



2025 GREATER BOSTON IMPACT REPORT

Contact Us



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heart.org/massachusetts





@AmericanHeartMA



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Our Mission

Since our founding in 1924, the American Heart Association has made remarkable strides, helping to cut deaths from cardiovascular disease by half. Yet, our mission is far from complete.

Recent years have seen a troubling rise in death rates and widening equity gaps. If current health and demographic trends persist, by 2050, more than 60% of adults will face hypertension and obesity. The cost of treating cardiovascular diseases will more than triple. This is why our work in our second century is more critical than ever.

In Greater Boston, our efforts are making a difference. We're investing in local organizations tackling food access. We're providing our most vulnerable residents with tools and resources to help them manage their blood pressure. And we're teaching people CPR and increasing access to AEDs. Additionally, our advocacy on Beacon Hill is creating public policies that ensure every resident can live their healthiest life.

We are proud of our achievements, but we know there is more to do. Together, we can drive breakthroughs in science, policy, and care, transforming lives and advancing health and hope for everyone, everywhere.

Karen A. Whitefield

Executive Director, Greater Boston American Heart Association karen.whitefield@heart.org

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National Impact

Over our 100-year history, the American Heart Association has been fighting heart disease and stroke and helping families and communities thrive. Our supporters have made a difference across our nation, in the places you and your loved ones call home.

13.6%

Reduction in deaths from stroke Since February 2018 \$5B

Invested in research funding since 1949 More than any nonprofit organization outside the federal government **15.1%**

Reduction in deaths from heart disease Since February 2018

12 MILLION

People reached by nutrition improvement programs **19** MILLION+

Patients benefitting from a Quality Care Initiative for high blood pressure **MILLION**

People trained in CPR each year

2028 Impact Goal

By 2028, the American Heart Association aims to make big advances in science, policy and healthcare to help people live healthier lives. It's important that the best health discoveries reach everyone, no matter where they are. To make this happen, we're focusing on these key areas.

Access to Healthcare

We're working to preserve and expand Medicaid coverage and increase enrollment in Affordable Care Act plans. Our focus is on improving equity, especially for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.



Quality of Healthcare

We're helping hospitals follow the latest research-based treatment guidelines for cardiovascular disease. By doing so, these hospitals uphold high standards, giving their patients the best chance for a higher quality of life.



Health Factors

Nearly half of American adults have high blood pressure, and many are unaware of it. We're helping healthcare organizations and communities with high rates of hypertension improve blood pressure control using the latest scientific evidence.

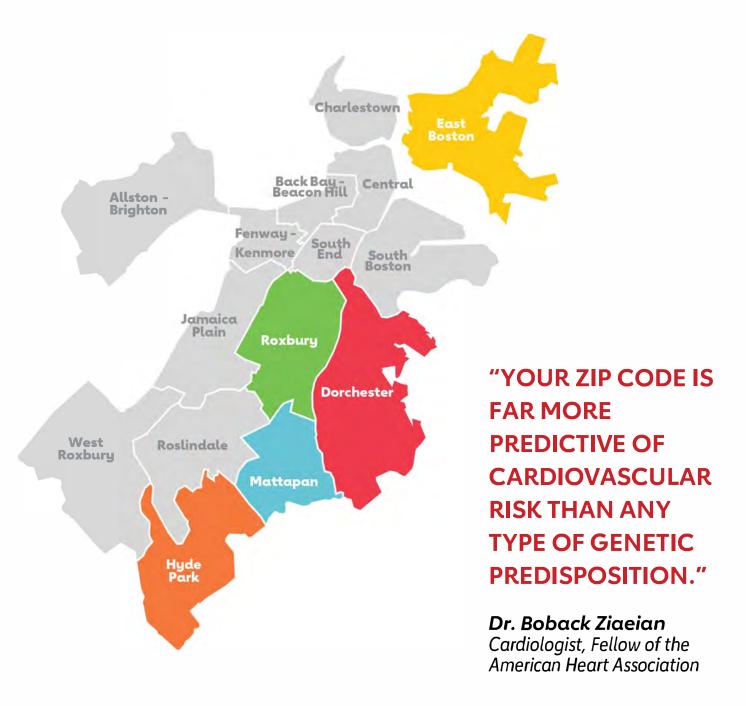


CPR

CPR can mean the difference between life and death for someone experiencing cardiac arrest. We've launched a national campaign called Nation of Lifesavers to turn bystanders into lifesavers. Our goal: Doubling the survival rate from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests by 2030 and increasing the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).



Priority Neighborhoods

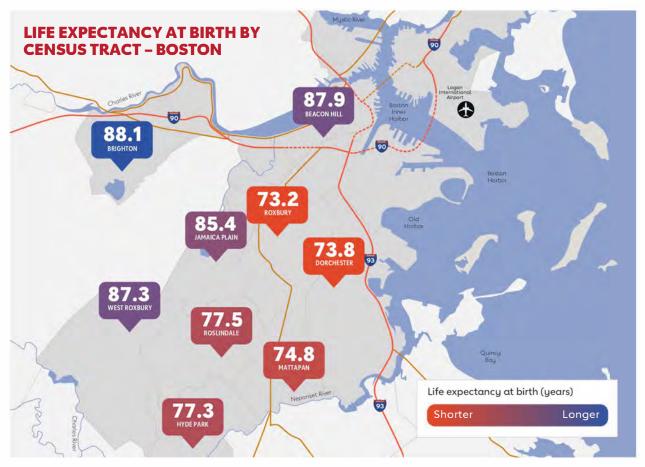


The Health of Boston

Health gaps across Boston aren't just numbers—they're real lives. In some neighborhoods, people live longer, healthier lives. In others, chronic disease and early death are far too common. That's not by chance.

Things like good housing, quality schools, decent wages, safe streets, and access to healthy food and medical care all shape our health. But for too many, systemic barriers make these basic needs harder to get, leading to worse health outcomes.

