

# Advancing Immigrants' Rights in Massachusetts

***CONNECTING RESEARCH AND ACTION***

**April 11, 2023**

Partnership for Immigrants' Rights | Northeastern University



Welcome!

Thank you  
for joining us!

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**Elizabeth Ennen**

e.ennen@northeastern.edu

**P**rogram on **H**uman **R**ights and the **G**lobal **E**conomy

**PHRGE**

“Fergie”

Northeastern University School of Law

## Agenda Overview

10:00 am

Picturing Collaboration



Will be recorded

11:20 am

Break

11:30 am

Discussing Collaboration



Please save questions  
for the discussion groups.

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is enabled.

Slides will be  
available.





# Picturing Collaboration

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Introduction

Program Planning & Evaluation

Community-Partnered Research

Legal Tools

Working With and Using Data



# Picturing Collaboration

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Introduction

Program Planning & Evaluation

Community-Partnered Research

Legal Tools

Working With and Using Data

# Central Idea

Community Organization: Goals



Research

# Research can help ...

Identify and  
Document  
**NEEDS**

Demonstrate  
that unmet  
needs leads to  
**SERIOUS  
HARMS**

Convince  
**LEGISLATORS**  
and **FUNDERS**  
to take these  
needs and  
harms seriously

Identify,  
implement, and  
evaluate  
**SOLUTIONS**

# Community Organization: Goals



Research



Collaboration



Community  
Organization

Academics

# Agenda

10:00 AM	<b>Picturing Collaboration</b>
11:20 AM	Break
11:30 AM	<b>Discussing Collaboration</b>



# Agenda

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## Picturing Collaboration

Partnership for Immigrants' Rights  
Collaborative projects  
Sample tools, topics, and projects

## Discussing Collaboration

Guided discussion: community-academic  
collaboration  
Open discussion: sharing information,  
addressing questions, and brainstorming

# Resource Challenges



# Partnership for Immigrants' Rights

## WHAT

Group of immigration advocates and Northeastern academics

## MISSION

Promote the **human rights** of Massachusetts immigrants

## METHOD

Collaborative research designed to support the goals of immigration advocates and community organizations

# Partnership: Members

Immigration  
Advocates

Northeastern  
Academics

# Partnership: Immigration Advocates



# Immigration Advocates

## ACLU of MA



**Laura Rótolo**

Field Director  
for Public  
Advocacy

## MIRA



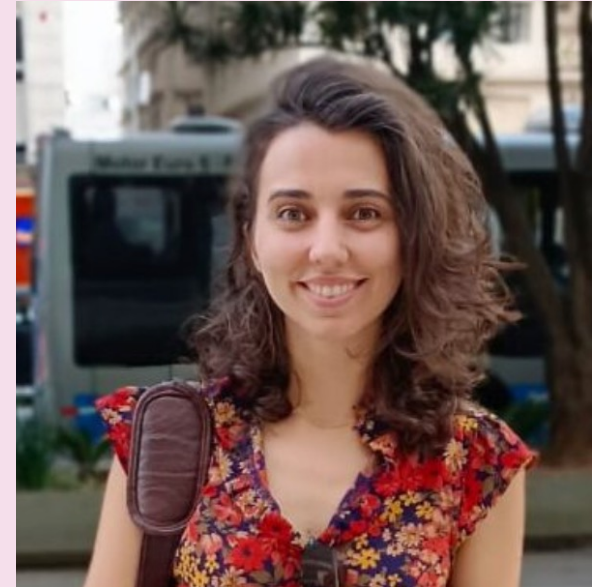
**Amy Grunder**

Director of  
Legislative  
Affairs



**Sarang Sekhavat**

Political Director



**Mariana Dutra**

Lead Organizer





**Partnership:  
Northeastern  
Academics**

Criminology

Latinx Studies

Law

Public Health

# Northeastern Academics: Criminology

Center on Crime, Race, and Justice



Amy  
Farrell



Carlos  
Cuevas

# Northeastern Academics: Latinx Studies

Latinx, Latin American and  
Caribbean Studies



Isabel Martinez

# Northeastern Academics: Law

## Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy



Martha  
Davis



Elizabeth  
Ennen

## Center for Health Policy and Law



Wendy  
Parmet



Mehreen  
Butt

## Immigration



Hemanth  
Gundavaram



Rachel  
Rosenbloom

# Northeastern Academics: Public Health

Institute for Health Equity  
and Social Justice



Danielle  
Crookes



Alisa  
Lincoln



Tiffany  
Joseph



Carmel  
Salhi



# **Picturing Collaborative Projects**

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# Variety!



