

Deliverable 3 for Councilor Mejia City Services by team 4

Team member: Dongyue Xu, Yichen Wang, Yi Xiang, Di Kang

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Data collection :

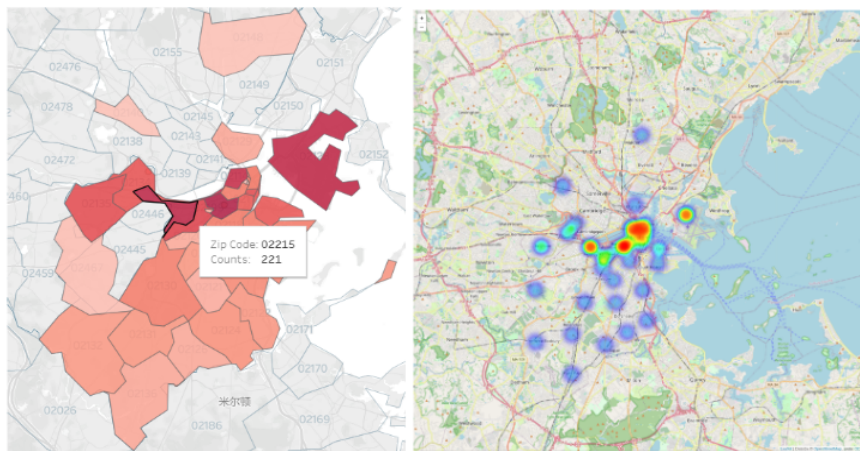
We use the following data that's given in the project drive:

- 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

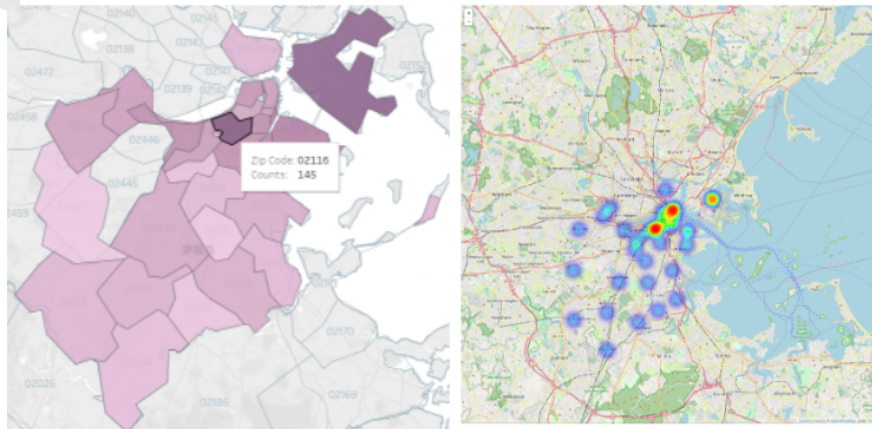
4. Data visualization and exploration:

Part 1: business funds/ licenses & demographics:

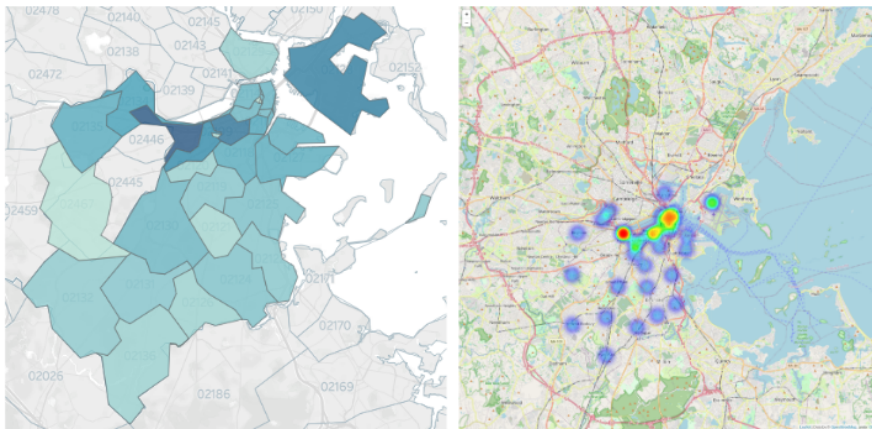
Food licenses distribution



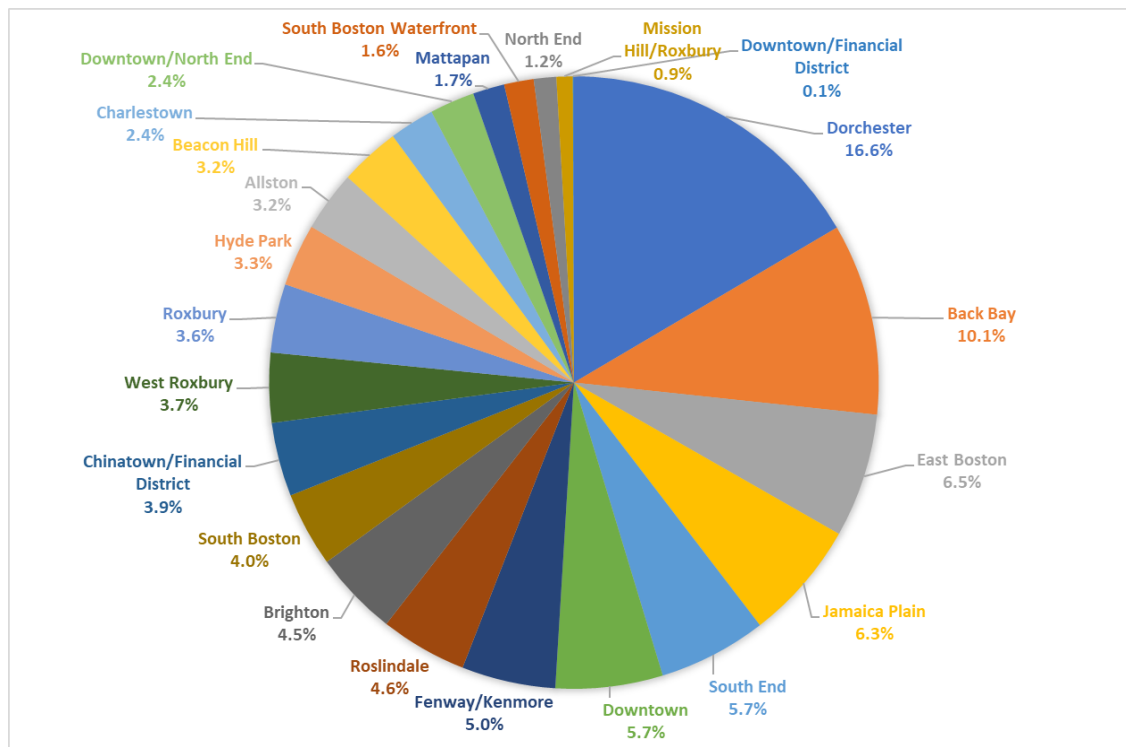
Liquor license distribution



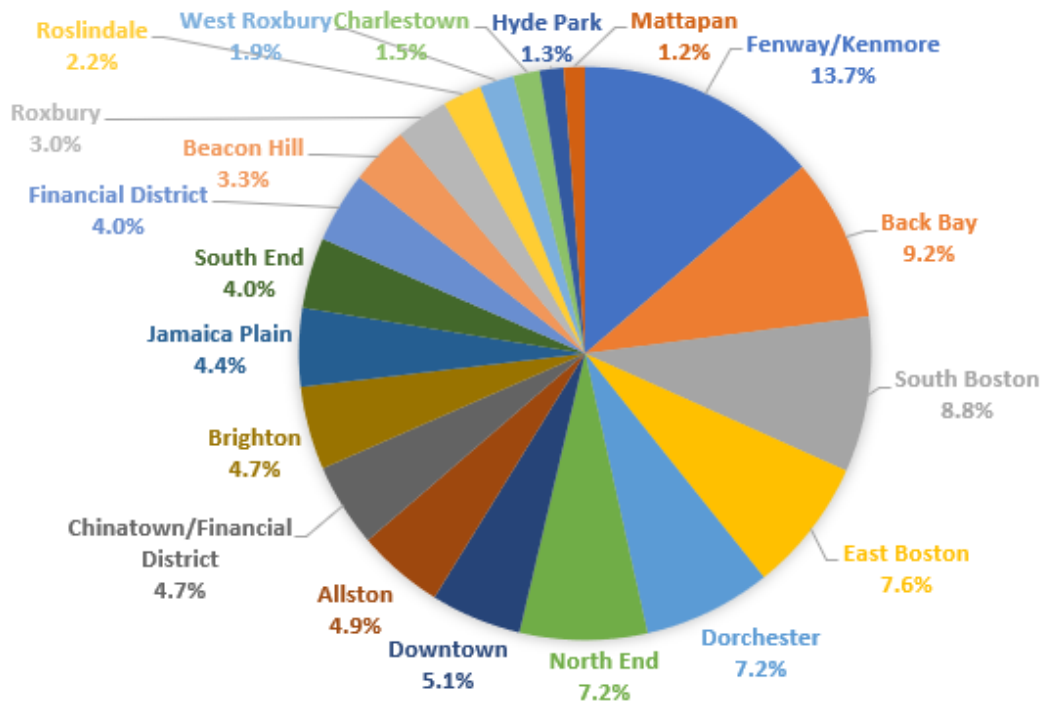
Consumers and other licenses distribution