That's not right, and it's why we're working to change it.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A Tale of Two **Bus Stops**

Where you live shouldn't dictate how long or how well you live—but in Greater Boston, it often does. For example, a five-mile ride on the Route 1 bus, from Cambridge to Roxbury, reveals stark differences in health outcomes between its first stop and its last.

That's why we're focusing our efforts where they're needed most-working in neighborhoods facing the toughest health challenges to ensure everyone has a fair chance at a healthier life.

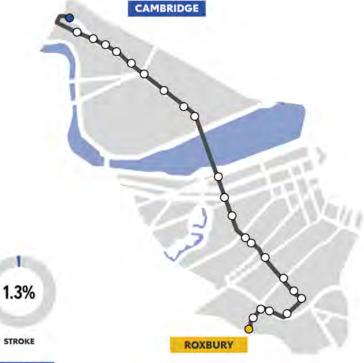
2.7%

HEART DISEASE

14%

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

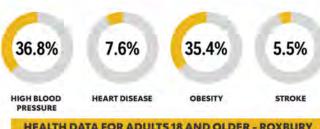






18.4%

OBESITY



HEALTH DATA FOR ADULTS 18 AND OLDER - ROXBURY

Community Impact

Every person deserves the chance to live a healthy, fulfilling life, no matter where they come from or what challenges they face. But for too long, too many communities have been left behind, struggling with poverty and barriers to good health. We're working with the people who know these communities best to tackle health inequities head-on and make sure no one is overlooked. Here are some of the ways we're making a difference.

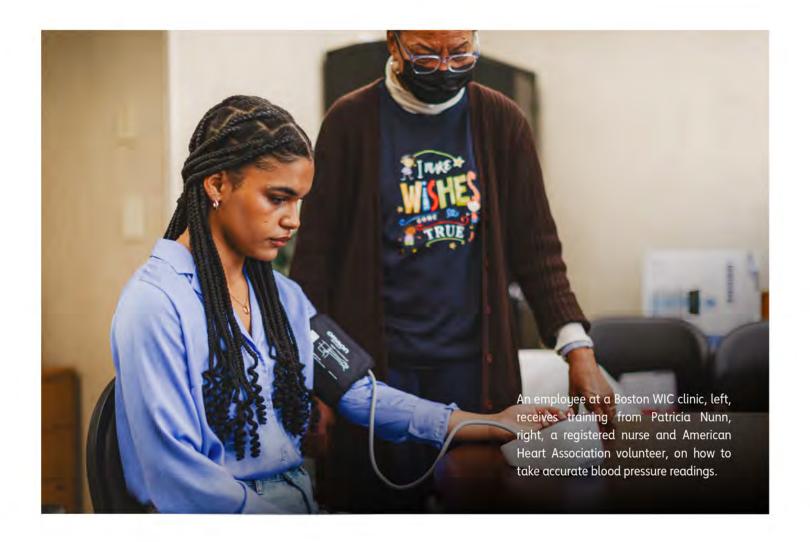




Teaming with Local Churches to Advance Cardiovascular Health

Greater Boston churchgoers are improving their cardiovascular health through our Have Faith in Heart initiative. Supported by a grant from UnitedHealthcare, we're working with local faith leaders to deliver vital health resources to worshippers and the community, including blood pressure screenings and education, CPR and AED training, and funding for AEDs, CPR kits and educational resources.





Supporting Maternal Heart Health at Boston WIC Clinics

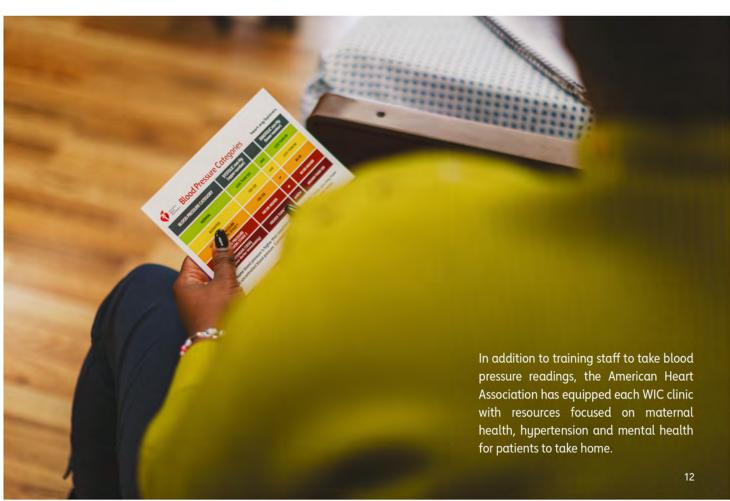
The American Heart Association is enhancing maternal health in Boston through WIC With Heart, a program offering free blood pressure screenings, health referrals and educational materials at local Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics.

This initiative addresses high blood pressure—a significant health concern disproportionately affecting Black and Hispanic adults in Boston—and is made possible through support from Sage Therapeutics.

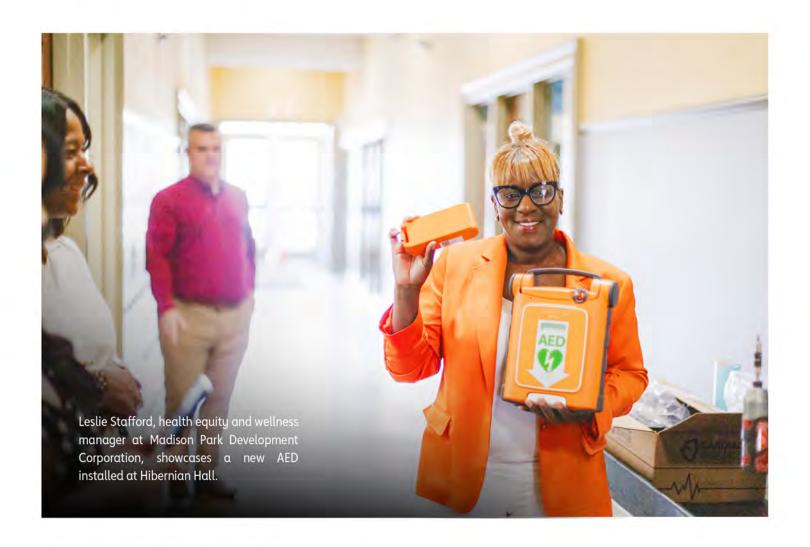
Staff at four WIC clinics in Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park have been trained to provide blood pressure screenings during appointments, ensuring women receive essential care and resources during pregnancy and postpartum. "IDENTIFYING
INDIVIDUALS WHO
MAY HAVE HIGH
BLOOD PRESSURE,
PARTICULARLY
DURING
PREGNANCY, IS
HUGE."

