

Fall 2022 Councilor Mejia x City Services Project Team 4 - Final report

Date: Dec 13th, 2022

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- **Background + Motivation:**

The city allocates money to various funds designed to offer relief and support to benefit residents and businesses in Boston. Councilor Mejia wants to understand whether these benefits are being distributed equitably and if the money the city said they were going to spend has reached and impacted the people they said it would serve during the pandemic.

The goal is to assess whether the money is going and if it is being equitably distributed to each neighborhood.

- **Previous work:**

Previously for deliverable 1, we focused on answering question 3: Where are the city's economic development licenses? Which communities are benefitting? Which communities are being left out?

We've worked on the business licenses datasets among 3 categories (food, liquor and consumer affairs/others) and the business assistance fund dataset. We analyzed the number of licenses of each category in each neighborhood, plot geographic maps and heatmaps to visualize the statistics, and we also analyzed the number of business funds received from each neighborhood. We then compare between funds given to businesses with food/liquor/consumers license with the corresponding license distribution across the neighborhoods. Through the comparisons, we arrived at the conclusion of which neighborhood's funds are not distributed as needed during the pandemic.

- **Data collection :**

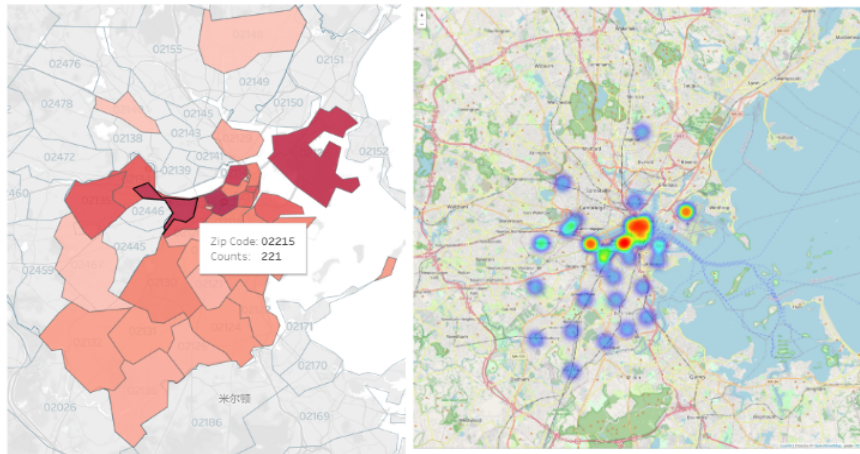
We use the following data that's given in the project drive:

- Small Business Relief Fund 2.0
- Business Licenses data:
 - Food, Liquor, Consumer Affairs and other
- 17F_Request-RRF_funds
- Census Data: Demographic Info:
 - Boston-neighborhood-data

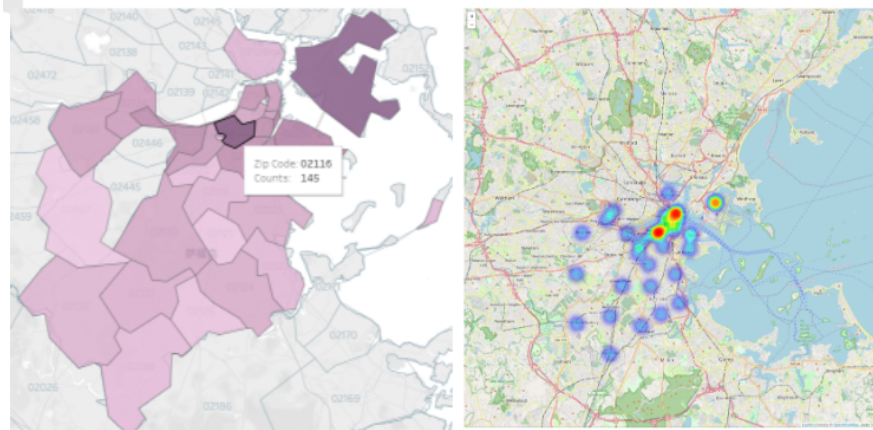
- Data visualization and exploration:

Part 1: business funds/ licenses & demographics:

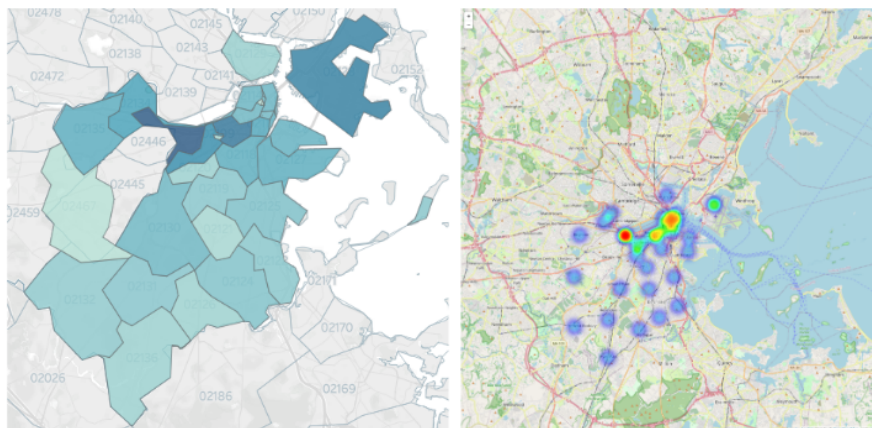
Food licenses distribution



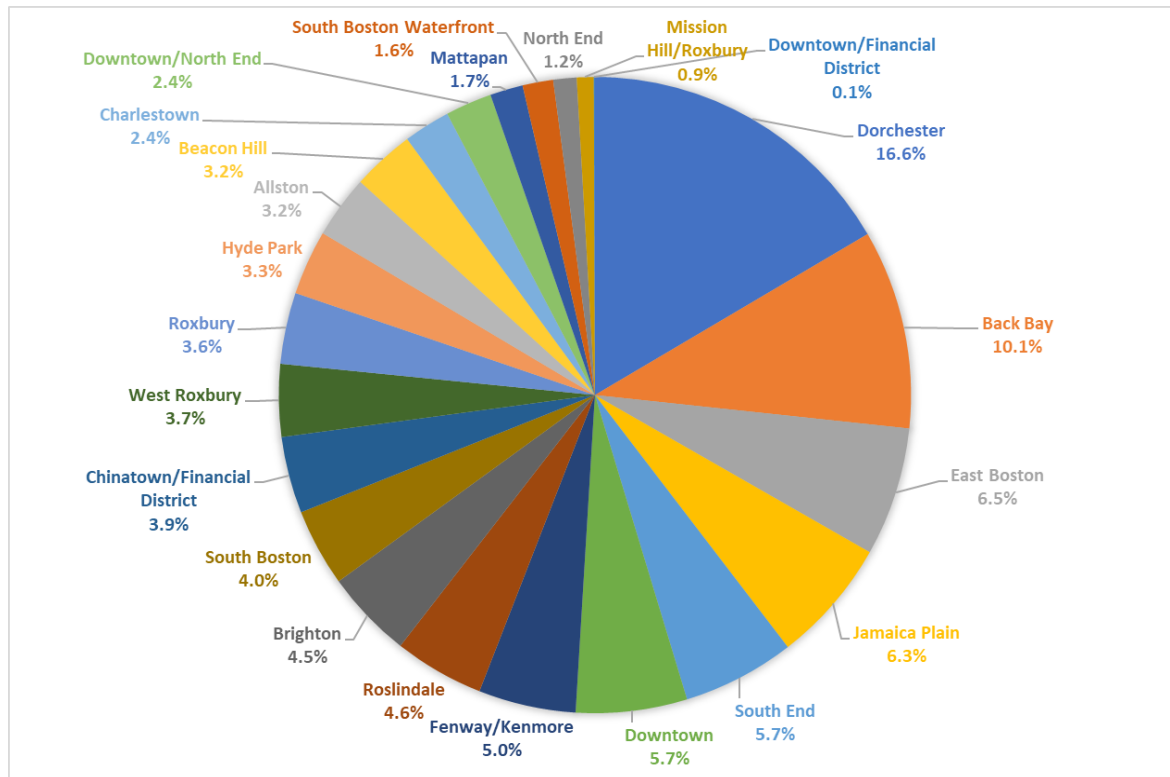
Liquor license distribution



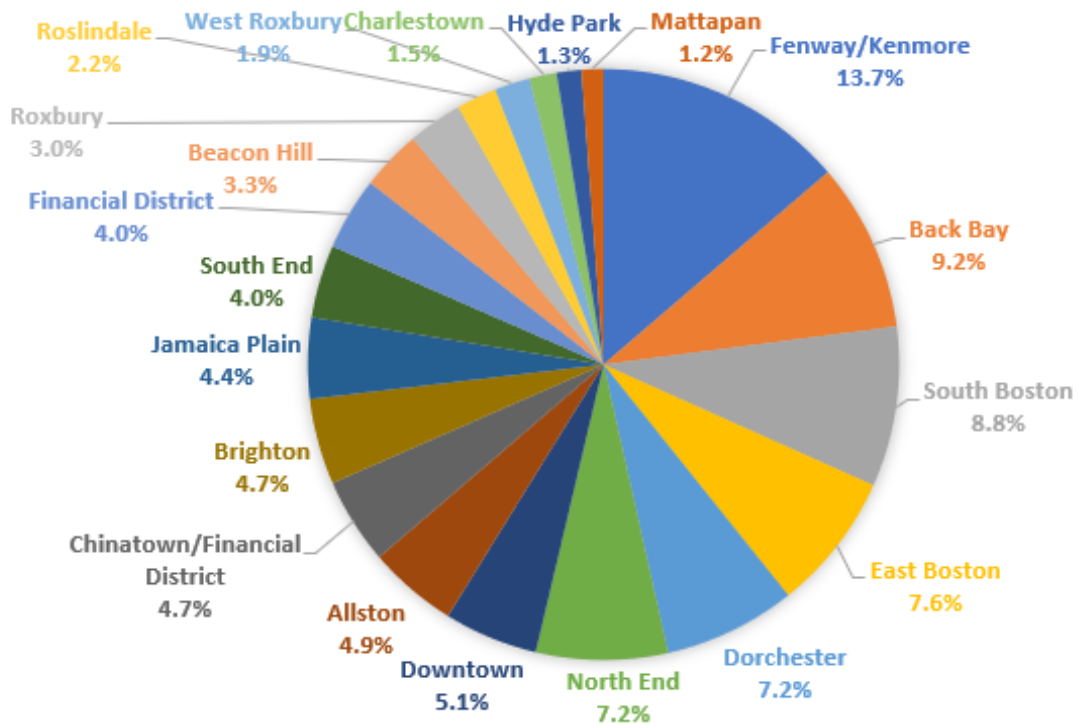
Consumers and other licenses distribution