# Collaborative Projects: Complexity



Relatively  
Simple

Very  
Complex

# Collaborative Projects: Starting Point



Community  
Organization

Northeastern  
Academic

# Collaborative Projects: Starting Point



A general  
conversation

A well-defined  
request

# Collaborative Projects: Your Involvement



Limited

Every step  
of the way

# Collaborative Projects: Time Frame



Short  
turnaround  
time

> A year to set  
up funding, set  
up project, and  
execute project

# Collaborative Projects: Students

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Graduate  
students

Undergraduate  
students

Law  
students



# Collaborative Projects: Students

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Interns

Research  
assistants

Co-op  
students

# Collaborative Projects: Students

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Short  
projects

Semester-  
length  
projects

Capstone  
projects

Practicums

# Collaborative Projects: Funding Models



## Students

Coursework  
Capstone Projects  
Internships & Co-ops



## Collaborative Fundraising

Joint grant applications  
Can include request for funds to  
increase capacity of your staff



## Partnership Fundraising

Internal: Northeastern University  
External: Foundations

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# Sample Tools

- Needs Assessment
- Program Development and Evaluation
- Community-Partnered Research
- Advocacy-Oriented Legal Research
- Public-Records Requests
- Amicus Briefs
- Public Comments
- Convenings
- Testimony and Op-eds
- Data Collection: Qualitative and Quantitative
- Data Analysis and Visualization

# An Advocate's View

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- Laura Rótolo
- Field Director





# Picturing Collaboration

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Introduction

Program Planning & Evaluation

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Working With and Using Data

# **Needs Assessments, Program Development, and Program Evaluation**

**Alisa Lincoln and Amy Farrell**  
NU Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL)



# Evaluation Research

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Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab



# Value of program evaluation

- Helps stakeholders make data-informed judgements about a program's :
  - Impact
  - Outcome
  - Cost
- Ultimately trying to understand how and why a program is effective



# Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL)

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- Initial funding provided through an NEU Tier 1 Grant.
- NU-PEL is a collaboration of the *Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research* in Bouvé College of Health Sciences and the *Center for Crime, Race, and Justice* in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH).
- Partnered with the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy (SPPUA) and the Office of City and Community Engagement, NU-PEL has created a graduate-level Service-Learning Program Evaluation course.
- The overall mission and vision of NU-PEL is to build a community-academic partnership to improve our communities and the well-being of the people living in them by evaluation research.



# Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL)

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- NU-PEL is an interdisciplinary, multigenerational lab comprised of faculty, staff, and students.
- NU-PEL draws upon a wide range of evaluation strategies and research and shares common commitments to promoting health equity, criminal justice, safety, and social justice through high impact, community engaged research.
- Our areas of expertise include but not limited to:
  - Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE)
  - Theory-Based Evaluation (TBE)
  - Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
  - Mixed-Methods (Quantitative and Qualitative) Practices
  - Training and Evaluation Capacity Building (ECB)
  - Evaluation Training and Professional Development



# Example of NU-PEL Community Partners



# How we work with community partners

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- Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE) + Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
  - Evaluation Planning
  - Evaluation Implementation
  - Building Multigenerational Teams/Progressive Mentoring
- Professional Development and Training
- Experiential Learning Opportunities
  - PPUA 6509: Techniques of Program Evaluation
  - Capstone
  - Practicum
  - Health Equity Interns