Elisa Cardoso WIC Program Director Upham's Corner Health Center









Boosting Cardiac Emergency Response at Boston Arts Center

To enhance cardiac emergency preparedness, the American Heart Association provided funding for Madison Park Development Corporation to purchase and install an AED at Hibernian Hall, a community arts center in Roxbury.

This critical resource addresses a pressing need: more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur annually in the U.S., with a survival rate of just 10% due to delayed intervention. Immediate CPR and AED use can double or triple survival chances.

Funded with support from local philanthropists Dorene and Tom McCourt, this initiative also includes Hands-Only CPR and AED training for MPDC staff and community members, empowering them to save lives.

"IN OUR
UNDERSERVED
COMMUNITIES...WE
HAVE HIGH RISK OF
HEART ATTACKS. WE
HAVE HIGH RISK OF
DIABETES, OBESITY,
HYPERTENSION."

Leslie StaffordHealth Equity and Wellness
Manager, Madison Park
Development Corporation



Enhancing Cardiac Safety at the Boys & Girls Clubs

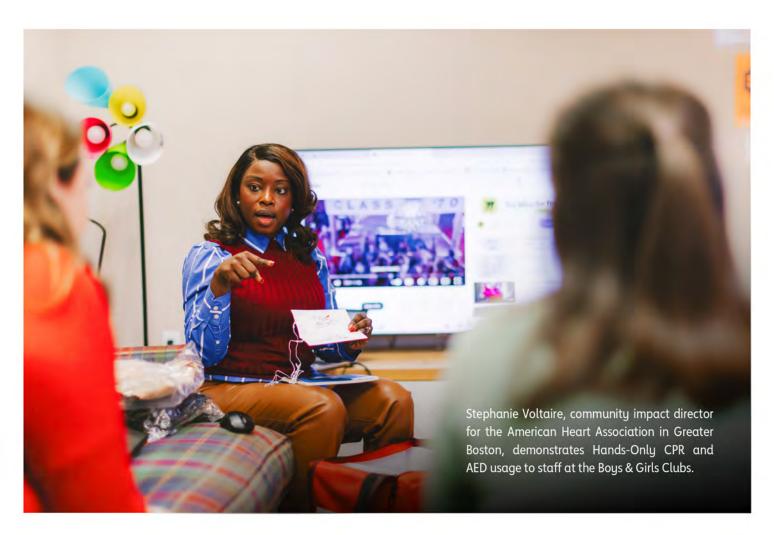
The American Heart Association has enhanced lifesaving preparedness at the Boys & Girls Clubs of MetroWest's Hudson and Framingham locations by providing two new AEDs, staff CPR training, and customized emergency response plans to ensure swift action in a cardiac emergency.

In addition to staff training, youth members are also learning CPR, empowering them with critical skills.

This effort aligns with the Nation of Lifesavers campaign, which aims to double cardiac arrest survival rates by 2030 by training more people in CPR and increasing AED access.

"WE WANTED TO TURN THIS INTO A COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT. THIS IS ABOUT CREATING A RIPPLE EFFECT OF PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY."

Barbara Tolland
Director of Operations
Boys & Girls Clubs of
MetroWest



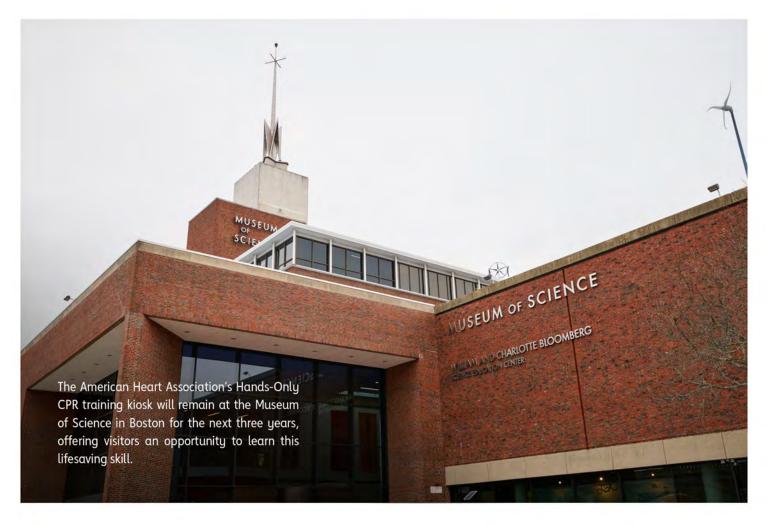


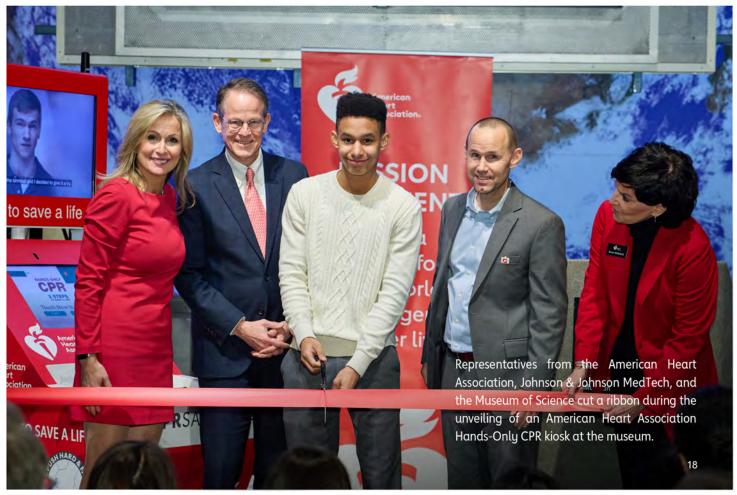


Bringing Lifesaving CPR Training to the Museum of Science

The American Heart Association, with financial support from Johnson & Johnson MedTech, launched a Hands-Only CPR training kiosk at the Museum of Science in Boston in February 2025. This state-of-the-art, interactive video game-style kiosk will be located in the museum's Hall of Human Life exhibit. The kiosk gives museum visitors a fun way to learn Hands-Only CPR in just minutes—because in a cardiac emergency, every second counts.









