-traditional for women and received less public support. Many of the business skills training programs incorporated ESL. The higher English language skills requirements precluded or discouraged many men from applying for admission. Another deterrent was the lower wages associated with clerical positions.

K. RECREATION

Many younger, survey respondents and coalition members have expressed their concerns and frustrations over the limited recreational facilities and programs for community members. The youth in particular have the least resources available to them. The South Cove YMCA's bubble was erected in mid-1976 as a temporary facility, one that was to be replaced by a new, permanent facility within five years. Negotiations continue to establish a new facility for the "Y". In the meantime, the "Y" continues to provide a range of services including summer day camp for community youth.

Community youth participating in the Youth Safety Town Meetings raised a number of concerns including the closing of the Chinatown Boys and Girls Club and the lack of a youth drop-in center.

Basketball is a popular form of recreation for community youth and court time is at a premium at the Quincy School Complex, which is open until 9 P.M., four nights a week. There is a basketball league for during the school year for the Boston Public School's Asian Culture Clubs. Unfortunately this league encompasses only a small number of the high schools.

Volleyball is another popular sport for community youth. Boston is an active participant in an annual tournament of competing teams representing the American and Canadian Chinatowns. Other league sports are non-existent in the community since the demise of the Pony League baseball team sponsored by the Maryknoll Sisters in the late 1950's and early 1960's. An occasional bowling league is convened at Boston Bowl in Dorchester.

The community pool is located in the Quincy School Complex and is used by a dedicated group of Asian men and women. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of Asian youth enrolled swim classes.

The QSCC and YES, both sponsor recreational outings for youth, such as ski trips to New Hampshire or Maine to afford youth to encourage participation in a variety of sports and recreational activities. Agencies have been attempting to expand access to other sports such as tennis, ice skating, roller skating, and hockey to offer all of the community's youth sports which appeal to their individual interests and abilities.

Youth who use the facilities at the "Y" or the QSCC come from all parts of the city and from Quincy. There is an integration of youth from different ethnic backgrounds including Chinese, Southeast Asians, Blacks and Hispanics depending upon the sport, or program.

There are few activities, or resources, to meet the sports or physical well being of adults, especially the elderly.

There are two Asian movie theaters and an annual Chinese Opera tour. Three martial arts schools provide training in various disciplines for both community and non-community members.

Boston's theater district is adjacent to Chinatown, though it is unclear how many local residents or community members have availed themselves of the productions at the Wang, Schubert, Wilbur or Emerson Majestic theaters. The cost of tickets may be prohibitive for many community members. There is one disco located in the theater district, and a number of small theaters/comedy clubs. None, however, are geared to Asian audiences.

L. OPEN SPACE

In the 1990 Chinatown Community Plan, approved by the Chinatown-South Cove Neighborhood Council, five publicly owned parcels of land were identified as being available for the community and in particular, for the construction of 500 units of community housing. Implicit was the goal of creating a "variety of open spaces and an improved public realm to serve the divergent social and recreational needs of Chinatown's residents, workers, shoppers and visitors" within the design expectation of each development.

The Chinatown Community Plan established the creation of open space as a priority. The Plan also proposed two types of open space, buffer and usable space. Within the community, the only usable space has been designed by the various housing developments to offer play areas for their residents and most are relatively small.

The open spaces within area housing developments are small, are landscaped, but cannot be called green spaces. Tai Tung Apartments has a small children's play area surrounded by concrete. A small play area exists for the children enrolled in the Acorn Child Care Center. It is the only play area to have grass. Mass Pike Towers has a courtyard with benches, landscaping, one tire swing, one slide and two basketball hoops. Castle Square which is beyond the Mass Turnpike affords its residents the greatest amount of open space. There are two basketball courts, a children's playground, four gardens, and small fenced in backyards for the occupants of street floor duplexes. Landscaping includes a variety of vegetation, grassy backyards and an abundance of trees.

The design of the new Oak Terrace housing development has incorporated a courtyard and tot lot for residents as well as a community garden. During the pre-construction and construction period, however, ACDC has had to eliminate the last remaining community garden and the open, non-dedicated playground and basketball court. There are no more swing sets or teeter totters in Chinatown. The community, however, is awaiting the completion of renovations to the Elliot Norton Park by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The new park design will offer important open, green and play space.

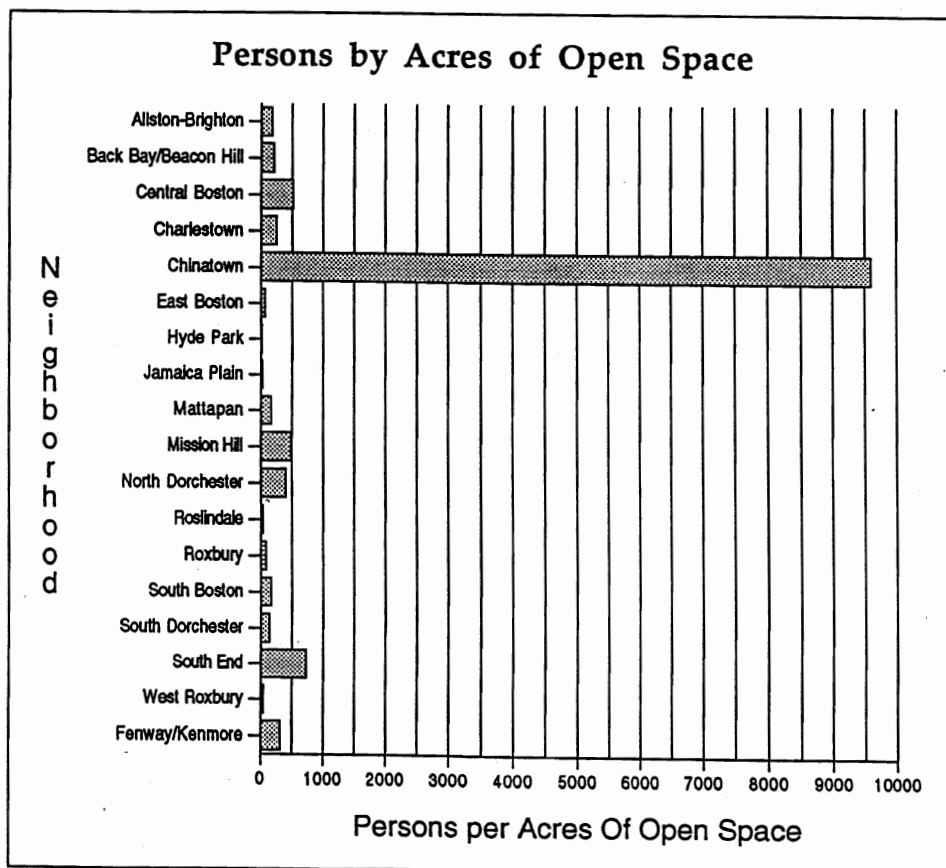
The Chinatown Community Plan identified a number of open spaces and advocates for their maintenance and continued improvements. These open spaces include: Gateway Park on Beach and Hudson Streets, Pagoda Park, the Tai Tung Street park and the Oxford Place/Street area. Three of the parks are very small and have limited amounts of greenery. All the benches have recently been removed from the latter two to discourage use by the vagrants. There are no grassy knolls or lawns in the community. Of the open spaces listed above only Pagoda Park offers usable space. It has three basketball courts which hosts both basketball and volleyball games.