Overall Percentage of the Total Number of business funds in Each Neighborhood:



Overall Percentage of the Total Number of business licenses of all categories in Each Neighborhood:



Ethnicity ratio of the top 5 neighborhoods of business licenses:

Fenway/Kenmore

white: 54.21% black: 6.35% hispanic or latino: 9.65%
asian: 24.43% other or multiple: 5.35

Back Bay

white: 71.76% black: 3.67% hispanic or latino: 6.77%
asian: 13.29% other or multiple: 4.51%

South Boston

white: 76.85% black: 4.03% hispanic or latino: 10.25%
asian: 5.48% other or multiple: 3.39%

East Boston

white: 71.76% black: 3.67% hispanic or latino: 6.77%
asian: 13.29% other or multiple: 4.51%

Dorchester

white: 22.43% black: 34.96% hispanic or latino: 20.69%
asian: 10.93% other or multiple: 10.98%

Ethnicity ratio of the top 5 neighborhoods of business funds received:

Dorchester

Back Bay

East Boston

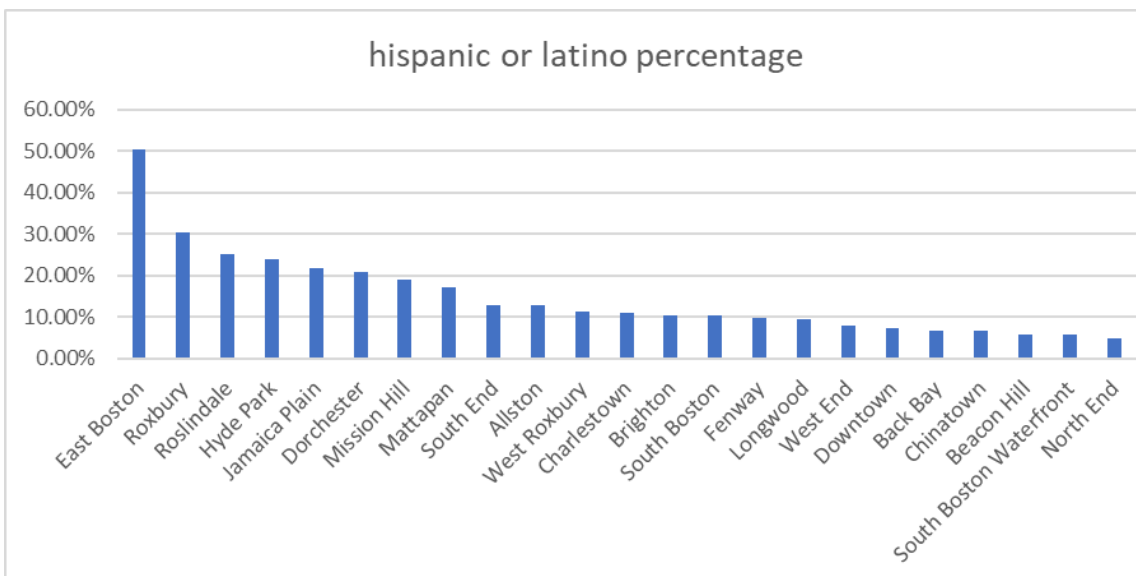
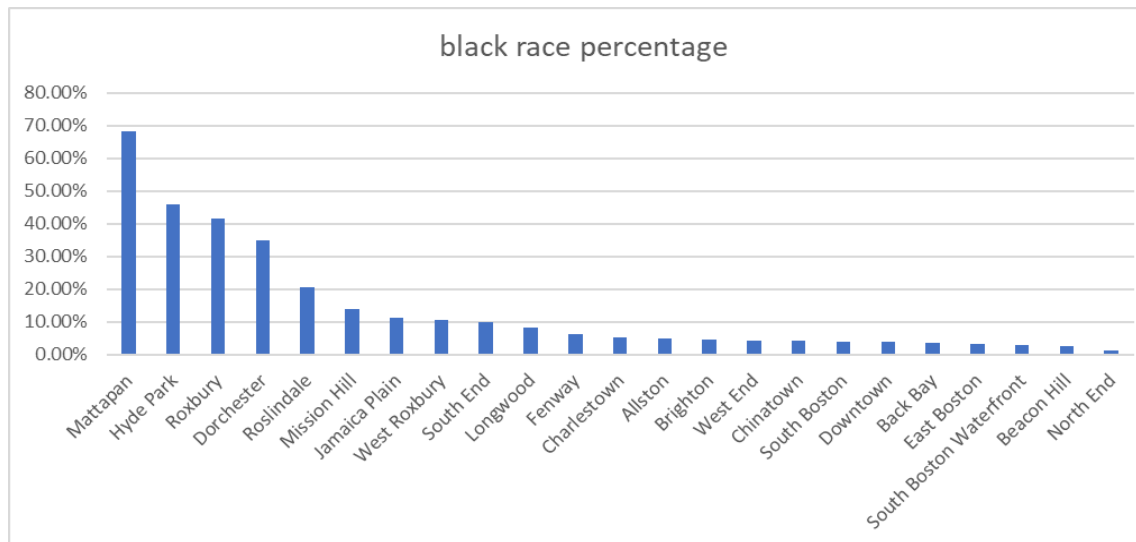
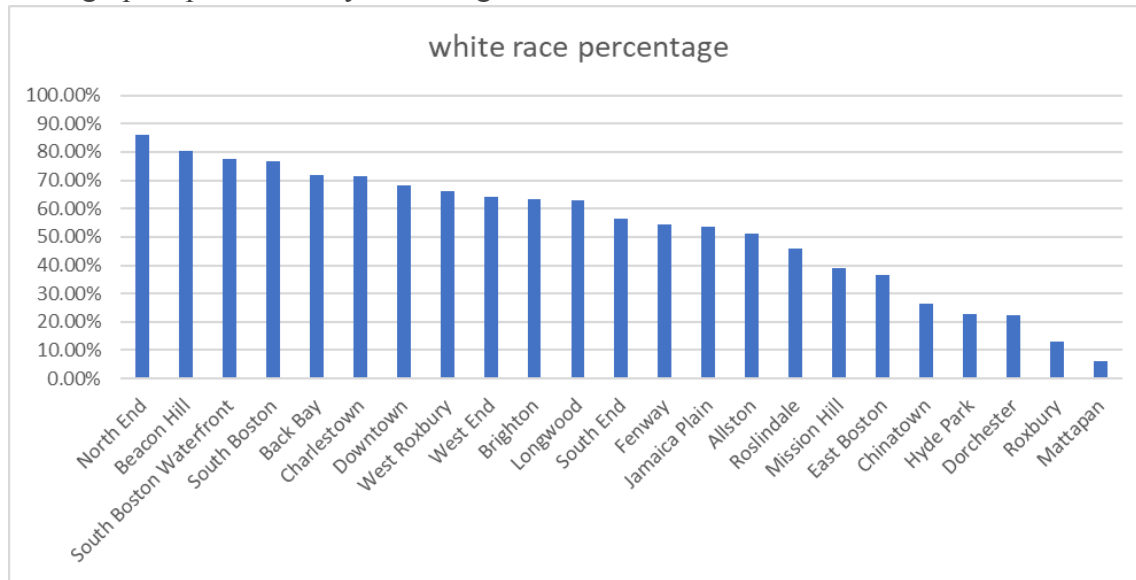
Jamaica Plain

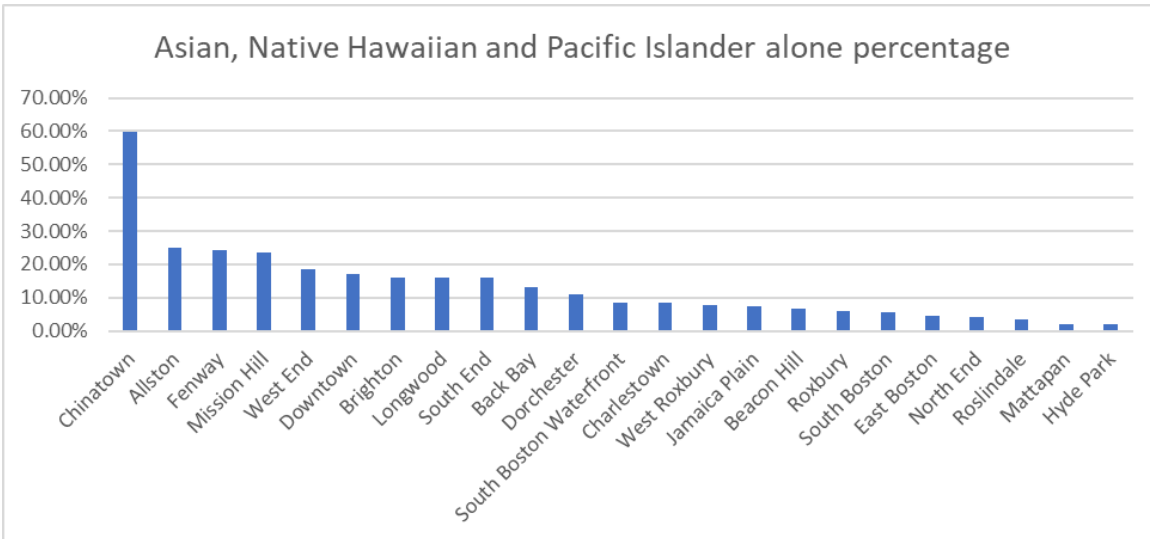
white: 53.72% black: 11.43%
hispanic or latino: 21.75%
asian: 7.28% other or multiple: 5.82%