Nourishing Kids, Strengthening Communities at Boston YMCAs

The American Heart Association is tackling food insecurity and promoting healthy lifestyles for children by providing funding to the YMCA to purchase industrial-sized refrigerators for their locations in Dorchester, Roxbury, Hyde Park and Oak Square.

These refrigerators ensure safe storage of fresh fruits, vegetables, and balanced meals, benefiting nearly 400 children daily in afterschool programs, with even higher numbers during summer camps. The meals, which meet federal nutrition standards, are more than just snacks—they provide some children with their only reliable healthy meal of the day. This initiative was made possible with funding from local philanthropist Patricia Salic.

"WE SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT NOT ONLY THE KIDS BUT ALSO THEIR FAMILIES, SO THEY HAVE ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT."

Eilisha Manandhar Senior Director of Hunger Prevention, YMCA of Greater Boston



Quality of Care

Every patient deserves access to high-quality heart and stroke care, regardless of where they live. The American Heart Association recognizes hospitals across the country—from rural areas to the most populated cities—for consistently following upto-date, research-based treatment guidelines for cardiovascular disease.

The 2,800 nationwide hospitals awarded through these Get With The Guidelines programs maintain unrelenting standards to help patients live longer, healthier lives and have the opportunity for a higher quality of life.

Scan the QR code to read more about this recognition from the American Heart Association and find an award-winning hospital near you.



EVERY 40 SECONDS

someone in America dies of cardiovascular disease.

HEART DISEASE AND STROKE REMAIN

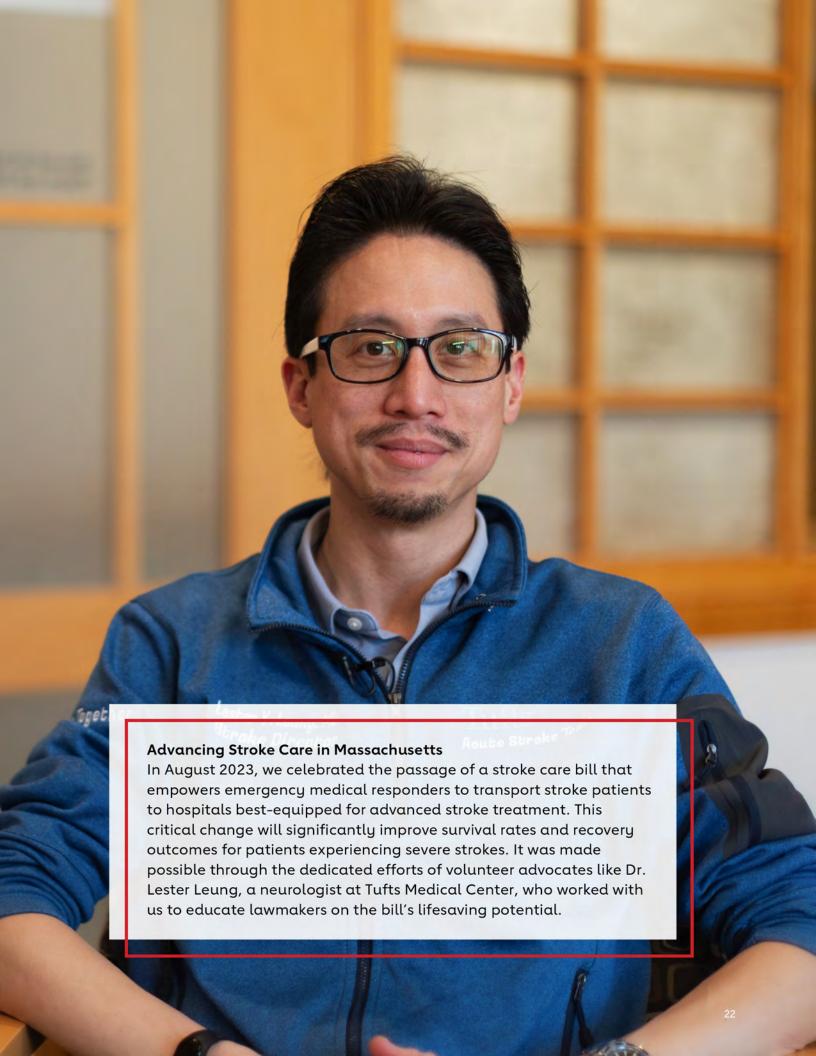
the No. 1 and No. 5 leading causes of death, respectively.

IN 2020, MORE PEOPLE DIED

from cardiovascular disease than in any year since 2003, with Asian, Black and Hispanic people most significantly impacted.

HEART DISEASE AND STROKE CLAIMED

more lives in the U.S. in 2021 than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined.



Public Policy Agenda

A key way the American Heart Association stands with our communities is by advocating for policies that improve lives and create healthier communities. These are the legislative issues we are focusing on in Massachusetts in 2025.

Tobacco Use

Why is this issue important?

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.

How are we working to solve it?

We support increasing per-pack cigarette taxes, which deter smoking. We also support funding programs to help people quit tobacco and educate young people on the dangers of tobacco use.



Quality of Healthcare

Why is this issue important?

Too many people die or are disabled because they do not get available lifesaving treatment when having a stroke or a cardiac arrest.

How are we working to solve it?