The creation of quality open spaces is a priority for a neighborhood which is the most densely populated of the City's seventeen neighborhoods. The density of the neighborhood, narrow sidewalks, general congestion, the non-existence of front lawns and narrow sidewalks, pushes pedestrians into the street to deal with cars and creates a competition for land by people wanting parks and people wanting housing. The largest open space located in the institution subdistrict is owned by Tufts University and used by local institutions as an outdoor parking lot. Chart L1 has been prepared to illustrate the ratio of persons to open space in Chinatown proper.

CHART L1

Open Space to Persons in Neighborhoods

Neighborhood	Total_Pop	Area_in_Acres	ParkArea	Persons_AcresOfOpenSpace
Allston-Brighton	70284	2868.480	383.120	183
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	25041	610.300	119.110	210
Central Boston	16983	710.000	32.180	528
Charlestown	14718	876.800	58.110	253
Chinatown	5092	115.700	0.530	9608
East Boston	32941	2893.440	439.660	75
Hyde Park	24607	2824.320	790.830	31
Jamaica Plain	26807	1727.360	640.760	42
Mattapan	34680	1848.960	199.510	174
Mission Hill	14641	316.800	29.930	489
North Dorchester	26425	1285.120	64.200	412
Roslindale	38347	2300.160	808.580	47
Roxbury	57411	2478.080	592.900	97
South Boston	29433	2083.200	172.120	171



M. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Key informants participating in the resource assessment included long time community activists. Two key informants have been responsible for helping to establish four of the community's strongest organizations. Their contribution, and the contribution of many others, to the resource assessment has helped to identify a variety of capital available to the community.

People. The willingness of people to work on behalf of the community is a resource which key informants consistently identified. Some key informants cite the many youth who are attuned to volunteerism and who offer their time and talents to various organizations. One recent example was a fundraiser for the Asian Shelter Project organized by students from M.I.T.

Institutions. The community is endowed with a wealth of social service organizations, churches, and other traditional institutions such as family associations, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and other social organizations.

Family associations¹ historically provided assistance and social opportunities for individuals sharing the same surname. Other organizations such as the Benevolent Association, or Merchants Association, provided an infra-structure which enabled the community to be self-sufficient and independent of public agencies. This applied to community governance as well as social services.

Community organizations and their respective capacities to address community needs was cited as a resource.

Land. Despite the actual and perceived lack of available land for community development, many key informants identified four parcels of land which offered options and opportunities for the community. These parcels included Parcel A, Parcel R-1, Parcel C-12 and the parking lot in the institution subdistrict. Some community members looked to the depression of the Central Artery as an opportunity to reclaim land seized by eminent domain for the construction of the respective highways running through Chinatown.

Air Rights. Community members looked to the development of air rights over the Mass. Turnpike for housing, open space and expansion of the commercial district. Many long time community members also addressed the need and desire to re-establish a physical connection to the South End where many Asians now live.

A partial listing of the many agencies and organizations based in Chinatown has been prepared to acquaint the reader, or the new community member. Three resource maps (Maps G, H and I) have also been included as part of this section to illustrate the wealth of community resources.

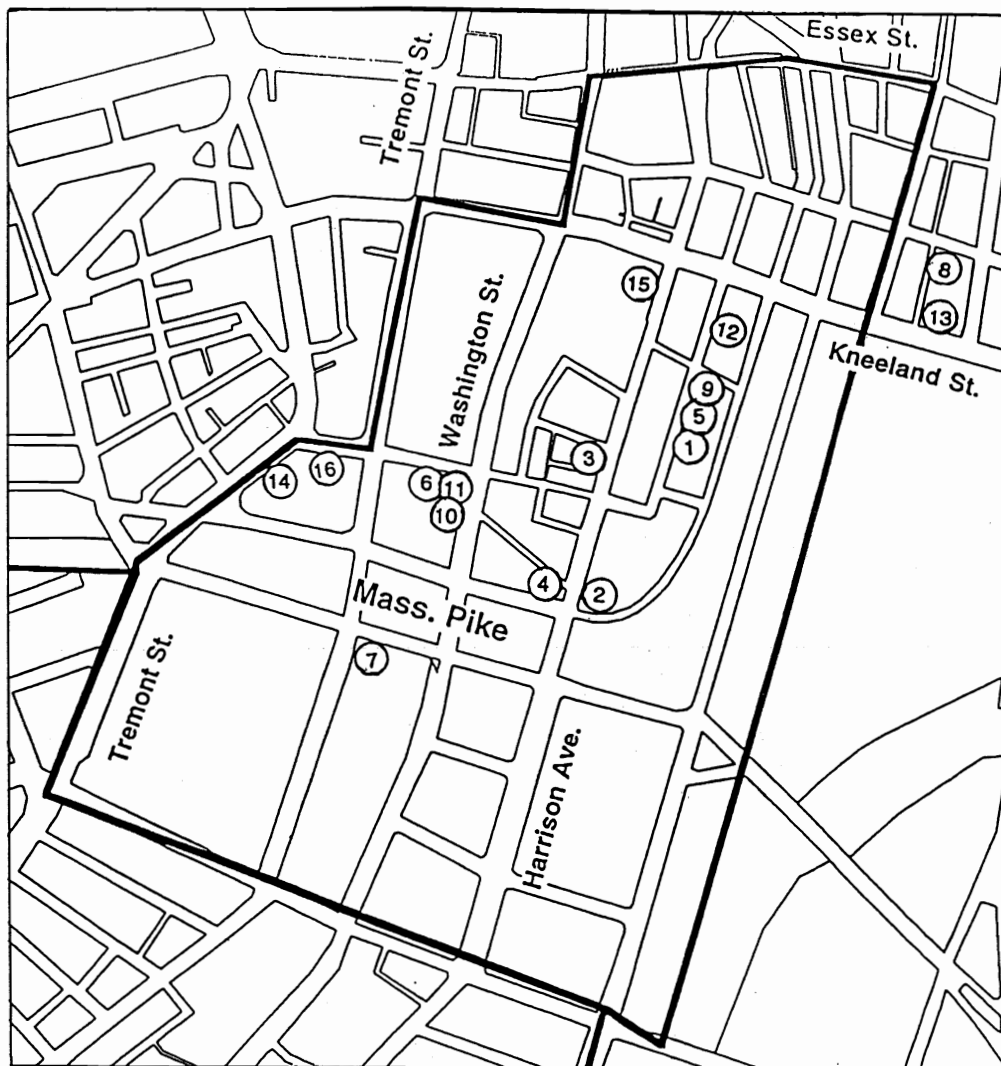
¹ Family associations were established in the early days of the community to provide for individuals with the same family surname a social network, support against discrimination and assistance with a variety of personal needs, and protection. Some family associations had economic development components, providing small loans and information on employment or business opportunities. Since the community was initially comprised of single men, the family associations often assisted with funeral arrangements and the disposition of an individual's estate to ensure benefits to heirs in China.

With the introduction of social services and community organizations in the 1970's, the function of the family associations has changed. A few still provide limited services, such as translation, referral services, and adjustment assistance for newly arrived immigrants. Most now focus on family events such as holiday celebrations. One proactive association, the Lees, has sponsored Chinese language classes and a credit union.

A number of cultural associations preserve traditional music and dance while others like the Chinese Cultural Institute promote the work of contemporary artists and musicians.