South End

white: 56.58% black: 10.07%
hispanic or latino: 12.88%
asian: 15.92% other or multiple: 4.55%

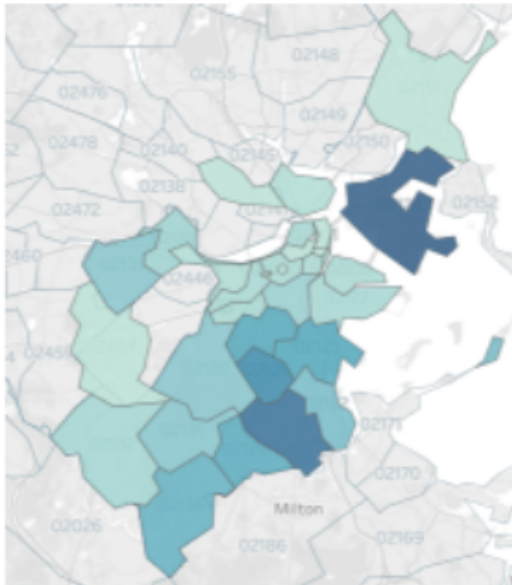
Demographic profiles analysis of neighborhoods:





Part 2: Rental Assistance(RRF):

Total amount of rental assistance in each zip code (individual):



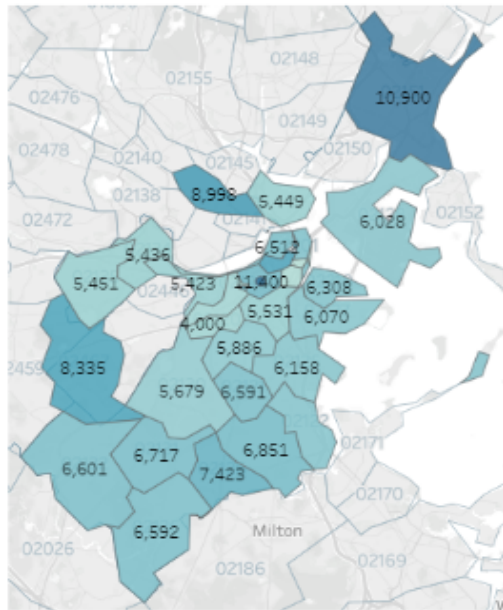
Top 5 neighborhoods of most total amount of rental assistance:

Dorchester	11566826.67
East Boston	4955249.44
Roxbury	2750995.58
Mattapan	2226937.41
Hyde Park	1977620.6

Bottom 5:

Fenway/Kenmore	287436.14
Charlestown	234290.97
North End	210123.37
Beacon Hill	92245.62
Financial District Downtown	17339.34

Average amount of rental assistance in each zip code/neighborhood (individual):



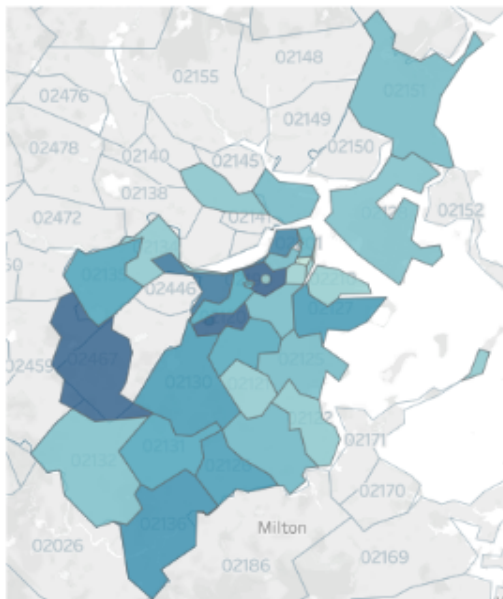
Top 5 neighborhoods of most average amount of rental assistance excluding outliers:

Beacon Hill	8385.965
Mattapan	7423.12
Roslindale	6717.128
West Roxbury	6601.008
Hyde Park	6592.069

Bottom 5:

Charlestown	5448.627
Allston	5436.277
Fenway/Kenmore	5423.323
Chinatown	4587.124
Financial District Downtown	4334.835

Average income of applicant of RRF in each zip code/neighborhood:



Top 5 neighborhoods of most average income:

Fenway/Kenmore	4237.78
Back Bay	3707.357
Hyde Park	3534.508
Jamaica Plain	3343.262
South Boston Waterfront	3327.855

Bottom 6:

Dorchester	2256.79
West Roxbury	2235.943
East Boston	2224.645
Allston	1989.26
Chinatown	1713.94
Financial District Downtown	1150

- **Results obtained / questions answered:**

Question3: Where are the city's economic development licenses? Which communities are benefitting? Which communities are being left out?

The top five neighborhoods that got food licenses are Fenway/Kenmore(393), Back Bay(266), South Boston(245), East Boston(217) and Dorchester(216). The top five neighborhoods benefited from the business assistance fund are Fenway/Kenmore, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Back Bay, and South End.

The top five neighborhoods got liquor licenses among all are South Boston(168), Back Bay(160), North End(143), East Boston(131) and Fenway/Kenmore(130). There is only one place that receives business funds with liquor licenses, which is the North End neighborhood. Thus, South Boston, Back Bay, East Boston and Fenway are left out from business funds for businesses with liquor licenses.

Fenway/Kenmore, Back bay, South Boston, Dochester and East Boston are the top 5 neighborhoods that got the licenses for (consumer affairs and others), however, the top 5 neighborhoods that receive the most number of funds for businesses having (consumers & other) licenses are Dochester, Rosindale, Charlestown, North End and Roxbury. Thus, Fenway/Kenmore, Back bay, South Boston and East Boston are left out from business funds for businesses with consumer affairs licenses

Question1: Where did business assistance go during the pandemic? What were the demographic profiles of the communities where the businesses were located?

The top five of the number of business licenses of all categories among all neighborhoods are Fenway/Kenmore, Back Bay, South Boston, East Boston and Dorchester. The top five of the number of business assistance funds received of all categories across all neighborhoods are Dorchester, Back Bay, East Boston, Jamaica Plain and South End.

Our conclusion is that the Fenway/Kenmore region needs more business funds during the pandemic.

For the demographic profiles, please reference the ethnicity ratio statistics and demographic profile bar charts of each race from page3-page5 in the exploration part of our report.

Question2: Where did the city's rental assistance go during the pandemic? What were the demographic profiles of the recipients of these funds?

Bottom 5 neighborhoods with the lowest average income of the applicants are: Chinatown, Allston, East Boston, West Roxbury and Dorchester.

Compared with the total amount of RRF and average amount of RRF, we conclude that the rental assistance was given as needed in Dorchester, West Roxbury and East Boston, which is also due to the fact that Dorchester has the highest number of applicants(1769), and East Boston has the 2nd highest number of applicants(822).

However, Chinatown and Allston are among the lowest 5 of average rental assistance, so we conclude that the rental funds are not given sufficiently to these 2 neighborhoods.

- **Limitations of results:**

Our answers for the basic 3 questions are limited to the data files given. The limitations of results will come from the limitations in the datasets that we used. For the business funds dataset, it doesn't specify exactly during which period the funds were given and the amount given, so our inference of which neighborhood's business funds are being equitably distributed is only based on the number of business names that receive funds in each neighborhood, rather than the total amount that were granted, which will cause some inaccuracies of our conclusions for question 3 and 1.

- **Challenges faced:**

- Need to convert Zip Code to Neighborhood manually for some datasets.
- Some of the data is incomplete and unclear.
 - Deal with missing value was painful
 - Same data resource didn't have the same data fields
- Datasets lack descriptions, which make it difficult to analyze.