We are working to ensure patients experiencing the most severe cases of stroke receive appropriate treatment immediately. We also support training all 911 dispatchers to deliver CPR instructions and making CPR education a high school graduation requirement.



Healthy Diet

Why is this issue important?

People, especially kids, are consuming too many sugary drinks, which are a major contributor to heart disease and diabetes.

How are we working to solve it?

We are advocating for taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, working to make kids' meals healthier and expanding access to clean drinking water.



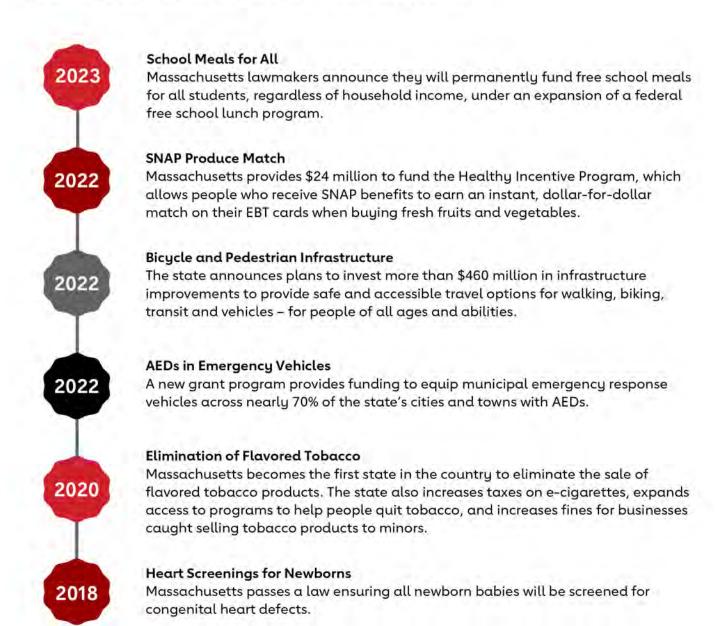


Advocating for Healthier Cities and Towns

Every voice matters in the fight for public policies that create healthier lives and communities. We rely on everyday advocates across Massachusetts and the nation to drive legislative and regulatory change. Among these advocates is Dr. Lisa Owens, who turned tragedy into action after losing her 15-year-old son, Preston Settles, to sudden cardiac arrest during a basketball game in North Andover in 2022. Her passion and dedication exemplify the power of advocacy in building a healthier future.

Public Policy Milestones

Here is a sampling of recent public policy changes in Massachusetts that the American Heart Association successfully advocated for and helped enact.





Advocating in Washington, D.C., to Make Schools Safer

In schools with access to AEDs and CPR, students are seven times more likely to survive cardiac arrest. Volunteers from Massachusetts joined us in Washington, D.C., in May 2024 to champion legislation to develop cardiac emergency response plans and authorize funding for CPR and AED training in public schools nationwide. The bipartisan bill, known as the HEARTS Act, was signed into law by President Joe Biden in December.







Scientific Research

The American Heart Association has invested \$5.9 billion in research funding since 1949, resulting in monumental scientific breakthroughs that have saved and improved lives. In Massachusetts, we awarded \$16.51 million in funding to 90 researchers in 2024 alone.

THE AHA FUNDS THE MOST MERITORIOUS SCIENCE ANYWHERE

to give us the greatest chance of saving lives everywhere.



THE URGENCY FOR DISCOVERY IS GREAT

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the world. Stroke is No. 2. We lose 17 million lives each year, and there is no cure.

AHA-FUNDED RESEARCH

has resulted in discoveries that have saved lives in every community in the United States.



THE AHA HAS INVESTED

\$5.9 BILLION

in research since 1949, second only to the federal government.



THE NEW KNOWLEDGE THAT RESULTS FROM

AHA-FUNDED RESEARCH

benefits millions of lives in every community and in every nation, and is translated into guidelines to provide the best, most updated care.



in the careers of the best and brightest young investigators

and established researchers and works to ensure diversity of perspectives across our research.



FUNDING RESEARCH

is a cornerstone of the American Heart Association's lifesaving mission. It always has been and always will be.





the AHA is boldly moving into innovative, transformational areas, such as precision medicine, multidisciplinary research teams, big data and accelerating emerging technologies.



THE AHA RESEARCH FUNDING PROCESS



maximizes the impact of donor dollars by funding the most meritorious research across the country. Current AHA-funded research projects total \$500 million and support 1,800 awardees.

In fiscal 2023-2024, the AHA received 2,500 research applications, totaling \$730 million,

that we could not fund. This means many scientific projects were shelved, and the knowledge that would result from them deferred. The need for more research funding is critical.



1960 First Artificial Heart Valve



The first successful artificial heart valve replacement is performed by Dr. Albert Starr, who develops the mechanical heart valve with hydraulic engineer Lowell Edwards. The Starr-Edwards valve is still used today, along with other artificial heart valves that have saved the lives of millions of people.

1968 Cholesterol Inhibitors



Dr. William Conner uses funds from the American Heart Association to show that cholestyramine can lower cholesterol in the blood.

1990 Treatment for Infant Respiratory Distress Syndrome



The FDA approves Exosurf Neonatal to treat respiratory distress syndrome, a life-threatening condition for premature infants with heart and lung defects. The drug is developed by Association investigator Dr. John Clements.

2008 CPR Without Breaths



Dr. Gordon Ewy accumulates evidence from multiple studies that shows uninterrupted, high-quality chest compressions – without mouth-to-mouth respiration – are important for keeping blood circulating to vital organs. As a result of this research, the Association determines Hands-Only CPR can help an adult or teen who suddenly collapses.

2020 COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant



The American Heart Association puts out an unprecedented rapid response call for cardiovascular/cerebrovascular research proposals to address the growing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus is on innovative, highly impactful short-term proposals that can show progress within the 9-12 month period of the award.

2022 Life's Essential 8™



The American Heart Association commits \$100 million over five years for new research initiatives focused on equitable health and programs that support diversity in the biomedical workforce pipeline.