MAP G

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



HUMAN/ SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- #1 Asian American Civic Association/
Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
- #2 American Chinese Christian Education & Social Services
- #3 Boston Asian: Youth Essential Services
- #4 Boston Chinese Evangelical Church
- #5 Chinese Catholic Pastoral Center
- #6 Chinese Greater Boston Golden Age Center
- #7 Chinese Headstart
- #8 Chinese Progressive Association
- #9 Ni Lun Welfare Association
- #10 South Cove Community Health Center
- #11 Quincy School Community Council
- #12 South Cove YMCA

OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

- #13 Asian American Resource Workshop
- #14 Asian Community Development Corporation
- #15 Chinese Economic Development Council/
South Cove/ Chinatown Neighborhood Council
- #16 PEACH/ The Chinatown Coalition

MAP H

FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS



FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS KEY:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #1 Wong Family Association | #7 Lee Family Association |
| #2 Goon Family Association | #8 Eng Suey Sun Association |
| #3 Gee Tak Sam Tack | #9 Fung Luen Association |
| #4 Lung Gong Association | #10 Moy Family Association |
| #5 Lam Family Association | #11 Gee Family Association |
| #6 Gee How Oak Tin Assoc. | |

MAP I

SOCIAL/ CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS



SOCIAL/ CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS KEY:

- #1 Chinese Cultural Institute
- #2 Chinese Freemasons Association
- #3 Chinese Merchants Association
- #4 Chinese Women's Club of New England/ Kew Sing Music Club
- #5 Chinese Wushu Research Institute

N. RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION

- Inform parents of the different drop-out rates for Bilingual and Regular Education students in the Boston Public Schools.
- Increase the number of bilingual classes.
- Inform parents of the availability of Special Education for their children.
- Inform parents about the Boston Public Schools and create a mechanism for greater parent participation.
- Increase the availability of English language classes for adults.
- Provide information about the educational opportunities and financial resources to assist adults and high school students with technical and/or higher education.

FAMILY SUPPORT

- Develop integrated services to support and preserve families.
- Expand programs which encourage families' abilities to spend time together sharing educational and recreational activities.

HEALTH

- Inform the community of the health care services available to them as Boston residents.
- Encourage community members to participate in health care screenings and health education programs.
- Inform community members about proposed health care reforms.
- Support movement for universal health coverage.
- Work with neighboring medical institutions to provide appropriate health services.

HOUSING

- Support community efforts to increase the availability of housing in Chinatown.
- Advocate for more affordable housing.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Encourage community members to participate in the Neighborhood Council's Safety Committee.
- Encourage community members to establish crime watches.
- Advocate for an increased police presence in the community.
- Eliminate the adult entertainment (Combat) zone.

JOBS AND JOB TRAINING

- Advocate for more diversity in the job training system.
- Develop career counseling services to assist community members in identifying training and employment opportunities.
- Support community efforts to broaden economic base of community and job creation efforts.
- Advocate for more English language classes.
- Create stable job's through government programs for Chinatown and all minority communities.

RECREATION

- Support community efforts to create usable open spaces.
- Advocate for recreational and athletic resources for community youth.
- Expand programs which offer family field trips.

OPEN SPACES

- Advocate for more open spaces which are amenable to use by all members of the community.
- Reclaim community land from the depression of the Central Artery.
- Develop air rights over the Mass. Turnpike.

O. OTHER ISSUES

The Chinatown Coalition has utilized an issue area approach for this community assessment. This approach begs the question "What has not been included?" We have not included economic development, political participation, or the needs of the elderly. Other community needs which are not tied to a particular issue but cut across issues include: communication, information and the dissemination of information, research, and data which contributes to better decision making. We also need to recognize our internal diversity, the ways we work together, and the manner in which we can sustain on-going collaborations.

The issues listed above were omitted only because of the limited resources available for the community assessment. The issues are important to the community and need to be addressed within community and at forums which involve the diverse Asian community in Greater Boston and throughout the Commonwealth.

APPENDICES

- A. Demographics of Chinatown and Boston's Asian Community
- B. MAP J - Comparison of Chinatown Definitions
- C. MAP K - Designated Development Sites in Chinatown Area
- D. MAP L - Population Distribution, Asian/Pacific Islanders
- E. MAP M - Population Distribution, Chinese
- F. TABLE 1 - Chinese School/ Grade and Academic Skills Educational Competence
- G. Community Reports and Studies

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHINATOWN AND BOSTON'S ASIAN COMMUNITY

Prepared by Bart Laws, Social Action Resources

The Chinatown Coalition represents both the geographic area known as Chinatown and the Asian communities throughout Boston. Describing even the most basic characteristics of these communities is, therefore, a complex task. Our task is further complicated in that the area officially designated by Healthy Boston as the "turf" of the Chinatown Coalition it is different from the Chinatown Neighborhood Statistical area as normally used for planning and data reporting. The Chinatown Coalition represents census tract 704 lying south of the Turnpike in addition to most of tracts 701 and 702 which constitute Chinatown proper.

We must, therefore, present three sets of data. First we will give information about the area designated for the Chinatown Coalition by Healthy Boston; then because the Chinatown Coalition area was newly created for Healthy Boston it cannot be used to make comparisons over time. Consequently, in the second section we will discuss demographic trends in the Chinatown Neighborhood Statistical area. Finally, we will give a statistical portrait of the Asian population throughout Boston.

Throughout this report, when we refer to Chinatown, we will mean the area represented by the Chinatown Coalition as designated by Healthy Boston, unless otherwise specified.

The Chinatown Coalition Area

The population of the Chinatown Coalition area in 1990, according to the census, was 6,409.² Table 1 shows the breakdown of the population by race and ethnicity, according to the census estimates.

TABLE 1 CHINATOWN COALITION AREA POPULATION, 1990							
	CHINESE	VIETNAMESE	THAI	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	TOTAL
# OF PERSONS	4,422	108	56	1,018	479	183	6,409
% OF POPULATION	69.0%	1.7%	0.8%	15.9%	7.5%	2.9%	100%

Source: 1990, U.S. Census STF-3 data compiled by Boston Redevelopment Authority

Because it is based on a sample the information on national origin in Table 1 is subject to error. If there are small numbers of persons of other nationalities present they may have been missed by the sample. For example, the estimate of 56 Thais is presumably based on an actual count of nine or ten persons; there could be comparable numbers of persons of other nationalities present who did not happen to be sampled.

² The detailed information from the 1990 census is based on a sample of approximately one out of six households. Data from the sample are used to generate estimates of characteristics of the total population. There is some margin of error in these data, but given the fairly large size of the sample, it is not very important. The systematic bias in the data, which tends to undercount poor people and people who are not of the dominant culture, is much more important.

Nevertheless the general picture in Table 1 is undoubtedly accurate. The population of Chinatown is overwhelmingly of Chinese origin. Indeed Chinatown is without a doubt the most concentrated ethnic enclave in Boston. The Chinatown core -- not including Bay Village or tract 704 -- has an even higher concentration of Chinese about 85 percent.

The population is not only largely of Chinese ethnicity. A majority of persons are foreign-born. The census estimated that 3,807 residents about 55 percent of the population were foreign-born. Of these 1,032 persons had entered the U.S. since 1985, that is in the past five years prior to the census. More than one-third of the Chinatown population -- 2,473 persons -- were not U.S. citizens. All of these numbers are undoubtedly underestimates, as the census is known to undercount foreign-born persons. Again the concentration of foreign-born persons in the Chinatown core is even higher.