- **311 Extension Project:**

Question we want to answer:

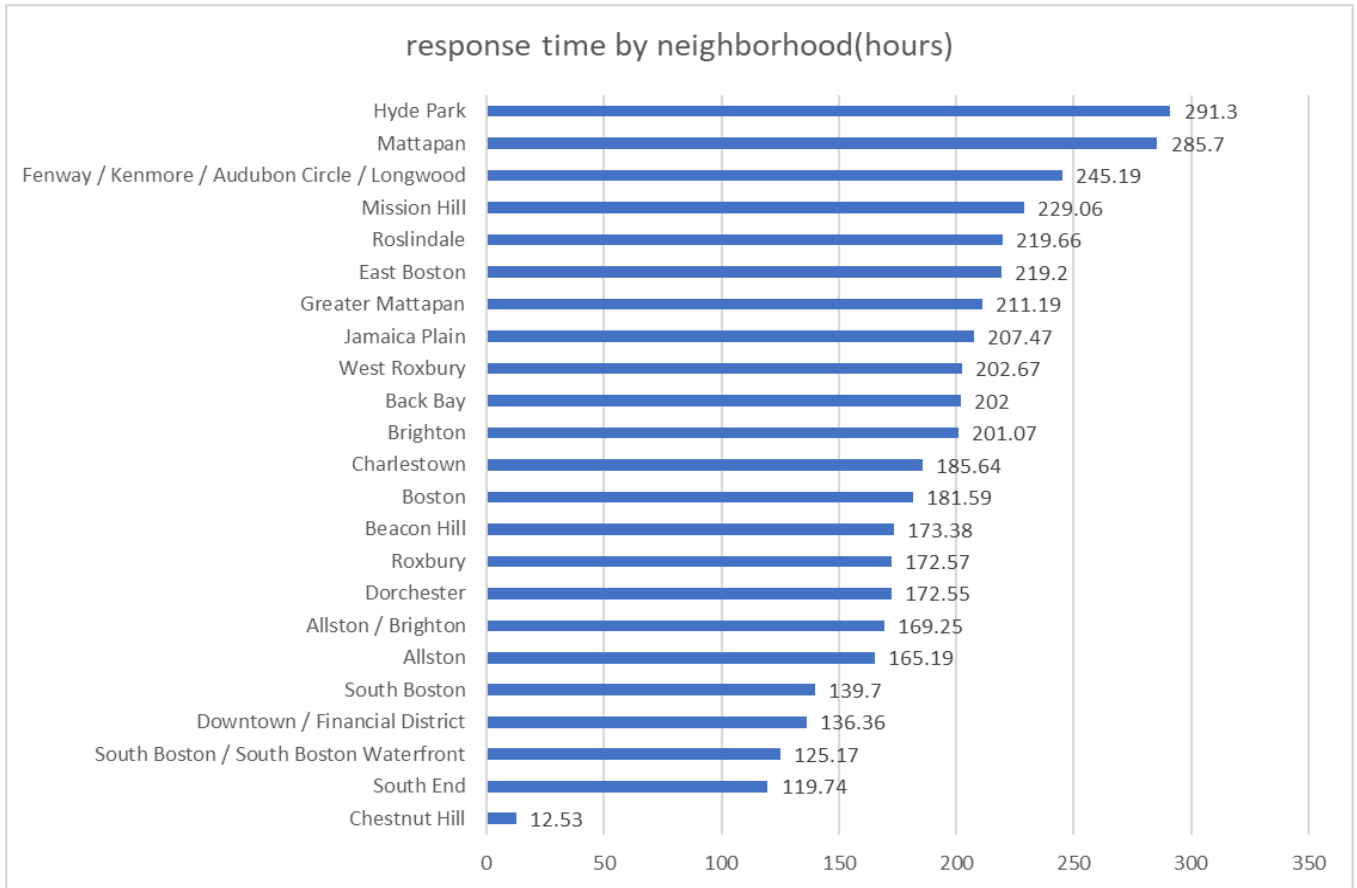
→ In the city's responses to Boston residents' service requests, which neighborhood gets served more quickly, which neighborhood gets served slower? What are the characteristics of those neighborhoods in terms of request services?

Datasets that we use:

→ Boston 311 service requests <https://data.boston.gov/dataset/311-service-requests>

- 1. Analysis of 311 service requests dataset in 2021:**

The below graph is the average service requests' response time in each neighborhood:

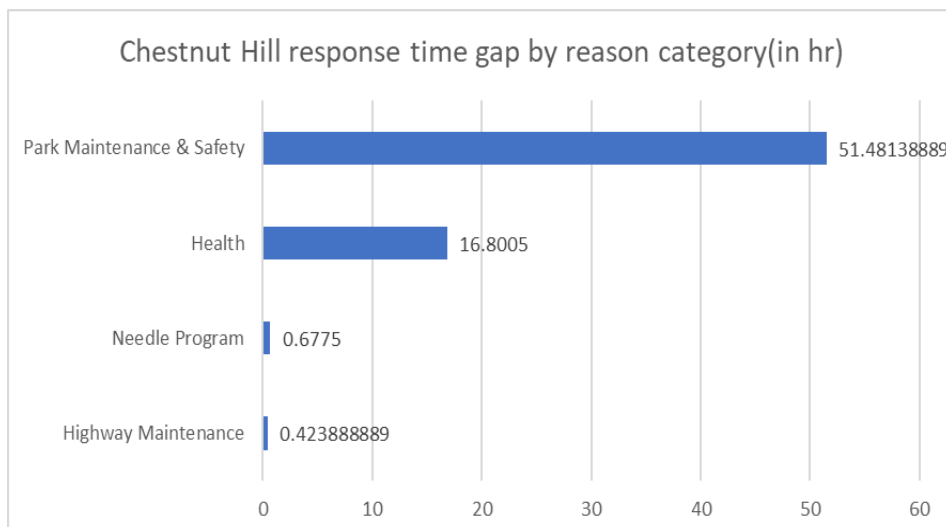


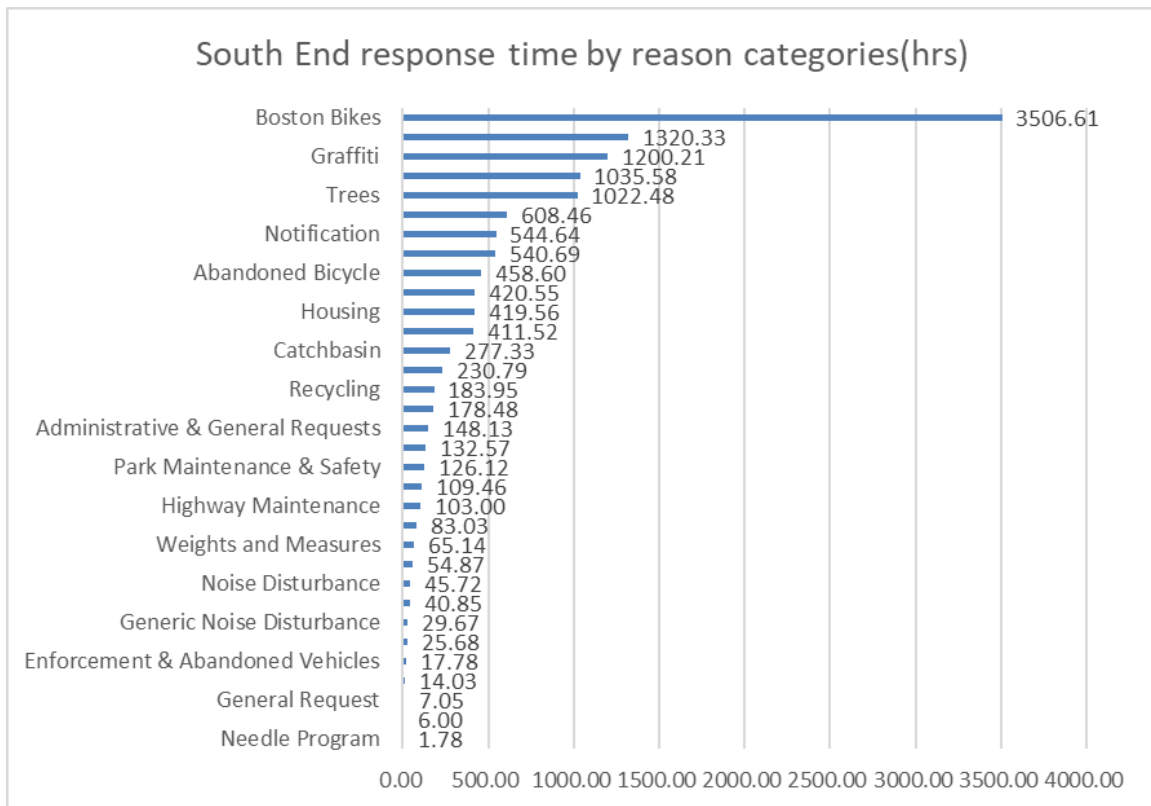
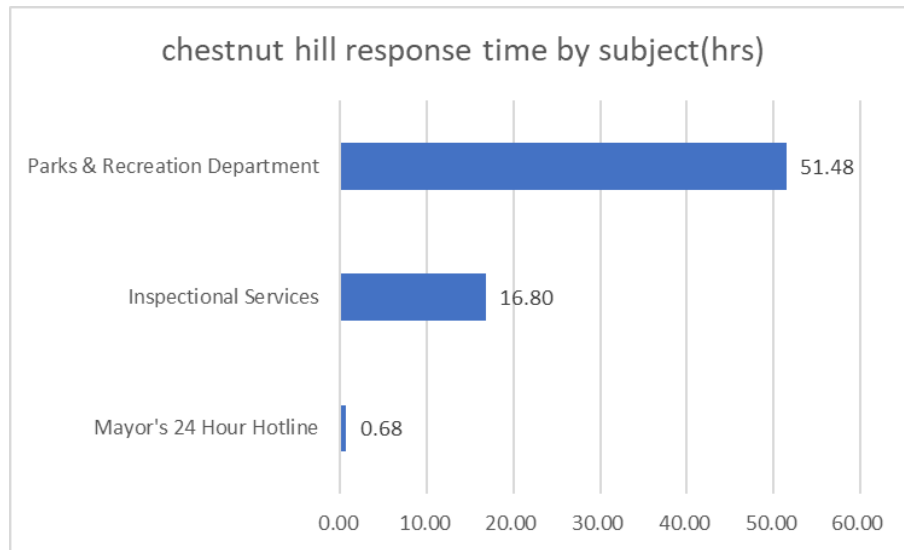
Conclusion of top 3 and bottom 3 neighborhoods in terms of average service requests' response time:

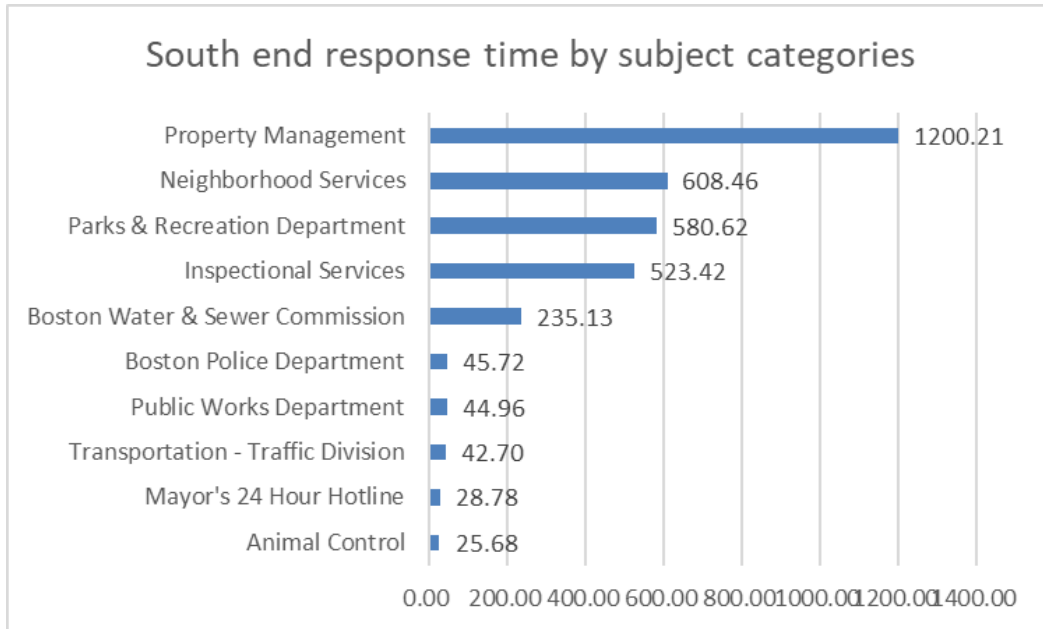
From the above graph, Chestnut Hill, South End and South Boston are the top 3 neighborhoods that are responded the most quickly, Hyde Park, Mattapan and Fenway/Kenmore are the 3 neighborhoods that are responded the slowest.

Breakdown analysis of average response time in the top 2 and bottom 2 neighborhoods in the ranking of response time:

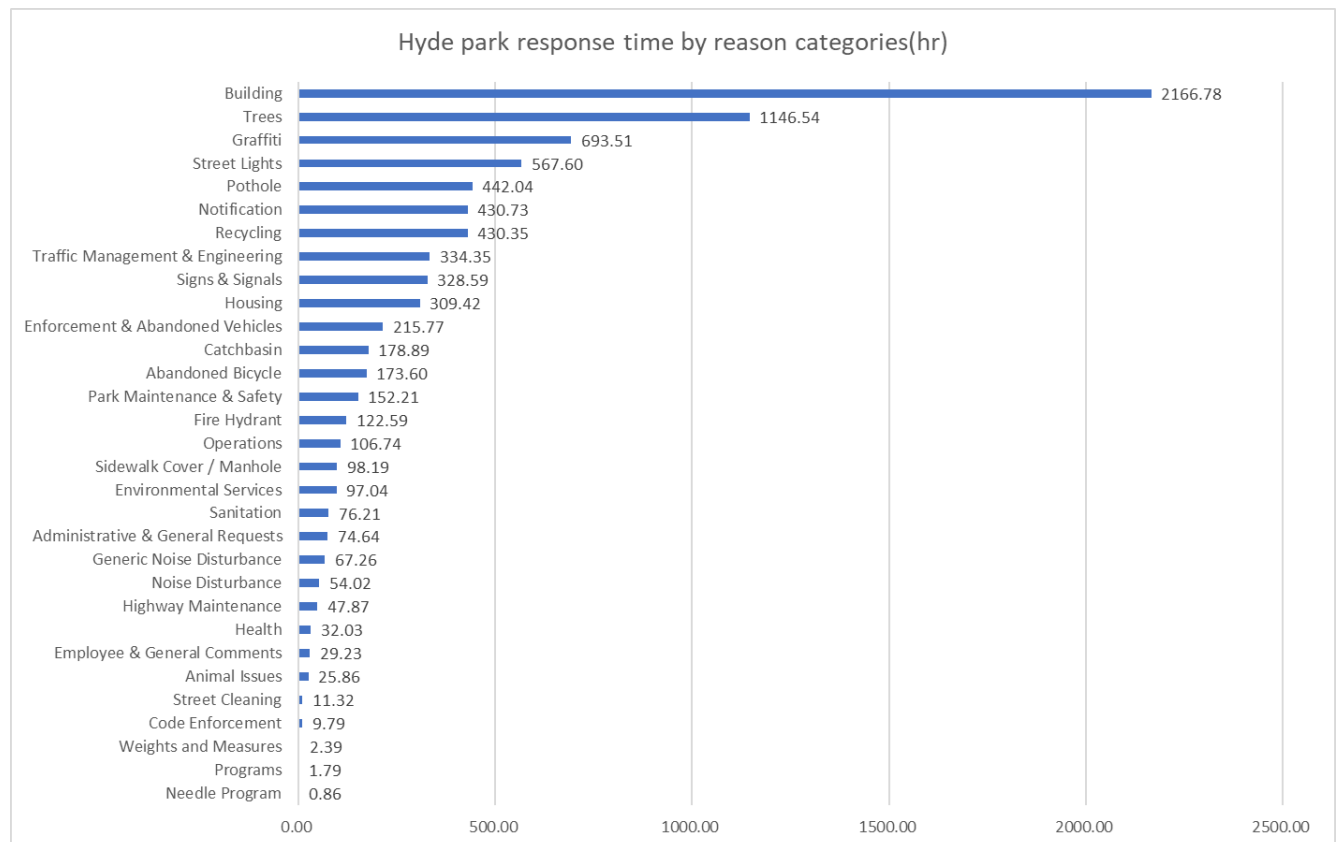
Top 2 most quickly responded neighborhoods by reason and by subject categories:

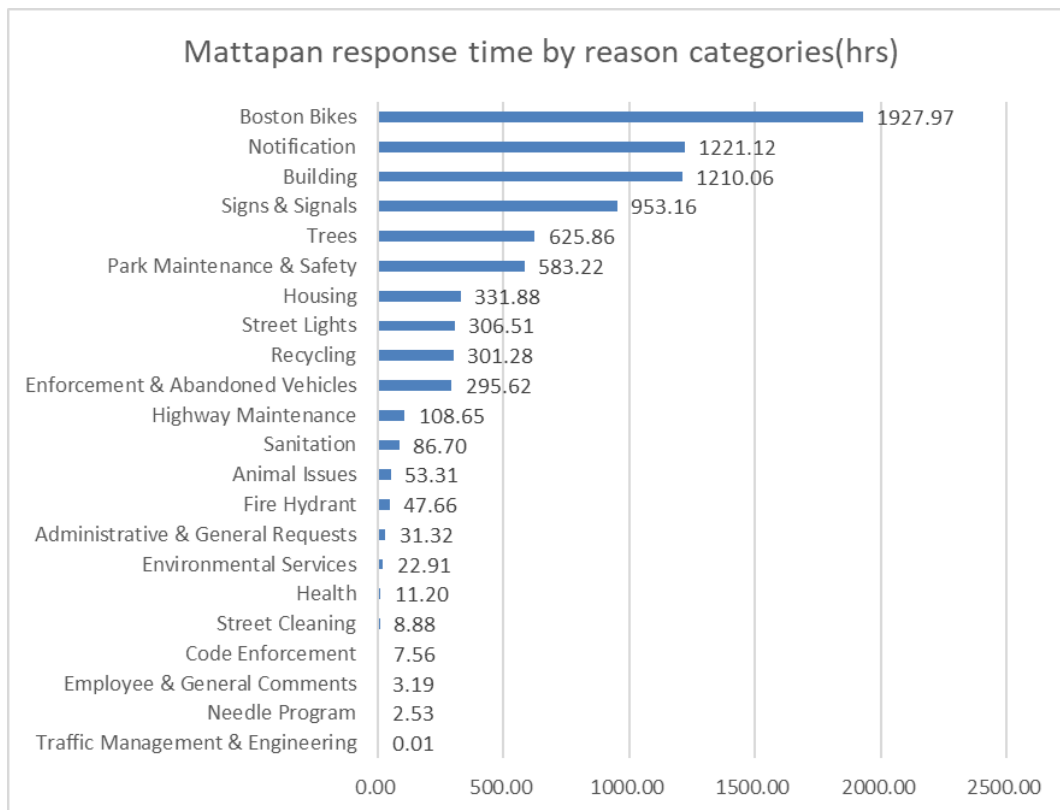
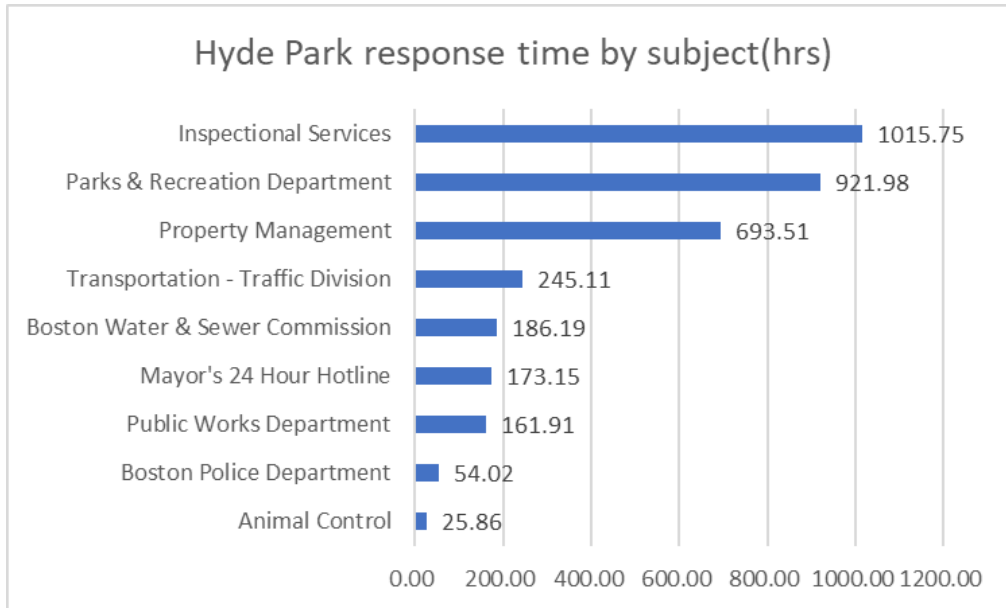