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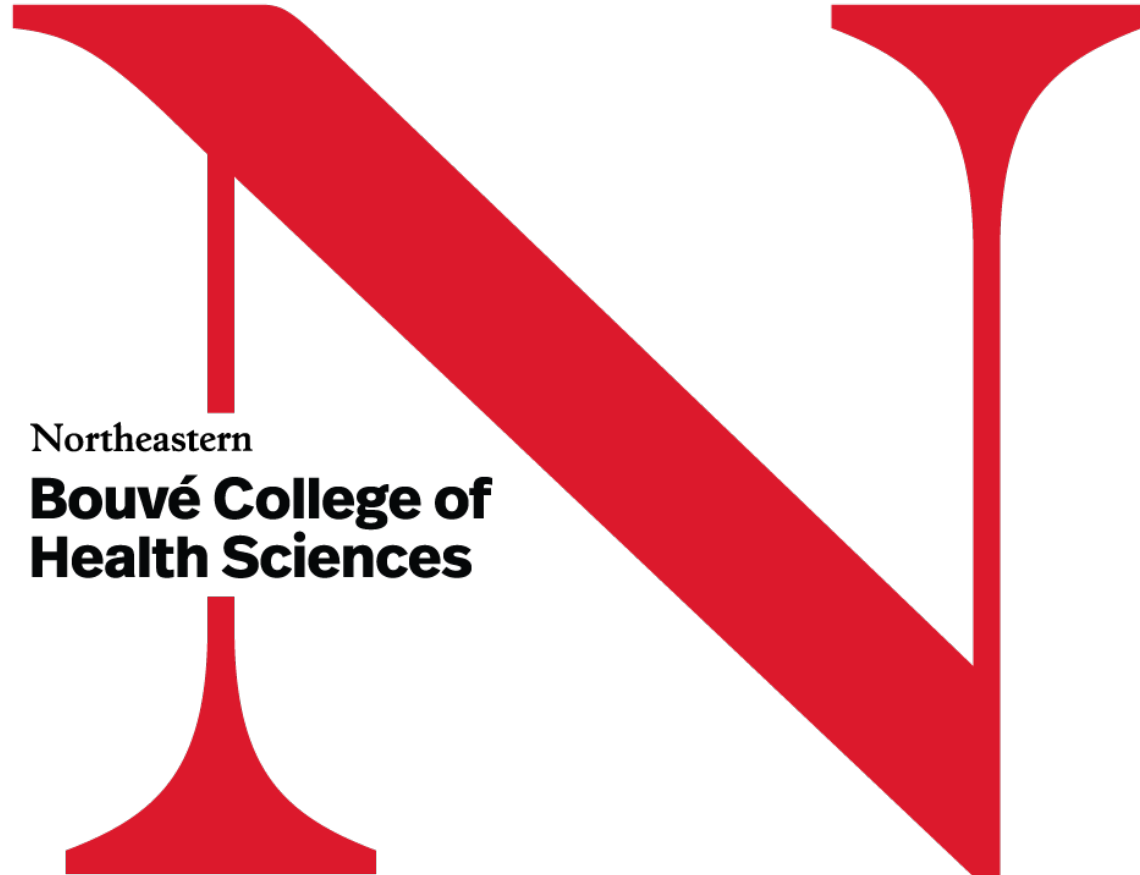
# **Community-Based Participatory Research**

**Alisa Lincoln and Carmel Salhi**

**Mental Health and Health Equity**

Northeastern University

**Institute for Health Equity  
and Social Justice Research**



Northeastern

**Bouvé College of  
Health Sciences**



# Community- Based Participatory Research (CBPR)

“[A] collaborative process that equitably involves all partners [egs., community, academic] in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community with the aim of combining knowledge and action for social change to improve community health and eliminate health disparities.” (Minkler et al, 2003)

# PAR: How to do it



Participant researchers are trained in scientific research methods.



Experience and worldview of participants is used to frame the research question.



Research designs are planned through participation of diverse (power, status, etc.) stakeholders.