These findings are consistent with what residents say about Chinatown: that it is the place where many Chinese immigrants live when they first arrive in the United States. The children of immigrants, or immigrants who have become somewhat assimilated into U.S. society, tend to move on to other parts of Boston or the suburbs.

Not surprisingly, a high percentage of the Chinatown population does not speak English well. Of persons five years old and older in 1990, 35.2 percent spoke English "not well" or "not at all". Of 4,124 Chinese speakers, only 1,201, less than one-third, said they spoke English "very well". Over 4,000 persons spoke Chinese at home. This shows that Chinatown is not only overwhelmingly Chinese, it consists primarily of unacculturated¹ Chinese people who use a Chinese language in their daily lives. (The census identifies people's language only as Chinese but in fact there are many Chinese languages. Most Chinatown residents speak Cantonese or Toisan, a rural dialect of Cantonese).

Age and gender structure of the population: Chinatown's population is relatively old with a median age of about 37, compared with 30.4 for the city of Boston. Chinatown is also unusual in that it has more men than women, although women predominate among the elderly. Presumably this is related to immigration patterns. Table 2 shows the age structure of the Chinatown population.

TABLE 2 CHINATOWN POPULATION BY AGE, WITH COMPARISON TO BOSTON POPULATION, 1990			
AGE GROUP	# IN CHINATOWN	% OF CHINATOWN POPULATION	% OF BOSTON POPULATION
0-4	364	5.7%	6.2%
5-17	842	13.1%	12.8%
18-24	800	12.5%	17.3%
25-44	1,956	30.5%	36.8%
45-64	1,178	18.4%	15.3%
65 +	1,268	19.8%	11.5%

Source: 1990, U.S. Census, STF-3 data

As Table 2 reveals, in 1990, Chinatown had a smaller percentage of preschool-age children (0 - 4) than did the city as a whole, but the percentage of school-age children (5 - 17) was slightly more

¹The Chinatown Coalition acknowledges that neighborhood residents are unfamiliar with American culture as may be expected of newcomers. They are, however, individuals who possess a rich cultural heritage from their country of origin.

than the percentage for the city. The big difference in Chinatown is the very high percentage of older adults particularly over 65.

Family and Household Composition: According to the census, the Chinatown population consisted of 2,471 households, 1,398 of which were family households. Of 1,073 non-family households, all but a few consisted of persons living alone. There were only 157 persons in Chinatown sharing a home with non-relatives -- a very unusual pattern for a city in which most neighborhoods are home to substantial numbers of students and young adults who share apartments. Chinatown was also home to 70 nursing home residents, 109 residents of a college dormitory, and 134 persons in other group quarters, presumably group homes. Incidentally, all but 250 of the 1,398 family householders were Asian.

Chinatown had 621 families with children. Of these 476 were married couple families. Of 145 single parent families, 26 were headed by single fathers. There were only 83 Asian, single parent families. Of these, in an interesting contrast with the prevailing pattern in the U.S., nearly one-third were headed by fathers.

Education, employment and income: Chinatown residents tend to have extremely low levels of education¹. Of 4,403 residents over age 25, 38 percent had less than a ninth grade education. The comparable figure for Boston was only 10.3 percent. At the other extreme only 12 percent of Chinatown residents were college graduates, compared with 30 percent for the city. Furthermore, many of these college graduates were among Chinatown's small, white population. Just 8.1 percent of Chinatown's Asian, 25 and older population were college graduates. Obviously, these figures represent immigration from countries where secondary education is not universal. It puts many Chinatown residents at a great disadvantage in the labor market.

Unfortunately, the high school dropout rate for Chinatown's younger generation also appears to be extremely high. Of 328 residents age 16 to 19, nearly 16 percent were not enrolled in school and had not graduated. The comparable figure for the city was just 8.5 percent. However, a disproportionate number of young high school dropouts counted by the census belong to the fairly small, Black population of the area. The proportion of Asians, 16-19, who were not enrolled and had not graduated was a lower 9.1 percent.

Chinatown's official unemployment rate in April 1990, based on the census data, was 7.6 percent, below the rate for Boston at that time of 8.3 percent. The unemployment rate for the Chinatown Asian population, however, was a bit higher, at 10 percent. (The unemployment rate for Asians throughout Boston, in contrast, was relatively low at 7.8 percent.)

Given their low educational levels, it is not surprising that Chinatown residents tended to be in typically low-paid sectors and occupations. There were 3,242 persons who were employed in 1989. (The census asked about employment and income in the previous year.) Of these, 974, 30 percent were employed in retail trade (a category which includes restaurants), a relatively low-paid sector. In contrast, retail trade accounted for less than 14 percent of all employment in Boston. Ironically, while Chinatown is home to a major teaching hospital, only 5.5 percent of residents were employed in health services. The comparable figure for the city was 13.3 percent. Chinatown also had extraordinarily few public sector employees -- just 6 percent of the workforce, compared with 15.1 percent for the city as a whole.

¹Immigrants and refugees often devalue the education they received in their native countries. An individual completing four years of education in China is functionally literate and possesses basic computation skills. Completion of eighth grade in China, qualifies the student for many entry-level jobs. For an analysis of the educational competencies, please refer to Appendix Table 1.

These circumstances add up to very low incomes and a high poverty rate. The per capita income in Chinatown in 1989, was \$14,439, a bit less than the figure for Boston of \$15,581. However, this figure is greatly inflated by the very high incomes of the small, white population in Bay Village. The per capita income in census tract 704 was just \$6,066. The per capita income for all of Chinatown's Asians was \$6,539. Three hundred thirty-two Chinatown families had incomes under \$10,000 per year. The official poverty rate in Chinatown was 28 percent. Asian children, 0 - 4 years of age, in Chinatown had a poverty rate of 51 percent; the poverty rate for all Asian children (17 and under) was 39 percent. These figures are subject to sampling error but nevertheless, it is certain that child poverty in Chinatown is very widespread.

Chinatown's elders were also likely to be poor. The overall elder poverty rate was 35 percent. For Chinatown's Asians over 65, the poverty rate was 47 percent.

Housing: Home ownership in Chinatown is a rarity. Just 234 of 2,430 housing units were owner-occupied. Most units are in apartment buildings. Chinatown has only 18 single-family detached houses, and 100 two-family houses. Virtually all of these are in Bay Village: the Chinatown core and census tract 704 have virtually no one- or two-family houses. Most units are also small: exactly two-thirds have one bedroom or none, and the mean number of rooms per unit is just 2.9. (Compare this with 4.5 rooms per unit on average in all of Boston.) Yet the number of persons per occupied unit was 2.5 -- for Asians it was over three. In other words, there are almost as many persons as there are rooms in Chinatown, indicating a very high rate of residential overcrowding.

Summary: Chinatown is an ethnic enclave, predominantly immigrants, with very high poverty, employment in low-wage service occupations, and low levels of education. In its extreme concentration of people with limited English and limited marketable skills, its very overcrowded housing, and its very high poverty rates, Chinatown is unique in Boston. Other ethnic enclaves such as the Latino community in Jamaica Plain, Mattapan's Haitians, and Grove Hall's African-Americans are less overcrowded, feature more one- and two-family homes, higher rates of home ownership, and more diversity in income and education levels and occupation.

