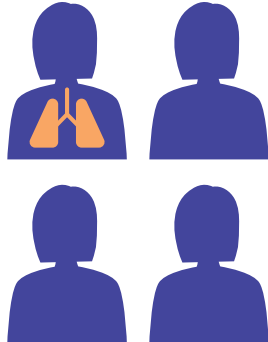


Healthy Public Housing in Boston

The Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Housing Authority, and Boston Medical Center are working together to identify and address some of the health challenges faced by residents of Boston's public housing.

1 In 2001, the Boston Public Health Commission found, through a new question on its bi-annual Behavioral Risk Factor Survey,

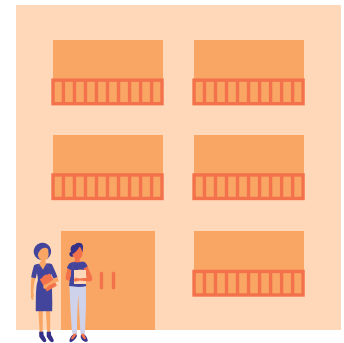


that almost one-quarter of adults served by the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) had asthma, compared to less than 10 percent citywide. In partnership with BHA, public health researchers began asking why.

3 Against this backdrop, the Boston Public Health Commission, ISD, and Boston Medical Center collaborated to launch Breathe Easy at Home in 2005. The web-based referral system allows clinicians at participating health institutions to request an ISD inspection of public or private housing units they suspect have conditions that are contributing to residents' asthma.



2 Meanwhile, to confront legal pressure to correct building violations identified by the Inspectional Services Division (ISD), the city's enforcement authority, BHA and ISD entered into a partnership to open the door to greater collaboration, such as scheduling meetings at housing units of concern to agree on a strategy and timetable for resolving an issue.



4 Boston Public Health Commission continues to work with its partners at the intersection of health and housing by building public awareness, engaging the community, testing interventions, and guiding cross-sector convenings. These intentional coalition-building activities honor each stakeholder's mission while highlighting their distinct but interrelated roles.



// We wanted to have a system in place where we could work together and be more productive and do the remediation that need to get done, with a focus on the health and quality of life of the residents."

John Kane, Boston Housing Authority