# PAR: How to do it



Research is collaborative – a mutual influence process



Research is strengths-based: gives voice to what is competent and important in each person



Research allows for multiple methods

# CBPR/PAR Benefits



Complex problems better addressed through the collaboration of a diverse group of partners



Each partner has an increased capacity to address issues important to them



Research is better translated into practices and policy changes

# A Spectrum of Approaches: “Drawing on the Principles of CBPR”

CABs and EABs – PCORI Study

Consumer Consulting Group (CCG) – Literacy Study

Data Collection Facilitators – Start Strong

All phases of the research project including data collection (ex. Interviewers and analyses processes) – Dudley Inn; and AFSP (also included EAB)

B-CAMHP – Boston Community Academic Mental Health Partnership

SYRRS – Somali Youth Risk and Resilience Projects (PI: Ellis)

# Things to consider:

WHO REPRESENTS  
COMMUNITY?

ADHERENCE TO THE  
PRINCIPLES OF CBPR -  
Balancing day to day  
operations with shared  
leadership and decision-  
making

Imbalance in financial and  
structural factors

“Ownership of data”

Keeping partners engaged

Diverse organizational  
missions

Staff turnover

*Somali Youth  
Risk and  
Resilience  
Study*



**HARVARD**  
MEDICAL SCHOOL



**Boston Children's Hospital**  
Until every child is well™

Northeastern University

**Institute for Health Equity  
and Social Justice Research**

# Partners

## Investigative Team:

PI: Heidi Ellis, Ph.D., Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

John Horgan, Ph.D., Georgia State University

Ineke Marshall, Ph.D., Northeastern University

Alisa Lincoln, Ph.D., Northeastern University

Jessica Stern, Ph.D., Boston University

Saida Abdi, MSW, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston University

Scott Decker, Ph.D., Arizona State University

Josh Kilberg, Ph.D., Carleton University

Alisa Miller, Ph.D., Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

Emma Cardeli, Ph.D., Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School

Osob Issa, MSW, Boston Children's Hospital

Georgios Sideridis, PhD, Boston Children's Hospital

Carmel Salhi, PhD., Northeastern University

Emily Hahn, Boston Children's Hospital

Sarah Gillespie, Boston Children's Hospital

Tibrine Da Fonseca, SGA, Northeastern University

## Community Leaders:

Naima Agalab, Program Director, Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (RIAC), Boston, MA

Farah Aw-Osman, Executive Director, Canadian Friends of Somalia, Ontario, Canada

Sharif A. Mohamed, Imam and Co-founder, Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Civic Center (DAHICC), MN

Fatuma Hussein, Director, United Somali Women of Maine, Lewiston, ME

Rilwan Osman, Executive Director, Somali Bantu Youth Association of ME

## Funders:

National Institute of Justice

DoD/Minerva Research Initiative

NIMHD



# Study Design

- Somali Youth Longitudinal Study
  - Risk and Resilience Factors in Resettlement
  - Mixed-methods study across 4 time points
- CBPR-informed Approach
- Examined issues of importance to the community and academic research team including:
  - Mental health and well-being
  - Trauma
  - Discrimination and stigma
  - Employment and housing
  - And violence

# Post-resettlement Violence Exposure

- There is very little about exposure to violence for refugee populations
  - Most post-resettlement work is related to interpersonal violence, placing refugees as the source of violence
- We sought to describe exposure to violence for Somali refugees after resettlement
  - We also sought to examine how violence exposure after resettlement is related to mental health
- After resettlement, over 50% of participants were exposed to violence in their community
  - Exposures included being robbed with a weapon, being beaten by non-family, and witnessing bodily harm to someone else
- By wave 2, only post-resettlement violence was associated with depression, anxiety, and PTSD symptoms
  - Pre-resettlement violence was associated with only depression by wave 2

# Structural Violence and Employment paper

- Quant data helped identify violence as a neglected phenomenon post-resettlement and its importance to mental health
- Qualitative data was used to examine employment as source of structural violence
  - Structural discrimination in access to employment and healthcare insurance
  - Interpersonal discrimination experienced in employment and healthcare
  - How are they related to health?
- Participants described their jobs as demanding long hours and exposure to discrimination
  - Strategies to identify jobs that were less discriminatory relied on social networks
- Discrimination in employment and healthcare, coupled with limited or no employer-provided health insurance, reinforced exclusion and vulnerability to worse health

# Exploring an Immigrant Health CBPR Partnership

- What are the health and mental health issues of importance to our communities?
- What are the strengths of our teams at NU?
  - Violence and trauma and health
  - Health care utilization and access
  - Mental health and well-being
  - Experiences of stigma, discrimination and hate-crimes
- Is there a match?