TRENDS IN CHINATOWN FROM 1980 TO 1990

Comparisons from 1980 to 1990 must use a slightly different area from the Chinatown Healthy Boston area. The Chinatown Neighborhood Statistical Area (NSA) for which these comparisons are possible, does not include census tract 704, south of the Massachusetts Turnpike. Nevertheless, the basic trend comparisons are probably valid for all of the Chinatown Coalition area. (Tract 704 consists entirely of rental housing, has a population which is 77 percent Asian, and a poverty rate of 30.3 percent.)

The total population counted in the Chinatown NSA fell by a trivial amount from 1980 to 1990, from 4,746 to 4,694. In 1980, this population was 63.9 percent Asian; in 1990, it was 70 percent Asian. Because minorities and immigrants are likely to be undercounted by the census, it is quite possible that the population did not really fall at all: rather, it may have simply become more difficult for the census to count people because of continuing immigration of people with limited English.

The median age in the Chinatown NSA increased markedly from 1980 to 1990, from 31.8 to 38.3 years. However, the number of children in the NSA actually increased from 1980 to 1990. The higher median age appears to result from "aging in place" of some earlier immigrants. The NSA's elderly population (65 +) increased dramatically, from 292 to 938.

In 1980, 53.2 percent of residents were foreign-born. In 1990, that figure had risen to 60 percent. In 1980, 46.5 percent of residents five and over spoke a language other than English at

home. In 1990, the comparable figure was 71 percent. Not surprisingly, most non-English speakers used Chinese, but there were a few other languages spoken in the NSA, including 35 Vietnamese speakers and 111 Spanish speakers.

In 1980, 42.9 percent of residents, 25 and over, had less than a ninth grade education. In 1990, that figure had fallen to 29.2 percent. However, for the Asian community it was 45.7 percent. The importance of retail trade as an employer was essentially unchanged at 34 percent in 1980, and 33.4 percent in 1990. The poverty rate in 1979, was 22.8 percent; in 1989, it was slightly higher at 27.2 percent.

There is no need to belabor the issue with further comparisons. The general picture is that immigration into Chinatown continued during the 1980's, while many earlier immigrants remained, particularly older adults. The result is a Chinatown that is even more Chinese, with more elders, and continued high poverty and dependence on low-wage jobs.

BOSTON'S ASIAN COMMUNITY IN 1990

The 1990 census counted 574,283 people in Boston, of whom 30,457, 5.3 percent, were Asian. This represents a doubling from 1980, when the census counted 15,150 Asians in Boston, 2.7 percent of the population. Table 3 shows the breakdown of Boston's Asian community in 1990, by national origin.

TABLE 3 NATIONAL ORIGINS OF BOSTON'S ASIAN POPULATION, 1990		
NATIONALITY	# IN BOSTON	% OF ASIAN POPULATION
Chinese	16,263	53.4%
Japanese	1,675	5.5%
Indian	1,948	6.4%
Korean	1,368	4.5%
Vietnamese	4,812	15.8%
Cambodian	1,052	3.5%
Laotian	396	1.3%
Thai	358	1.2%
Other Asian	1,100	3.6%
Filipino	1,212	4.0%
Guamanian	210	6.9%
Other Pacific islander	63	0.2%
TOTAL	30,457	100%

Source: 1990, U.S. Census, STF-3 data

Asian people are found throughout Boston. However, outside of Chinatown, the greatest number of Chinese people live in Allston-Brighton. The Vietnamese community is concentrated in the Fields Corner area of Dorchester.

Age profile of the Asian population of Boston: Boston's Asian population is relatively young on average. Table 4 shows the breakdown by age, and comparison with the overall population of the city.

TABLE 4 AGE PROFILE OF BOSTON'S ASIAN POPULATION			
AGE GROUP	# OF ASIANS IN BOSTON	% OF THE ASIAN POPULATION	% OF TOTAL BOSTON POPULATION IN AGE GROUP
0-4	1,902	6.2%	6.2%
5-17	4,700	15.4%	12.8%
18-24	6,671	21.9%	17.2%
25-44	11,297	37.1%	36.8%
45-64	3,724	12.2%	15.3%
65 +	2,163	7.1%	11.5%
TOTAL	30,457	100%	100%

Source: 1990, U.S. Census

As Table 4 shows, the Asian population is somewhat younger on average than the overall population of the city. In particular, while the proportion of preschool-age children in the Asian population in 1990, was not disproportionately high, the proportion of school-age children was a bit higher than average. The proportion of elders in the Asian population, however, was lower than average.

English speaking ability: The published census data do not include information about the proportion of Asians in Boston who are foreign-born. However, it does include information about the number of people who speak Asian and Pacific Islander languages, and their English-speaking ability. Table 5 shows the numbers of people five years old and older who report speaking languages other than English at home. Of the 23,911 Boston residents in 1990, who spoke Asian languages at home, 8,265 (34.6%) said they spoke English "very well"; 7,239 (30.3%) said they spoke English "well"; and 8,407 (35.2%) spoke English "not well" or "not at all".

TABLE 5 PERSONS SPEAKING ASIAN LANGUAGES AT HOME		
LANGUAGE	NUMBER 5 + SPEAKING	PERCENT OF BOSTON POPULATION 5 +
Chinese	14,255	2.65%
Japanese	1,560	0.29%
Mon-khmer	1,028	0.19%
Korean	981	0.18%
Vietnamese	4,212	0.78%
Other	1,875	0.35%

Socio-economic status: It is often said that the Asian population has a "bimodal" educational profile, with a relatively high percentage of both well-educated college graduates and people who lack adequate formal education. The 1990 census does not really support this view of Boston's Asian community. The proportion of college graduates is similar to, but not greater than, that of the total population; while the proportion with no high school diploma is very high.

TABLE 6 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF BOSTON'S ASIAN COMMUNITY AND COMPARISON WITH THE OVERALL BOSTON POPULATION			
EDUCATION LEVEL	# OF BOSTON ASIANS 25 +	% OF ASIAN POPULATION 25 +	% OF BOSTON POPULATION 25 +
< 9th grade	4,565	26.6%	10.3%
Some H.S. No Diploma	1,976	11.5%	13.9%
H.S. grad	2,818	16.4%	26.6%
Some College No Degree	1,509	8.8%	14.0%
Associate Degree	908	5.3%	5.1%
Baccalaureate	2,863	16.7%	17.6%
Graduate Degree	2,545	14.8%	12.4%

As Table 6 reveals, Boston's Asians are slightly more likely than average to hold an advanced degree. However, their overall likelihood of holding at least a bachelor's degree is similar to that of the total population. On the other hand, Asians are far more likely than the general population to have never attended high school.

The official unemployment rate for Boston's Asians in April 1990 was relatively low at 7.8 percent. However, the Asian population also had a high percentage of people who were counted as not in the labor force, because they had given up looking for work or for other reasons. The employment/population ratio, an alternative measure of unemployment was 54.5 percent for Boston's Asian population (16 and over). For the Boston population, the ratio was 60.1 percent. In other words, a significantly lower percentage of the Asian population was employed. This ratio appears even worse when one considers the low proportion of elders in the Asian population.