1957 First Pacemaker



The first battery-operated, wearable pacemaker is implanted in a patient. The research, led by Dr. William Weirich, leads to the development of today's fully implanted pacemakers.

1961 Techniques and Standards for CPR

Drs. William Kouwenhoven, James Jude and Guy Knickerbocker report on the value of external cardiac massage – better known as CPR – in providing blood flow to vital organs for people in cardiac arrest.

1961 Microsurgery

Dr. Julius Jacobson performs surgery with the aid of a microscope and becomes a pioneer in microsurgery.



2003 Drug-Coated Stents

The FDA approves the first drug-coated stent to keep blocked arteries open while also releasing medications, developed by Dr. Andrew Marks, a researcher funded by the AHA.



2013 AHA Collaboration Launches Personalized Medicine Initiative

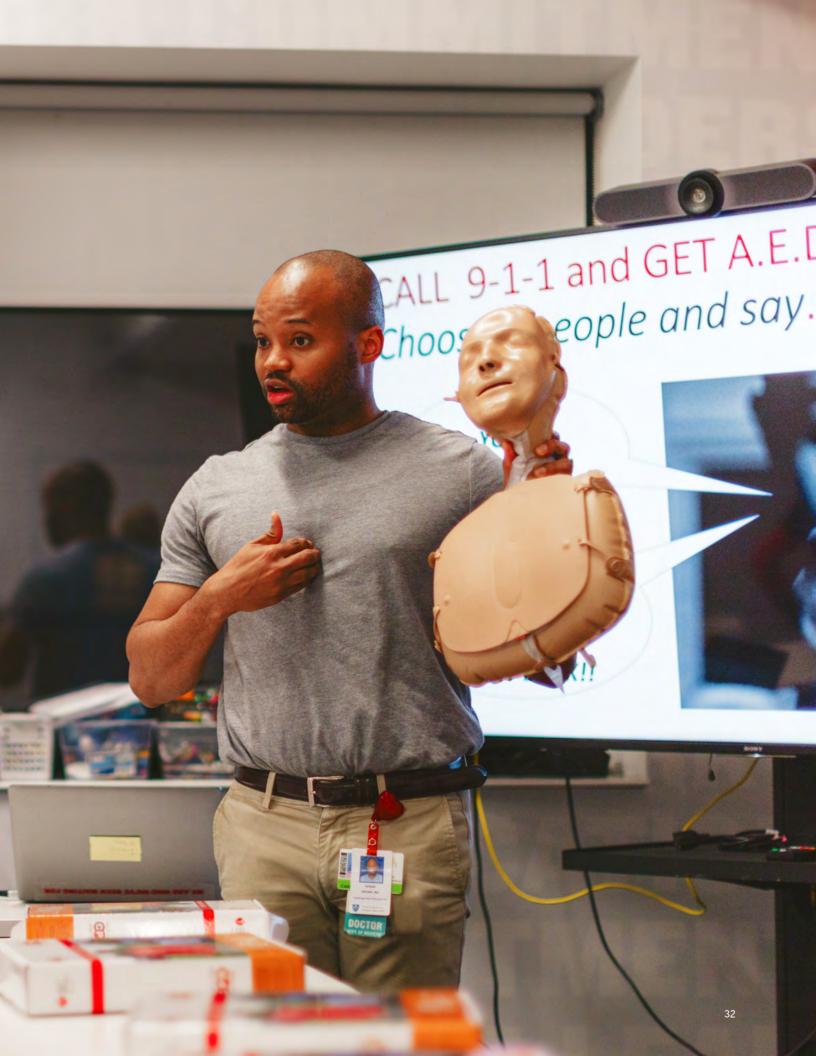
The Cardiovascular Genome-Phenome Study launches to accelerate groundbreaking research into personalized medicine. The project is a partnership between the Association, Boston University and University of Mississippi Medical Center, the academic coordinating center homes of the Framingham Heart Study and the Jackson Heart Study.



2021 American Heart Association Presidential Advisory Calls for Action on Structural Racism and Health Disparities

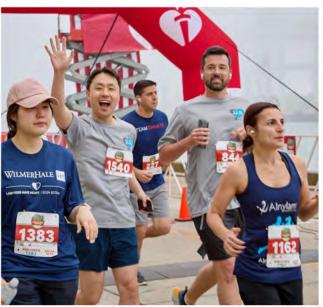
The American Heart Association commits \$100 million over five years for new research initiatives focused on equitable health and programs that support diversity in the biomedical workforce pipeline.





Fundraising Campaigns

Our signature fundraising campaign events bring supporters, survivors, volunteers and sponsors together in the fight against heart disease and stroke. The following annual gatherings are key to fueling our mission in Greater Boston and beyond.















Boston Heart and Stroke Ball

The Heart and Stroke Ball, our annual gala at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport, raises lifesaving funds while driving impact beyond the ballroom as part of our Heart of Boston campaign. This initiative tackles critical community health challenges, including improving nutrition security, strengthening the chain of survival, reducing tobacco and vaping use, and lowering high blood pressure.







heart.org/BostonHB





Overcoming Stroke and Becoming a National Advocate

Kylie Lough was in New Zealand for a competitive rowing program in 2022 when she suffered a stroke. In 2024, the North Andover native and Boston University student was selected to join the American Heart Association as a Go Red for Women ambassador. In this role, Kylie served as a national spokesperson. She shared her story about taking back control of her health, offered advice on how other patients can do the same, and raised awareness about stroke warning signs and prevention.

American Heart Association_®





Go Red for Women

Losing even one woman to heart disease is too many. The American Heart
Association is committed to meeting the needs of women in every age, stage and season of life. Go Red for Women is funding critical research to address the unique risk factors and needs of women.
Our signature luncheon event celebrates women taking charge of their health, unites Circle of Red members and honors heart disease and stroke survivors. A vast array of nationwide events ensure that women everywhere learn to pay attention to their hearts.







heart.org/BostonGoRed





Association





Lawyers Have Heart 5K

The Lawyers Have Heart 5K is an annual road race held in the Boston Seaport that brings runners, walkers, and wheelchair racers together to raise awareness of cardiovascular health, particularly among members of the legal community.