# Contact Us



**Alisa Lincoln, MPH, PhD**

Director, Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research; Professor of Health Sciences and Sociology

**Email:** [al.Lincoln@northeastern.edu](mailto:al.Lincoln@northeastern.edu)

**Suzanne Garverich, MPH**

Program Director of the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research

**Email:** [s.garverich@northeastern.edu](mailto:s.garverich@northeastern.edu)



**Carmel Salhi, Sc.D**

Associate Professor of Health Sciences  
Faculty Scholar, Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research

**Email:** [c.salhi@northeastern.edu](mailto:c.salhi@northeastern.edu)





# **Supporting Service Providers and Developing Youth Leadership**

**Isabel Martinez**  
Immigrant Youth

# Supporting Service Providers and Developing Youth Leadership: U-LAMP



Dr. Isabel Martinez, Director, Latinx, Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LLACS) Program  
Advancing Immigrant Rights in Massachusetts: Connecting Research to Action  
Partnership for Immigrant Rights  
Northeastern University



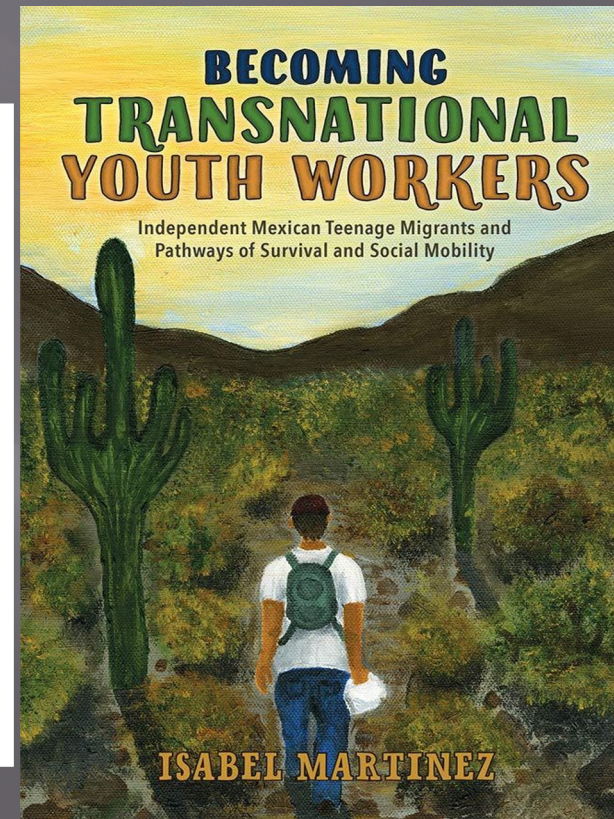
# Origins of U-LAMP

## Two Tales of Unaccompanied Minor Migration

Dr. Isabel Martinez's Story:

In the summer of 2000, Dr. Martinez's uncle, Felipe Salazar II, would complete and unveil a history of the Martinez family that identified her grandmother as an unauthorized unaccompanied minor. Married at age thirteen, by age sixteen, Josefa Cermeno Castro would find herself escaping the Mexican Revolution and seeking refuge in a place where there were "people like here (in Mexico), but there isn't a revolution." Accompanied by her young husband, her baby daughter, her eleven year old brother and family friends, her grandmother would travel over two months in a carreta or ox-pulled cart, finally arriving exhausted to the southern bank of the Mexico-Texas border in January 1919. To cross, they would have to ride a hand-pulled ferry across the river from Mexico into Texas. The crossing fee was three cents per adult if none of the adults helped pull the ferry across by rope, two cents if they did help. All in all, they would pay a total of five cents to cross.