Household income for the Asian population shows a pronounced skewing toward lower income levels. Table 7 shows the breakdown of income levels for Boston's Asian households, in comparison with the white population of the city.

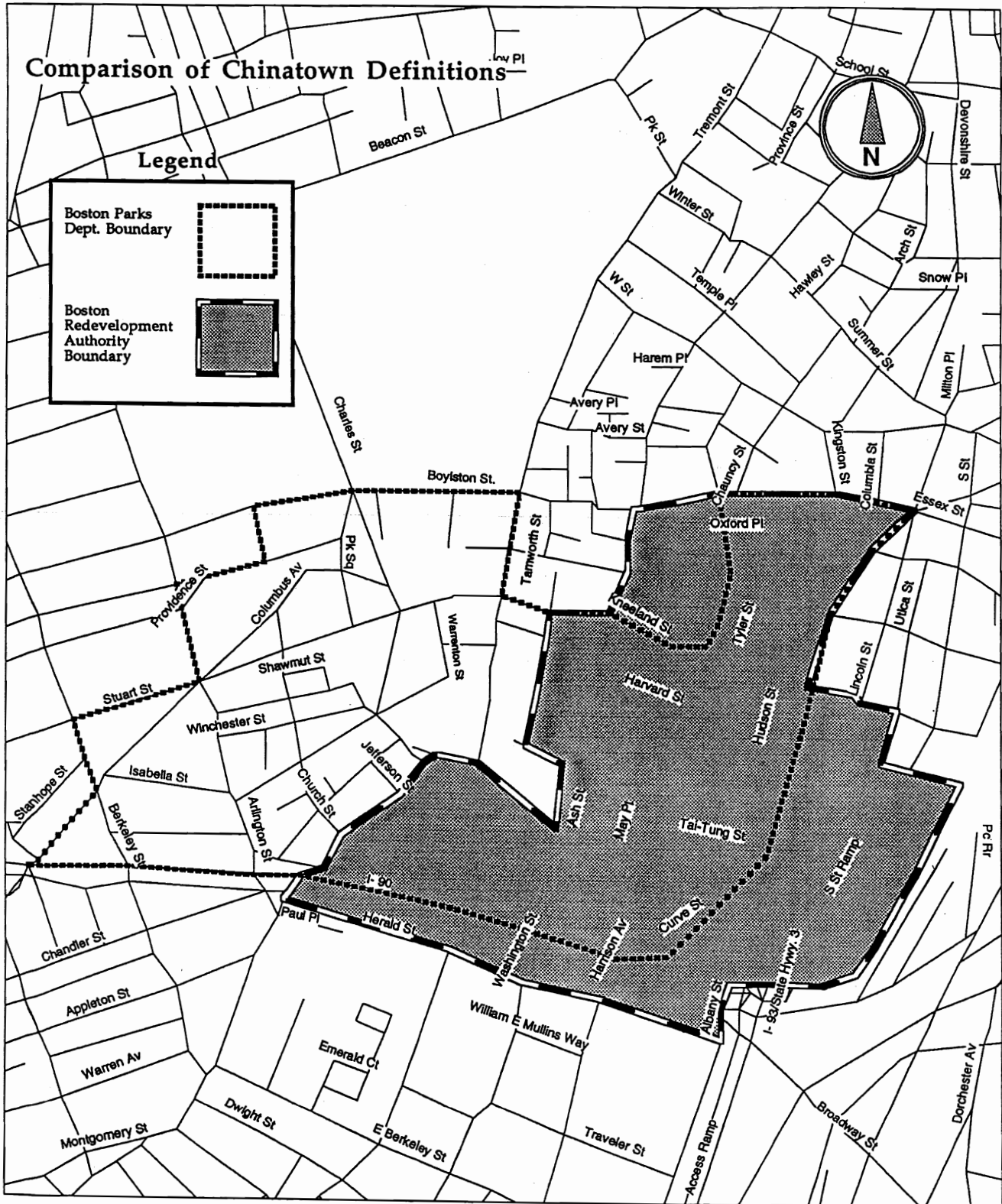
TABLE 7 1989 HOUSEHOLD INCOME LEVELS FOR ASIANS IN BOSTON & COMPARISON WITH BOSTON AVERAGES			
INCOME LEVEL	# OF ASIAN	% OF ASIAN HOUSEHOLDS	% OF WHITE HOUSEHOLDS
\$0-4,999	1,621	17.1%	6.3%
5,000-9,999	1,194	12.6%	11.3%
10,000-14,999	723	7.6%	7.2%
15,000-24,999	1,589	16.8%	14.6%
25,000-34,999	1,380	14.6%	14.5%
35,000-49,999	1,232	13.0%	17.0%
50,000-74,999	1,199	12.7%	16.6%
75,000-99,999	328	3.5%	6.4%
100,000 +	195	2.1%	6.1%

Table 7 demolishes the myth that Asians are an economically successful minority, at least within the city of Boston. Asian households are greatly underrepresented at the higher income levels, and overrepresented at the lowest income levels.

The overall poverty rate for Boston's Asian population in 1989, was 29.5 percent, compared with 18.7 percent for the city as a whole, and 13.9 percent for the white population. Poverty was high for all Asian age groups. It was 34.7 percent for preschool-age children; 32 percent for school-age children; 27.7 percent for adults; and 34.3 percent for elders.

Conclusions: There is a widespread myth that Asians are a "model minority" which has used educational success to climb the economic ladder. Others have said that Asians have a "bi-modal" socioeconomic profile, with clustering at the higher and lower ends of the income scale. While the latter may be true for the U.S. as a whole, it is not true in Boston, where Asians' socioeconomic status resembles that of other disadvantaged minorities.

MAP J



MAP K

Designated Development Sites in Chinatown Area

Parcel	Name
A & B	Oak/Washington/Marginal Lot
Parcel C	Oak/Nassau/Washington Lot
Parcel C-12	Don Bosco Lot
P-2	Posner Lot
R-1	Tyler Hudson Lot
Hinge	Hinge Block