LHHBoston.org







Boston Heart Walk

The Heart Walk is our largest event, uniting corporate teams, families and communities on Boston Common. We recently integrated Nation of Lifesavers into every aspect of the Heart Walk campaign, empowering participants to take action and drive toward the goal of having one person in every household confident and prepared to perform CPR.

With the introduction of the Heart Walk CPR Digital Experience, every registered participant can learn Hands-Only CPR, mobilizing thousands of Greater Boston residents to be ready to act in the face of a cardiac emergency.







BostonHeartWalk.org



School Engagement

Kids Heart Challenge and American Heart Challenge engages millions of students and their families each year. Schools get resources and a curriculum to help develop healthy children equipped to achieve physical and emotional success.

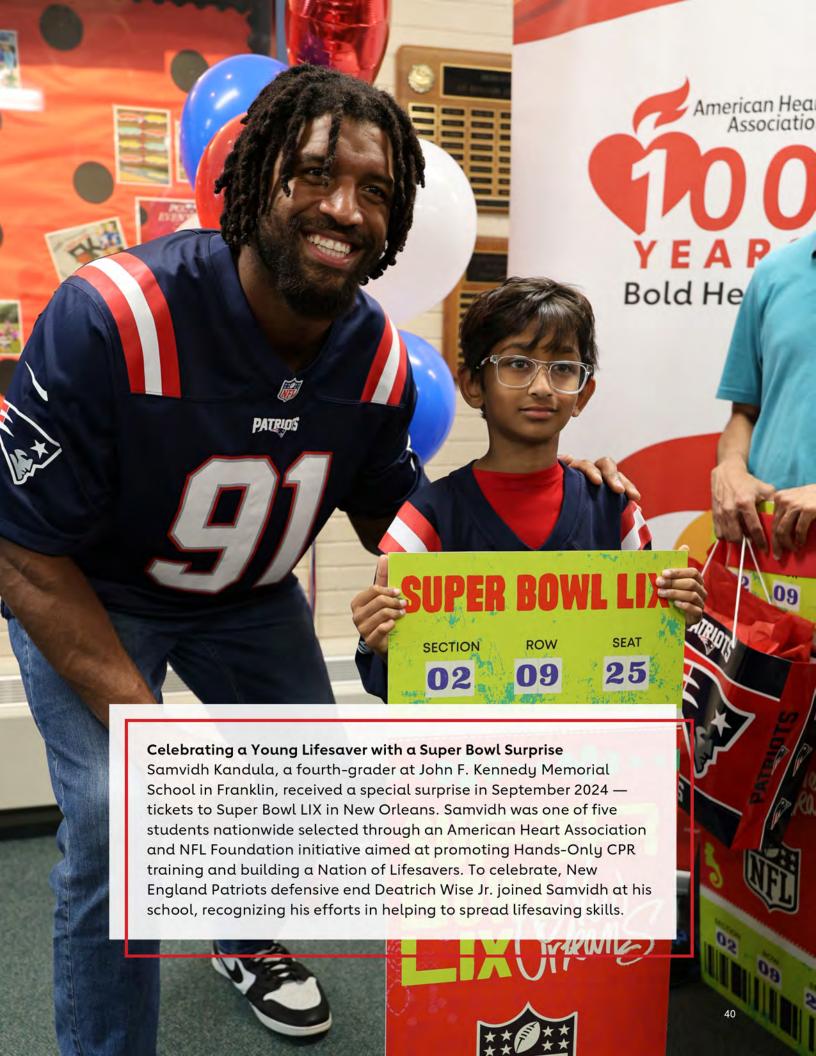
More than 16,000 schools across the country got hearts pumping in these programs in the 2023-2024 school year. Participating schools leveraged tools and resources to support the mental and physical well-being of students, families and educators.

MASSACHUSETTS IMPACT

Number of participating schools	268
Schools that hosted heart assemblies	77
Total student/family participation	8,330
Total funds raised	\$1M+