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%

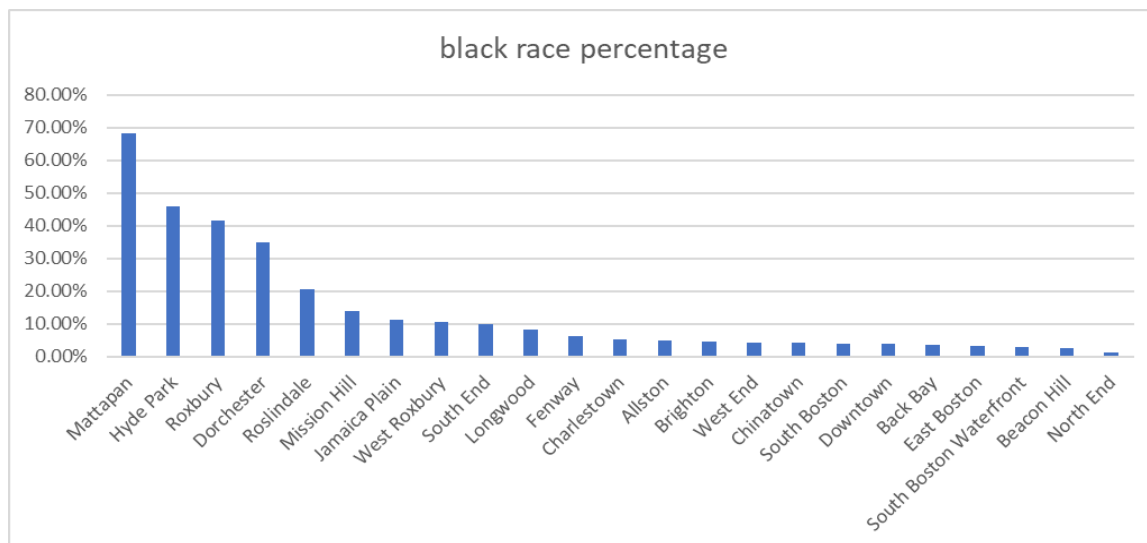
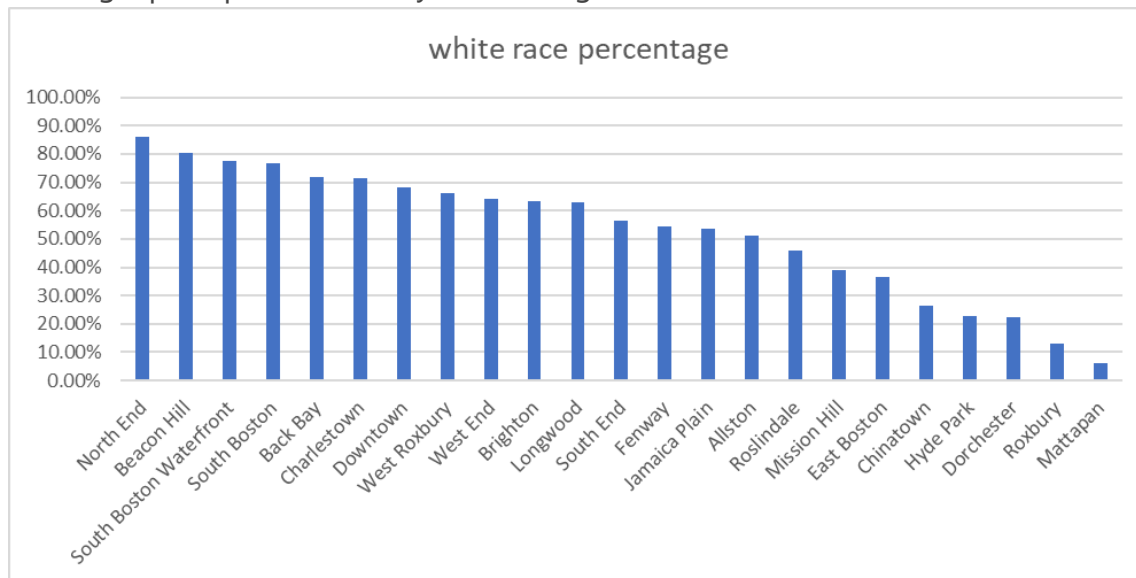
[South End](#)