Legend

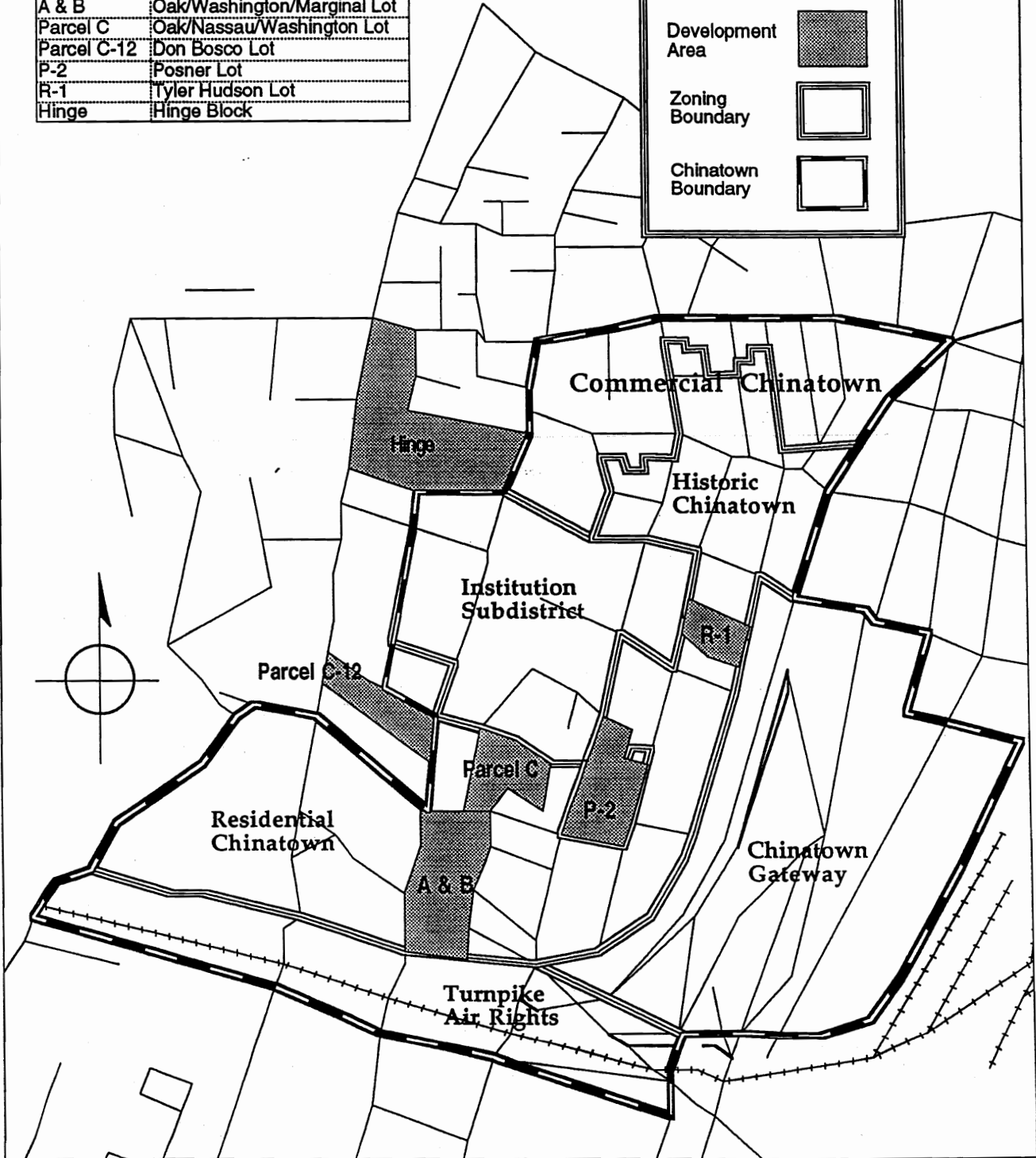
Development Area



Zoning Boundary



Chinatown Boundary

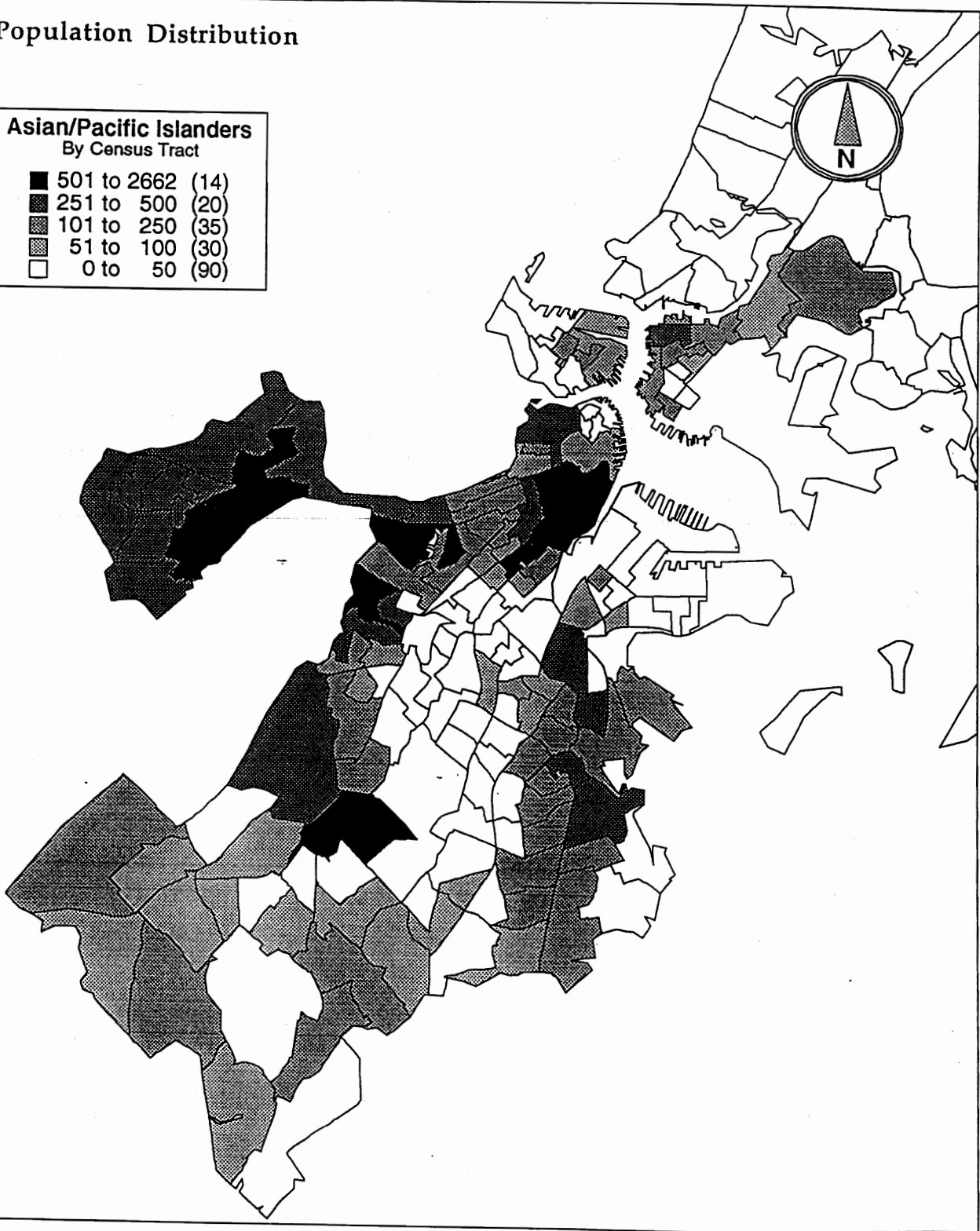


MAP L

Population Distribution

Asian/Pacific Islanders
By Census Tract

■	501 to 2662	(14)
■	251 to 500	(20)
■	101 to 250	(35)
■	51 to 100	(30)
□	0 to 50	(90)