Dr. Martinez's grandmother would circumvent not one, but two immigration laws to enter. Although the Immigration Act of 1907 required all immigrants arriving into the US to enter through an official port of entry, submit themselves to inspection, receive official authorization to enter the United States and pay a head tax and the Immigration Act of 1917 would require entrants over the age of sixteen to prove literacy and pay a higher head tax, Dr. Martinez's grandmother who had never attended school a day in her life crossed instead to the northern bank of the Rio



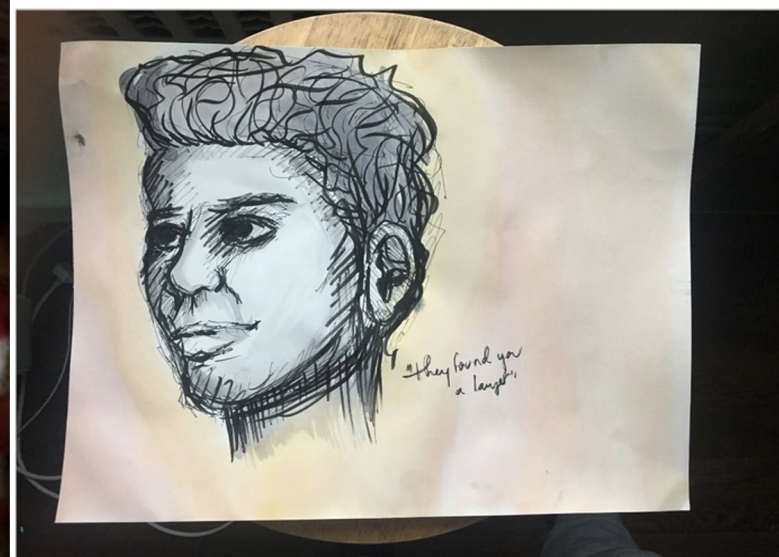
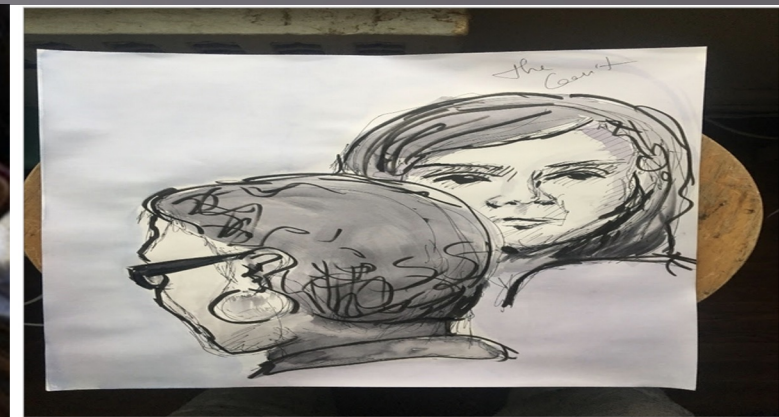
Rutgers U Press, 2019



# “They found you a lawyer”



Photographer: Rosa Calosso



Artist: MariaJosé Delgado

# Assessing Immigrant Youths' Experiences with Legal Service Providers

- ▣ Funded by NY Community Trust

## Themes:

- ▣ Discovering Safe Passage Project (SPP)
- ▣ Overall experiences with SPP attorneys/staff
- ▣ How clients understand the process of obtaining legal status and their cases
- ▣ Communicating with SPP attorneys and staff
- ▣ Needs of clients during and after pursuing legal status
- ▣ Impacts of obtaining a Green Card
- ▣ Thoughts about an Advisory Board



# Contact Us!

**Website:** [www.ulamp.weebly.com](http://www.ulamp.weebly.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/UnaccompaniedLAMP](http://www.facebook.com/UnaccompaniedLAMP)

**Twitter:** @U\_LAMP

**Email:** [unaccompaniedminorproject@gmail.com](mailto:unaccompaniedminorproject@gmail.com)

**QR Code:**





# Picturing Collaboration

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Introduction

Program Planning & Evaluation

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Legal Tools

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# **Public-Records Requests and Collaboratives Databases**

**Elizabeth Ennen**  
Safe Communities



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# The Safe Communities Project

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- Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE)