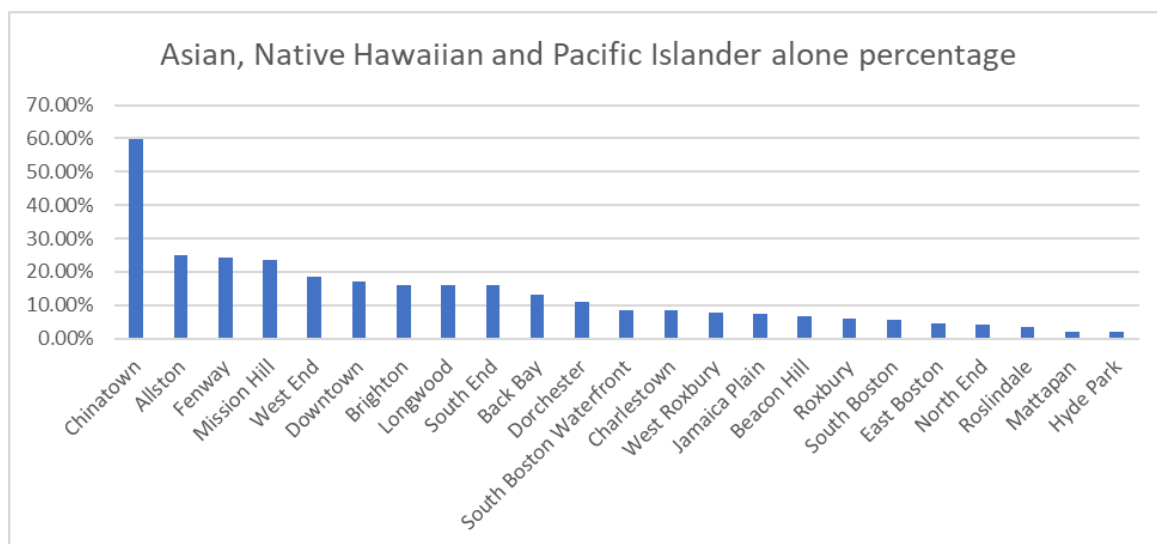
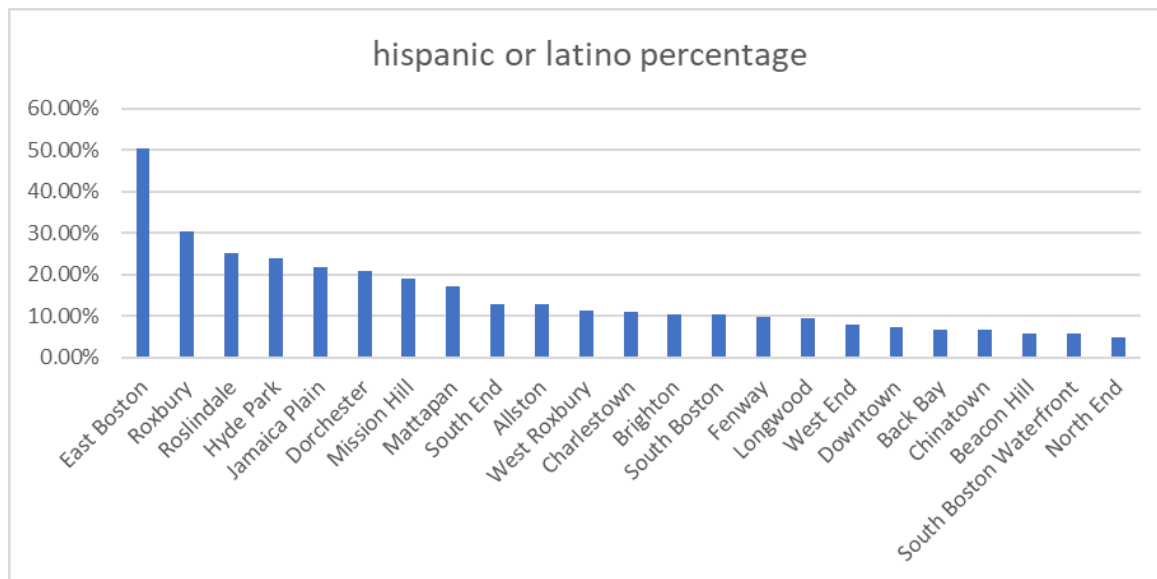
white: 56.58% black: 10.07%