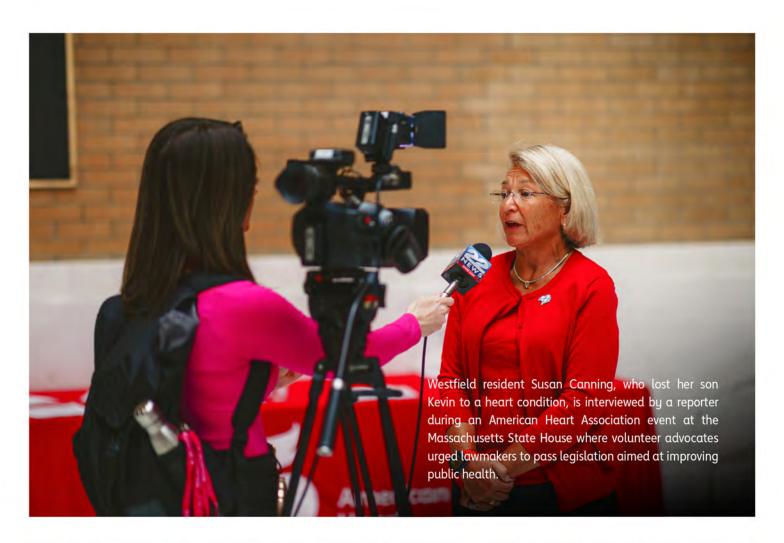


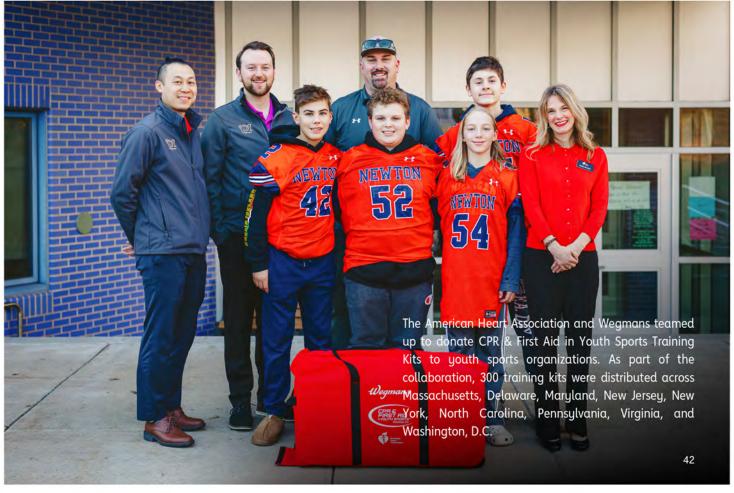












Board of Directors

The American Heart Association's Greater Boston Board of Directors is a group of dedicated leaders who bring a wealth of skills, experience, passion and influence to drive our mission forward. Members play a vital role in achieving our revenue and health goals, dedicating their time, talent and resources to improve cardiovascular health in the community.



Chairperson
Thomas Lee

Senior Partner Zozimus



President

Dr. Jennifer Cluett

Primary Care Physician and Hypertension Specialist Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

OUR MISSION:

TO BE A
RELENTLESS
FORCE FOR A
WORLD OF
LONGER,
HEALTHIER
LIVES.



Leadership Development Chair

Mark Kane

Senior Vice President CIBC Atlantic Trust



Chair-elect Barry Greene

CEO Sage Therapeutics



Immediate Past President

Dr. Ami Bhatt

Chief Innovation Officer American College of Cardiology



Laura Angelini
Partner
Hinckley Allen



Dr. Emelia Benjamin

Associate Provost for
Faculty Development
Boston University Medical Campus



Jaime Butler
Founder/CEO
Brand 21



Kerri Cullity

Partner
IBM Consulting



Brian Curley

Principal Account Executive
SS&C Technologies, Inc.



Laura Hamilton
Chief Business Officer
MassBio



Traci HongAssociate Professor of Media Science
Boston University



Michael Jorgensen

Managing Director

Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport



Linda Lennox
Vice President, Corporate
Communications & Chief of Staff
Lantheus



Allison McClain Joyce
Global Communications and
Public Relations Director
Ropes & Gray LLP



Olivia Lew
Chief Operating Officer
Casana



Dr. Chloe Zera

Director, Obstetrics Population Health
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Cor Vitae Society

The Cor Vitae Society - Latin for 'heart of life' - is the annual philanthropic giving society of the American Heart Association. The following Massachusetts members are making a lifesaving impact in Greater Boston and in communities across the country.

Heart and Torch Circle

Stephanie Spina and David Spina

1924 Circle

Anonymous

Heidi Bruschi and Tedy Bruschi

Paul Dudley White Legacy Circle

Sushil Bhatia

Reverend Louis H. Bier and Helene Bier

Jay Blackwell Joan Branton Peter Brown Dianne S. Fanjou Dr. Ralph Galvin Eva Karger

Stanley Martini Sara McMullen Katherine A. Morello

Judy Player Karen Whitefield

President's Circle

Natalie Greene and Barry Greene Mary Beth Gordon and Chris Gordon Dorene McCourt and Thomas McCourt

Katherine A. Morello

Pacesetter's Circle

Jessica Green and Eric Green Peter Lawrence and Pam Warren Susan Marandett and Eric Marandett John D. Sparham

Pulse Circle

Anonymous

Dr. Joseph Loscalzo and Anita Loscalzo Dr. Gerald Marx and Jayne Marx Kristin Patel and Sanj Patel

Champion's Circle

Anonymous Melissa Adams

Dr. Dale Adler and Nancy Adler Laura B. Angelini and John Heller

Rauce Anselmo

Tracy J. Banks

Ashley Benecchi and Christopher Benecchi Dr. Emelia Benjamin and David Pollak

Dr. Ami Bhatt and Neil Maniar

Dr. Kurt Bloch Michael Bunis Jaime Butler Jane Clair

Wendy Cohen and Richard Cohen

Stephanie Connaughton and John Connaughton

John J. Curran Jr. and Curran Family

Nithua Desikan Martin DiBello

Joanne Donovan and Robert Hallett

Michael Duffy Denise Earl

Alexis Egan and Chris Egan Rebecca Kirk-Fair and Stephen Fair Drs. Shoshana Feiner and Len Feiner

The Charles E. and Florida C. A. Foisy Foundation

Jane Freedman and Jeff Freedman

Frances P. Galton Christopher Gaudette Lisa Glenn and Rich Glenn

David Griffin

Gail Gupta and Yogesh Gupta Dr. Naomi Hamburg and John Quisel

Laura Hamilton

Monica Higgins and Michael Higgins

Leif Jacobsen Lori Jones

Caitlan Kane and Mark Kane

Sekar Kathiresan

Dr. Marvin Konstam and Varda Konstam

Brenda Haynes and Adam Koppel

Timothy Landry Casey Lewis

Christine Lindenboom and Keith Lindenboom

Paul Lipsky

Ellie Loughlin and Phil Loughlin

Shelley Lynch Jennifer Mason Allison McClain Joyce

Whitney McKnight and Matt McKnight

John C. Meyer

Danielle Millett and Mateo Millett

Ushma Multani and Susheel Sukhtankar

Dr. Jeremy J. Nobel Katia Orth and Andy Orth

David I Parker

Nirva Patel and Paresh Patel

Dolores Picard

Dr. George Philippides and Leonor Fernandez

Susanne Popeo and Paul Popeo Cathy Raftery and William Raftery Hannelore Reiser and Roger Reiser

Lorraine Rusch

Kimberlie Sachs and Bruce Sachs Dr. Adrian Salic and Patricia Salic

Jau Scheide

Dr. Lee H. Schwamm and Lisa Leffert Dr. Samuel Shames and Mrs. Shames

Kristin Simon and Tom Simon

Mona Singh John Sweet Michael Tarnoff

Denise Wall and William Wall

Brian Williamson