# Tools



Using data to support an advocacy goal



Using law students to support research



Using collaborative databases to share information with advocates



Using public records requests to gather data

## Trump 2017 Interior Enforcement

- Promote collaboration between local police and ICE





# Collaboration: Local Police and ICE

**Collaboration**

HARMS



Public safety

Health

Local Economies

Advocacy Goal:  
Decrease  
Collaboration  
Between Local  
Police and ICE



**City and Town Policies**  
That Limit Collaboration

**State Legislation**  
That Limits Collaboration

**Police Policies**  
That Limit Collaboration

Advocacy Goal:  
Decrease  
Collaboration  
Between Local  
Police and ICE



**City and Town Policies**  
That Limit Collaboration

**State Legislation**  
That Limits Collaboration

**Police Policies**  
That Limit Collaboration

# Research Questions

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Are **municipalities** in MA passing local policies in reaction to Trump's immigration policies? Are they asking their police departments to avoid collaborating with ICE?

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To what extent do municipal **police departments** in MA have policies that limit collaboration with ICE?

# Safe Communities Project

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Phase One: Municipal Policies

Phase Two: Police Policies

# Safe Communities Project

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Phase One: Municipal Policies

Phase Two: Police Policies

# Municipal Safe Community Policies

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**SOLIDARITY**



**LAW ENFORCEMENT:  
LIMIT COLLABORATION**

# Policy Sources

Municipal Policies	
<i>Cities</i>	<i>Towns</i>
<b>Mayors</b> Declarations Executive Orders	<b>Select Boards</b> Policies Statements
<b>City Councils</b> Ordinances Resolutions	<b>Town Meetings</b> Bylaws Proclamations Resolutions



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# **Collecting Municipal Policies**

**Law students!**

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## **Municipal Policies**

- Web searches
- Social media searches
- News database searches
- Phone calls to local officials



# **Collaborative Databases**

Municipalities  
Database

	Municipality ▾	Kind/Link ▾	County ▾	Activism ▾	Status Notes ▾	Status Summary ▾
	<a href="#">Amherst</a>	Town	Hampshire	Yes	On May 8, 2017, Article 29 passed 165-4 at a Town Meeting that began on April 26, 2017. The AG approved the bylaw on 11/3/2017.	Passed/Enacted/Adopted
	<a href="#">Andover</a>	Town	Essex	No		No Visible Initiative
	<a href="#">Aquinnah</a>	Town	Dukes	Yes	Article 43 was passed by unanimous voice vote at ATM on 5/9/2017.	Passed/Enacted/Adopted
						

# Municipalities Database

Municipality ▾	Kind/Link ▾	County ▾	Trump Era LG Policy Type ▾	LG Policy Date ▾
<a href="#">Acton</a>	Town	Middlesex	Select Board Policy	10/30/2017
<a href="#">Amherst</a>	Town	Hampshire	Bylaw	5/8/2017
<a href="#">Aquinnah</a>	Town	Dukes	Request to Select Board	5/9/2017
<a href="#">Arlington</a>	Town	Middlesex	Resolution	5/8/2017
<a href="#">Belmont</a>	Town	Middlesex	Resolution	5/8/2017
<a href="#">Beverly</a>	City	Essex	Mayoral Declaration	3/9/2017
<a href="#">Boston</a>	City	Suffolk	Ordinance	12/11/2019
<a href="#">Boxborough</a>	Town	Middlesex	Resolution Non-Binding	5/9/2017
<a href="#">Brewster</a>	Town	Barnstable	Request to Select Board	5/1/2017
<a href="#">Brookline</a>	Town	Norfolk	Selectboard Statement 1	2/7/2017
			Selectboard Statement 2	
			Select Board Policy	

Municipality <span>∨</span>	Kind/Link <span>∨</span>	Alert <span>↑ ∨</span>	Alert Notes <span>∨</span>	+
Winchester	Town	Active Now	<p>Per email from Laura on 7/26/2019, there may be activity in Winchester.</p> <p>Changed from Monitor to Active Now after conversation at Trilateral Meeting on 11/1/2019.</p>	□
Framingham	Town	Monitor	<p>City Council voted 9-0 on 2/19/2019 in favor of resolution to create task force to study issue of whether Framingham should become a sanctuary city. EE 7/29/2019</p>	□
Holliston	Town	Monitor	<p>Planning stage. - LR. (early days). "Immigrant Stories and More" forum held 11/4/17. See Press Database. CM 7/19/18</p> <p>No new activity as of quality control check. CM 7/16/19</p>	□