hispanic or latino: 12.88%

asian: 15.92% other or multiple: 4.55%

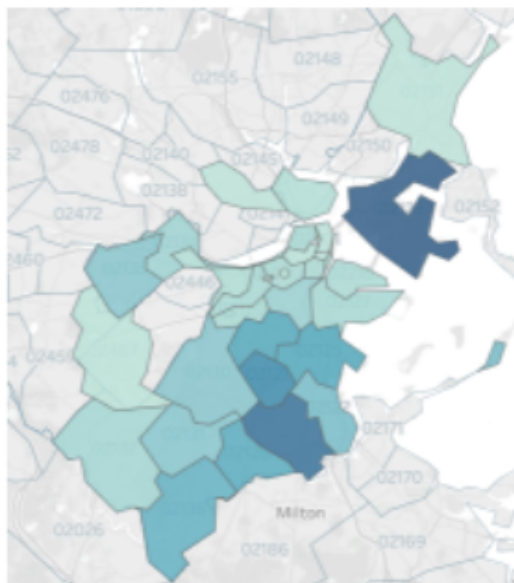
Demographic profiles analysis of neighborhoods:





Part 2: Rental Assistance(RRF):

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



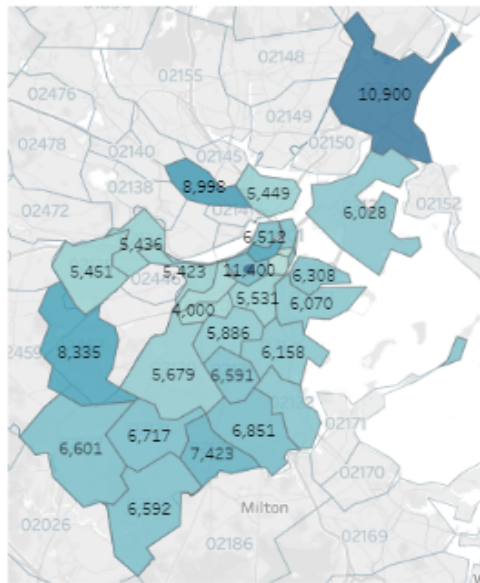
Top 5 neighborhoods of most total amount of rental assistance:

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):



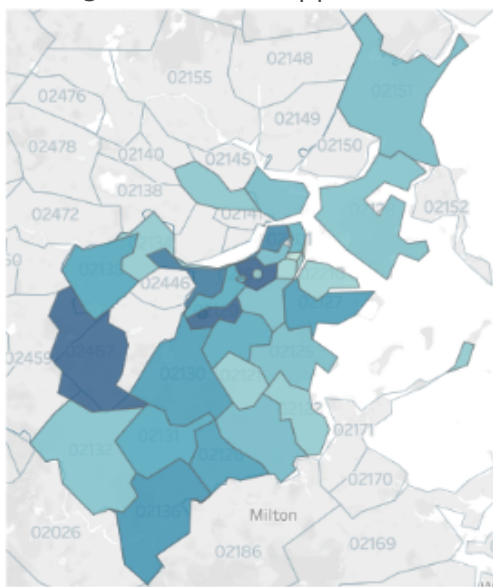
Top 5 neighborhoods of most average amount of rental assistance excluding outliers:

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:



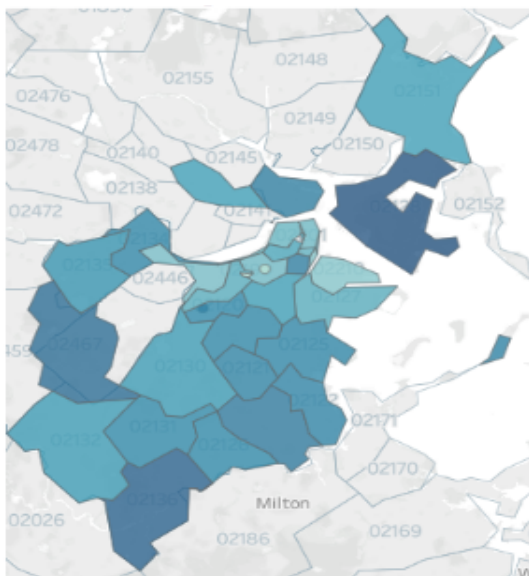
Top 5 neighborhoods of most average income:

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

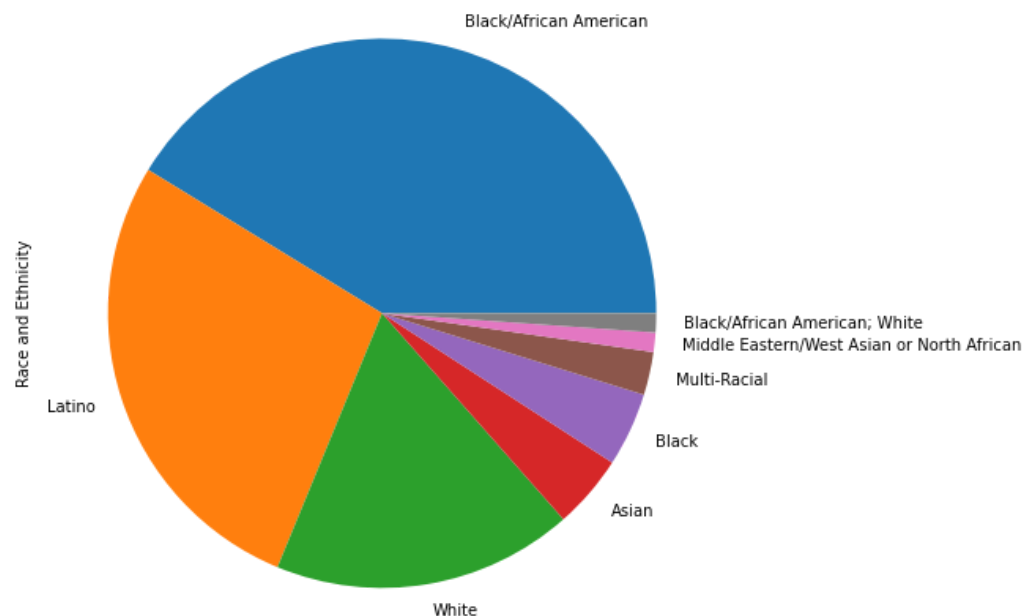
Bottom 6:

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

Average household size of applicant of RRF in each zip code:



Ethnicity ratio among applicants of approved fund amount:



5. Results obtained / questions answered:

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

Answer:

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?

Answer:

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?

Answer:

Bottom 6 neighborhoods with lowest average income of the applicants are: Financial District, 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, Financial District, 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 3 neighborhoods.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Suggestions for the future of the project:

- We'll choose to do the Boston 311 extension project
- Questions to answer:

- the difference in the city's responses to service requests based on demographics: income, home ownership level, race/ethnicity.
- what are the characteristics of communities being served best and slowest