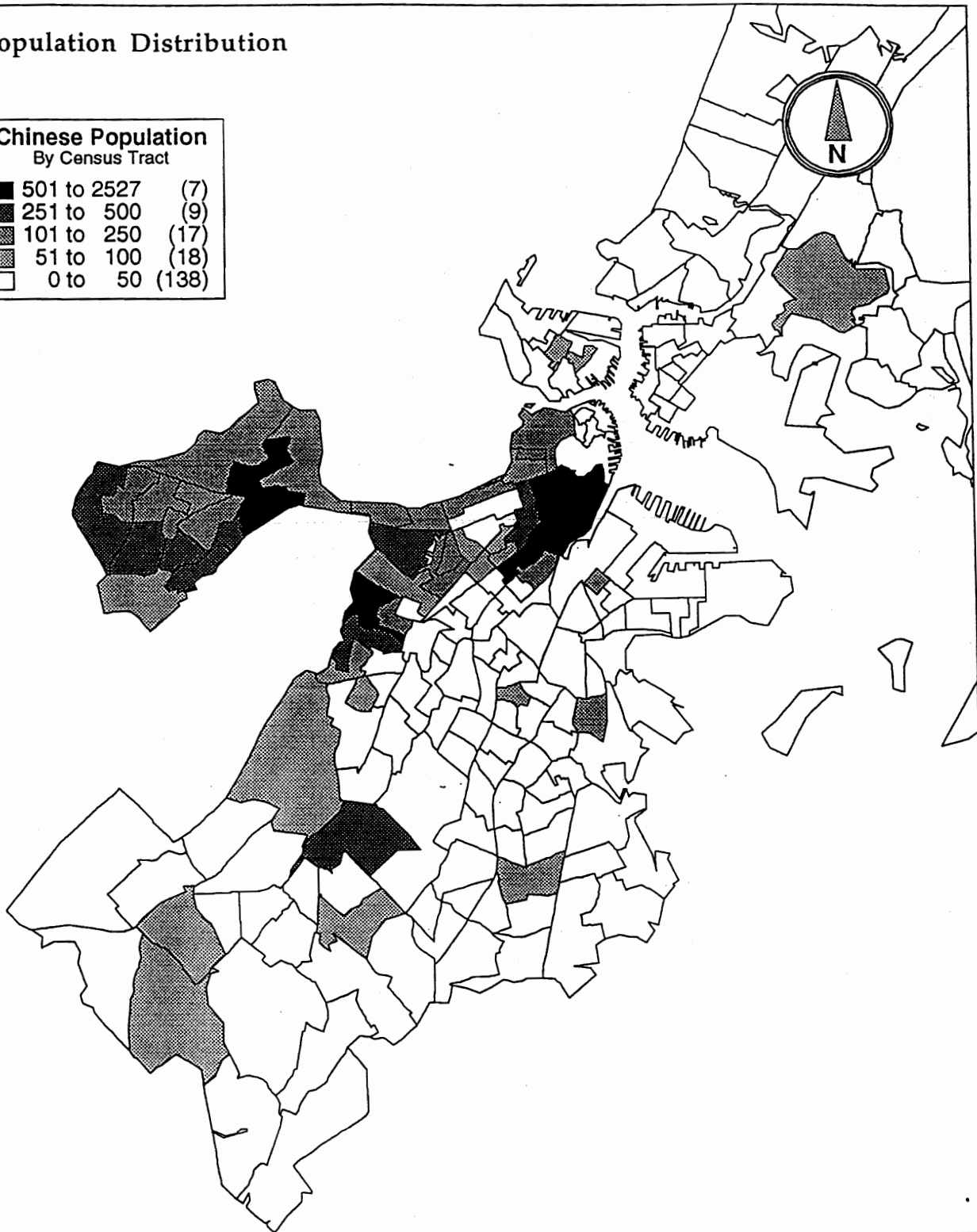


MAP M

Population Distribution

Chinese Population
By Census Tract

■	501 to 2527	(7)
■	251 to 500	(9)
■	101 to 250	(17)
■	51 to 100	(18)
□	0 to 50	(138)



APPENDIX TABLE 1

CHINESE SCHOOL/ GRADE AND ACADEMIC SKILLS EDUCATIONAL COMPETENCE

Compiled by Fengju Zhang, Quincy School Community Council

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CHINESE LANGUAGE	MATH	OTHER SUBJECTS
G1	Phonetic symbols (pin-yin); Reading & writing: words, simple sentences; Simple text reading	Numbers; Addition & Subtraction (#'s within 100)	
G2	Phonetic combinations - use of dictionary; Reading & writing: words, simple sentences; Simple text reading	Addition & Subtraction; problem solving; Simple Multiplication & Division	
G3	Reading & writing: words, sentences, texts; Beginning composition	Addition/ Subtraction & Multiplication/ Division of higher numbers; Problem solving	
G4	Reading & writing: words, texts; Sentence building; Composition	Decimal numbers; Calculations with decimals; Problem solving; Measurements	
G5	Reading: literature; Writing: practical purpose; Composition	Decimals & fractions- using calculators; Shapes & Space	Brief nat'l history; Simple nat'l Geography; Popular Science
G6	Reading & writing; Literature; Composition	Fractions/ percentages' Shapes, Space & Volume; Equations	Nat'l History; Nat'l Geography; Science

SECONDARY SCHOOL	CHINESE LANGUAGE	MATH	OTHER SUBJECTS
G7	Reading: literature; Chinese language; Writing	Algebra (1)	Physics (1); Biology (1); Chinese geography; Chinese history; Social Science
G8	Chinese language; Chinese literature; Writing	Geometry (1)	Physics (2); Biology (2); Chemistry (1); Chinese geography; Chinese history; Social Science
G9	Chinese language; Reading: world literature; Writing	Trigonometry	Biology (3); Chemistry (2); World history; World geography; Social Science
G10	Chinese language; Literature; Reading & writing	Algebra (2)	Physics (3); Chemistry (3); World history; World geography; Philosophy
G11	Language/ literature; Reading & writing	Geometry (2)	Physics (4); Chemistry (4); History; Geography; Philosophy
G12	1st semester - Completion of studies 2nd semester - Completion of studies or Preparation for higher education	1st semester - Completion of studies 2nd semester - Completion of studies or Preparation for higher education	1st semester - Completion of studies 2nd semester - Completion of studies or Preparation for higher education

Education Tracks:

An individual may attend school in the following two blocks:

Grades 1-6 (Elementary)

Grades 1-6 (Elementary)

Grades 7-9 (Middle)

Grades 7-12 (Secondary)

Grades 10-12 (Vocational)

General Information:

First graders are approximately 7 years old. Younger children attend 1) nursery school, 2) kindergarten, 3) pre-school, and then 4) Grade 1.

Promotions from one grade to the next are dependent upon the student's mastery of at least 60% of the coursework taught each year. Students must pass an end of the year exam for promotion/advancement.

No special education is available for students. Students may be tutored to assist them in obtaining promotions, but once they have failed to advance after three attempts, there is no recourse.

In the school system, an individual is functionally literate upon completion of four years of elementary school, and an individual is qualified for an entry level position upon completion of the sixth grade. Individuals are prepared for above entry level positions after the ninth grade, and is considered technically/ specially trained upon completion of the twelfth grade (Vocational school).

Attendance/ enrollment in junior high (middle) school is universal. It is mandatory for all people to complete grade nine. Upon completion of the ninth grade, the individual is considered "educated." Technical (vocational) schools above the ninth grade are equivalent in content to American junior colleges.

Advancement to higher education is very competitive. 30-35% of middle school students advance to senior high school level, and of those, only 15-20% completing their secondary education advance to higher education (college).

The study of foreign languages begins in Grade 7, and the choices are English, Russian, and Japanese. (Languages are listed in current order of popularity.) Other languages are studied at higher grades in special schools preparing students for work in the foreign service or international professions.

College programs are generally three years in duration, and university studies are usually four years.

Worksite education is available for workers to complete their education or to advance to college courses.

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