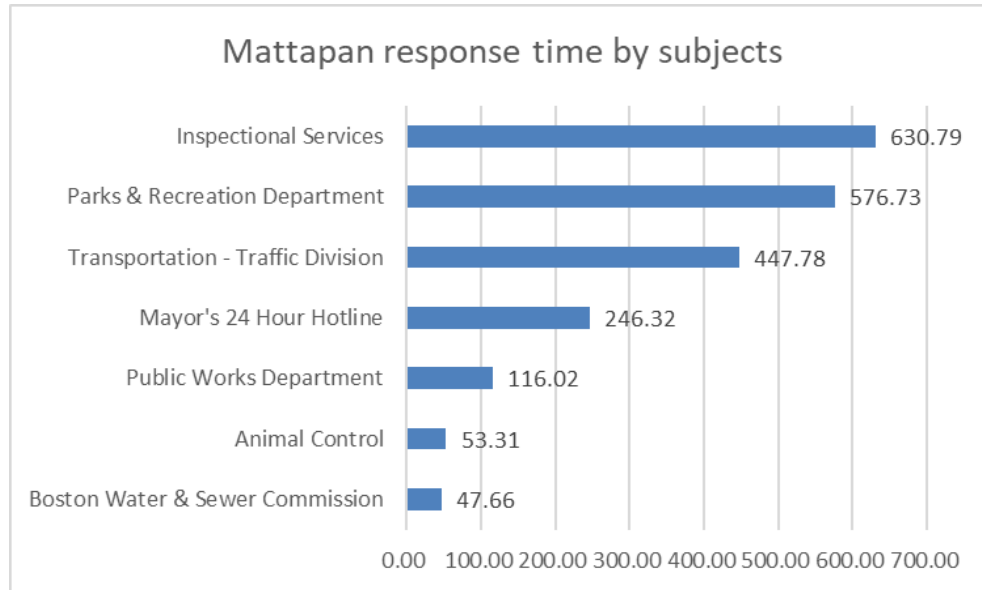




Top 2 most slowly responded neighborhoods by reason and by subject categories:

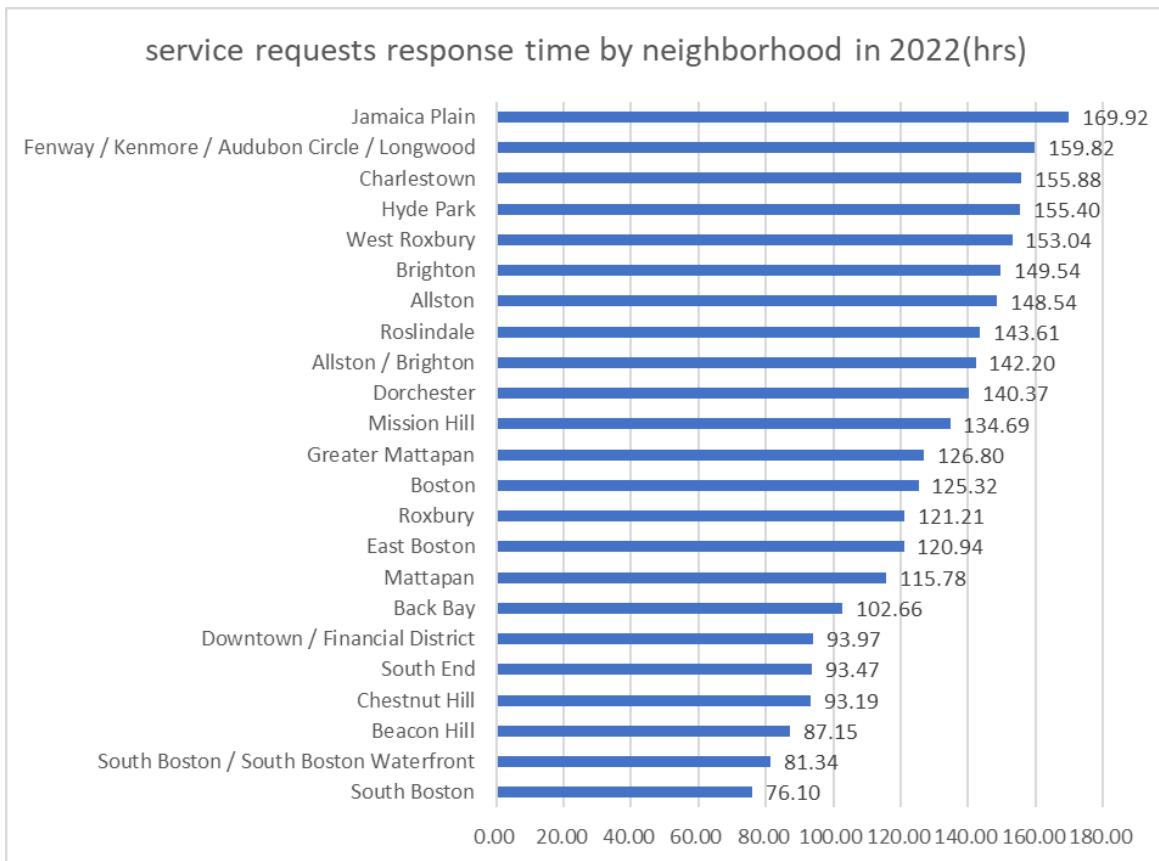






2. Analysis of 311 service requests dataset in 2022:

The below graph is the average service requests' response time in each neighborhood:

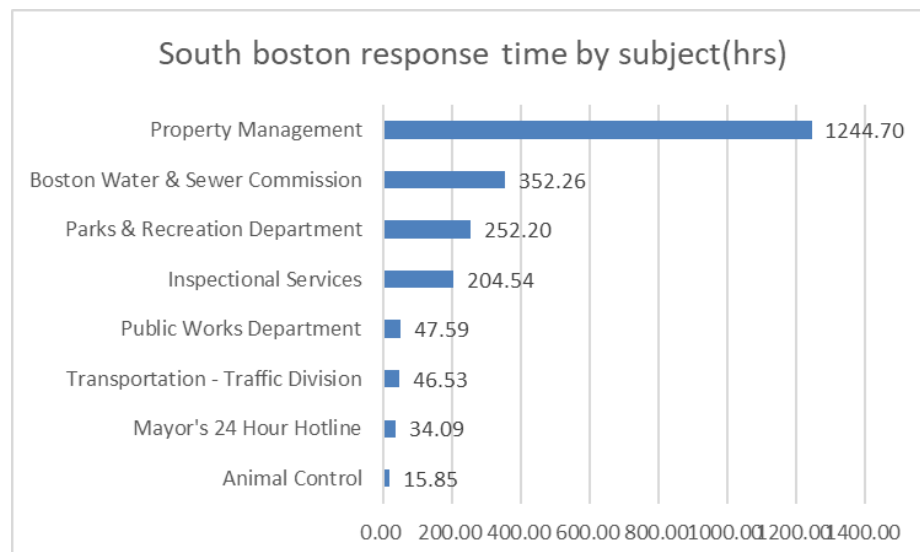
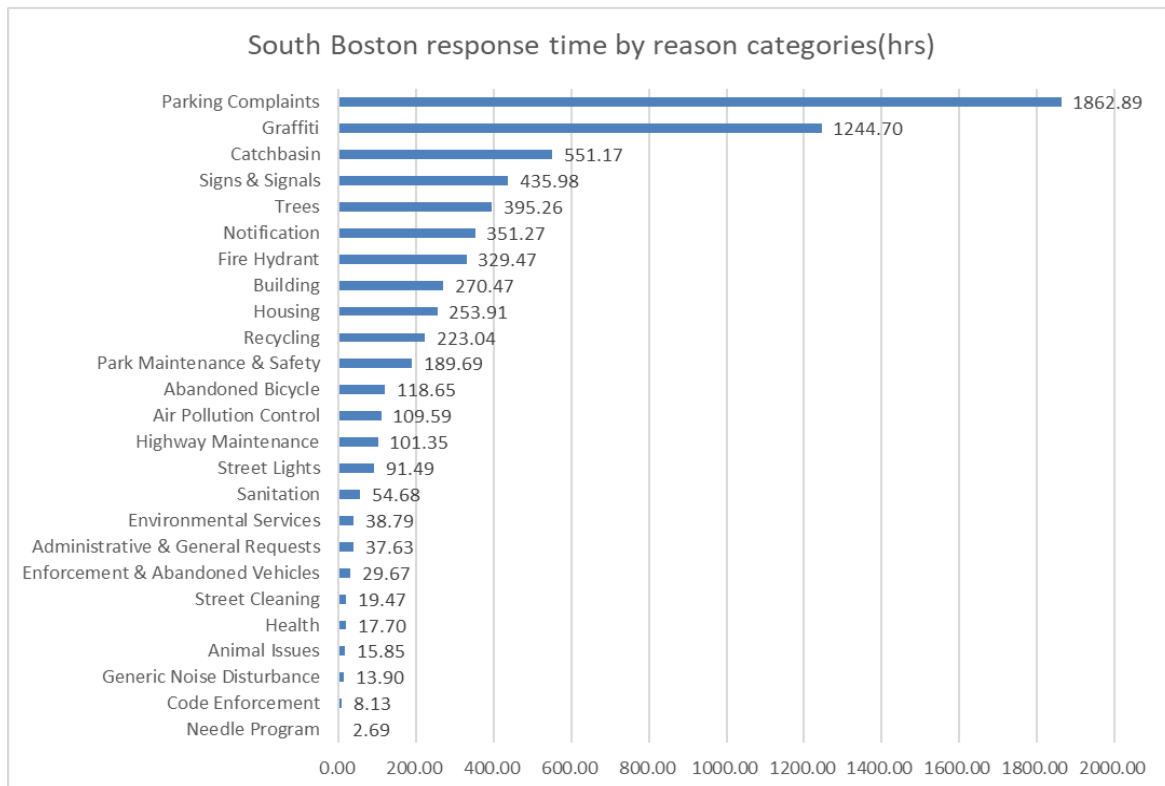


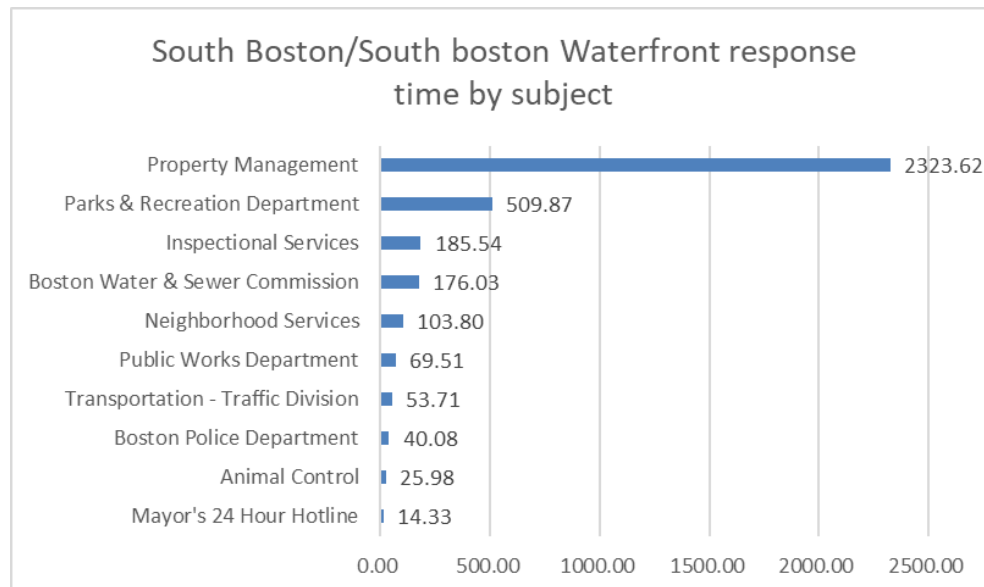
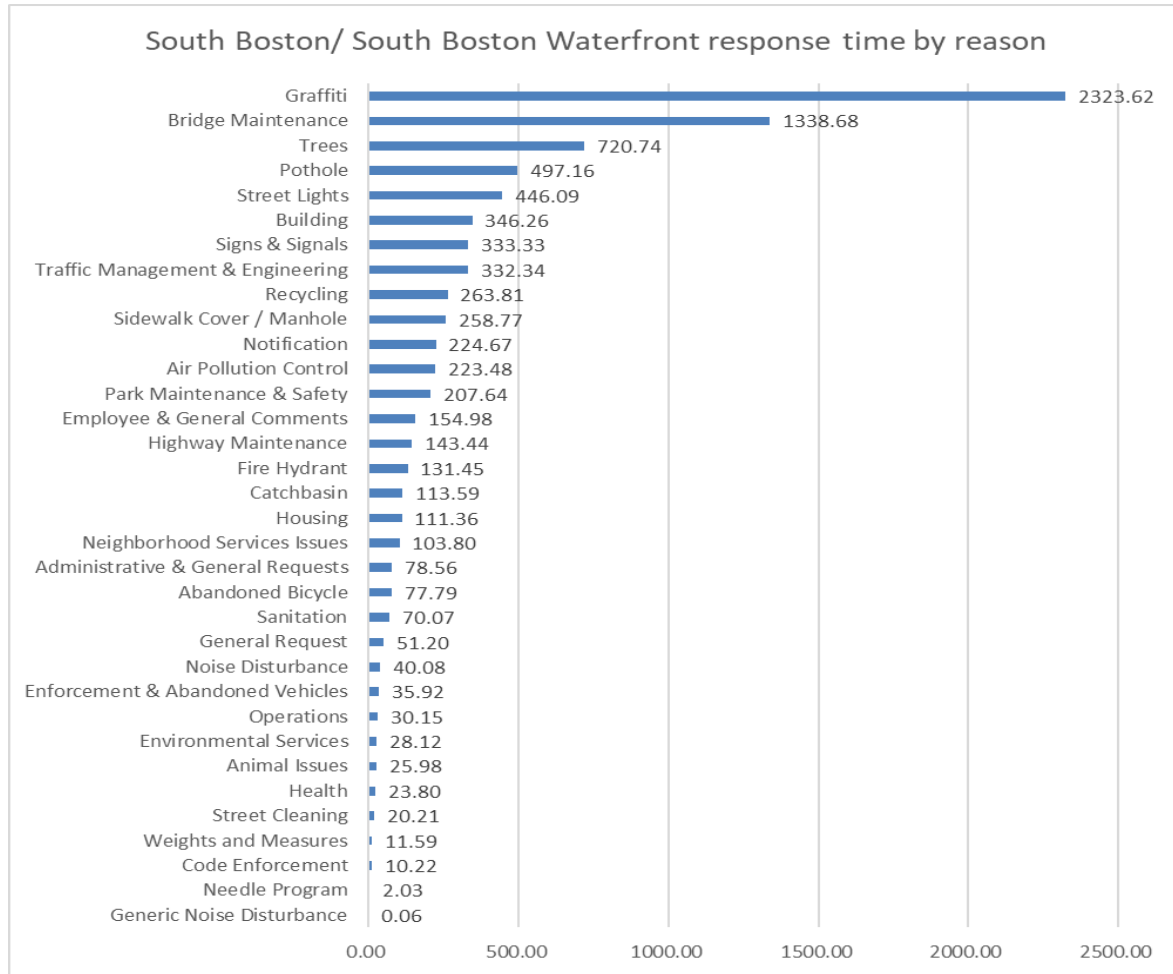
Conclusion of top 3 and bottom 3 neighborhoods in terms of average service requests' response time:

From the above graph, South Boston, South Boston / South Boston Waterfront and Beacon Hill are the top 3 neighborhoods that are responded the most quickly, Jamaica Plain, Fenway/Kenmore and Charleston are the 3 neighborhoods that are responded the slowest.

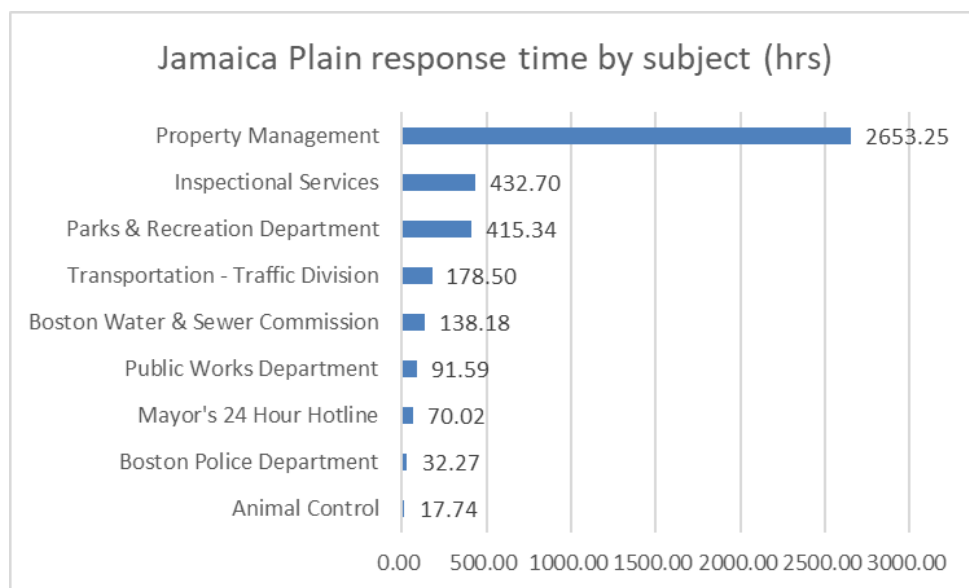
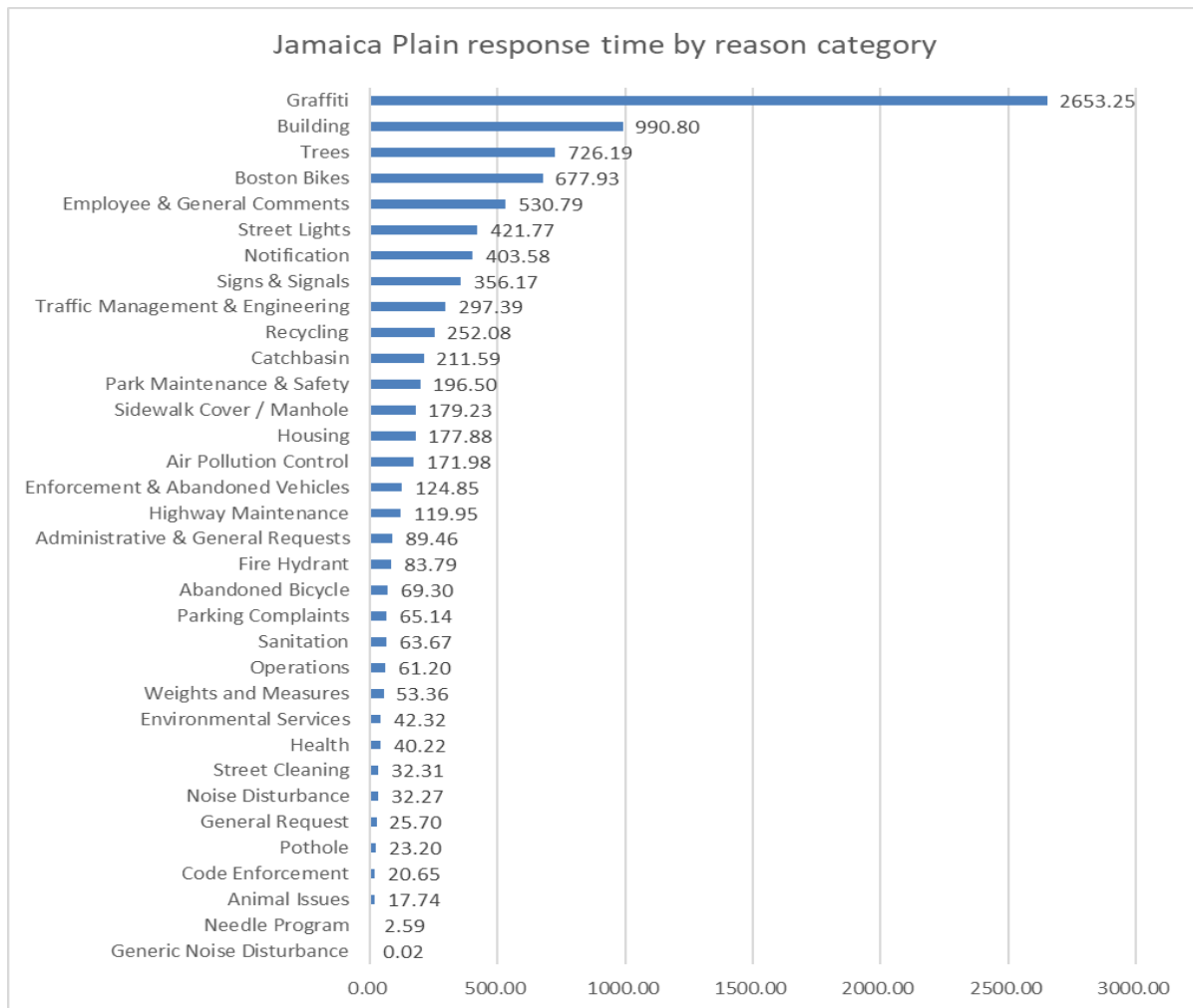
Breakdown analysis of average response time in the top 2 and bottom 2 neighborhoods in the ranking of response time:

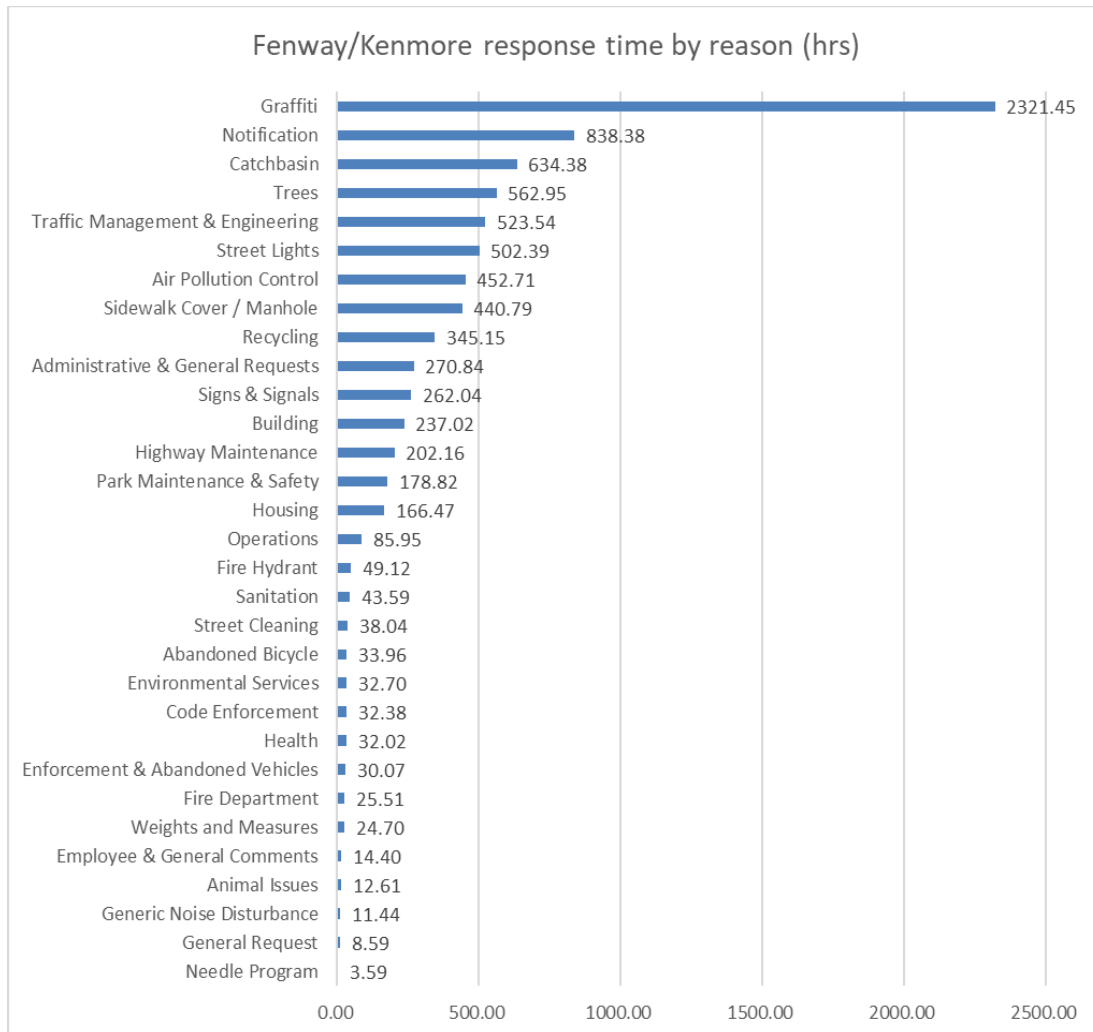
Top 2 most quickly responded neighborhoods by reason and by subject categories:





Top 2 most slowly responded neighborhoods by reason and by subject categories:





3. Comparison between average service requests' response time in 2021 and 2022:

South Boston and South Boston Waterfront are among the top 3 most quickly responded neighborhoods in both 2021 and 2022, and Fenway/Kenmore is among the top 3 slowest responded neighborhoods in both 2021 and 2022. Although Mattapan is among the top 3 slowest responded neighborhoods in 2021, its average response time gets improved a lot in 2022, which makes it rank in the middle in 2022.

- **Documentation of the files in github repo:**

[Fund summary per neighborhood.xlsx](#): summary statistics of business fund per license category in each neighborhood, I use excel pivot table to aggregate those statistics

[licenses summary group by neighborhood.xlsx](#): summary statistics of business license in each neighborhood, I use excel pivot table to aggregate those statistics

[RRF_funds_summary and analysis.xlsx](#): summary of rental assistance fund of individual applicant in each neighborhood, I use excel pivot table to aggregate those statistics

[boston-neighborhood-summary and analysis.xlsx](#): summary statistics of demographic profiles such as race, housing size, income in each neighborhood, I use excel pivot table to aggregate those statistics

RRF.ipynb:

In this file we processed the data of RRF funds (RRF_funds.csv).

For RRF fund we only take approved fund into consideration, so the approved funds are filtered out and processed to the new csv file Approved_update.csv. We get the histogram of fund amount for each ethnicity by using value_counts method in pandas. From the chart, the top three ethnicity are black, Latino and white.

To make it more explicit, we convert it into a pie chart. Apparently, black/African American ethnicity takes nearly a half, while Latino takes about a quarter, and white takes about one fifth.

Then we draw the heatmap of the fund distribution, saved as Approved_heatmap.html. Obviously, Dorchester has the largest amount of fund among all districts, which is reasonable according to population distribution and income level.

MAR.ipynb:

First I renamed some columns, change some data types, numbering, and fill missing numbers, etc, data cleaning work. I also calculated the monthly average RRF. Then, I append the location information based on each neighborhood's numbers to generate heat maps for the number of RRF to each neighborhood, the total owed and the average owed.

SEP.ipynb:

This one also starts with renaming, changing data type, filling empties, etc, and data cleaning work and also calculating the monthly average RRF. Then added associated locations, to generate the total number of RRFs to each neighborhood, the total owed and the average owed.