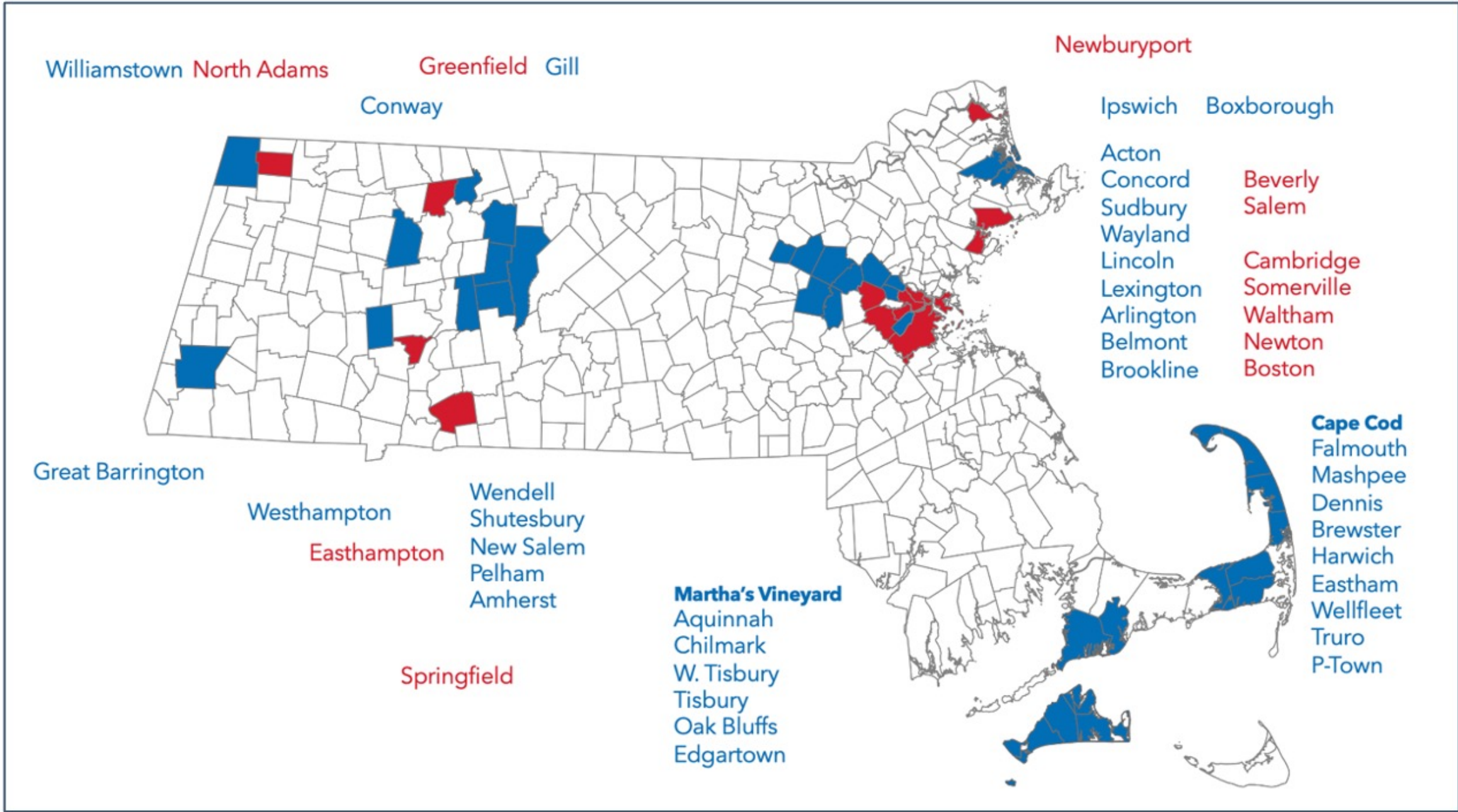
# Municipal Policies: Results

**48** MA municipalities issued safe community policies; some issued >1

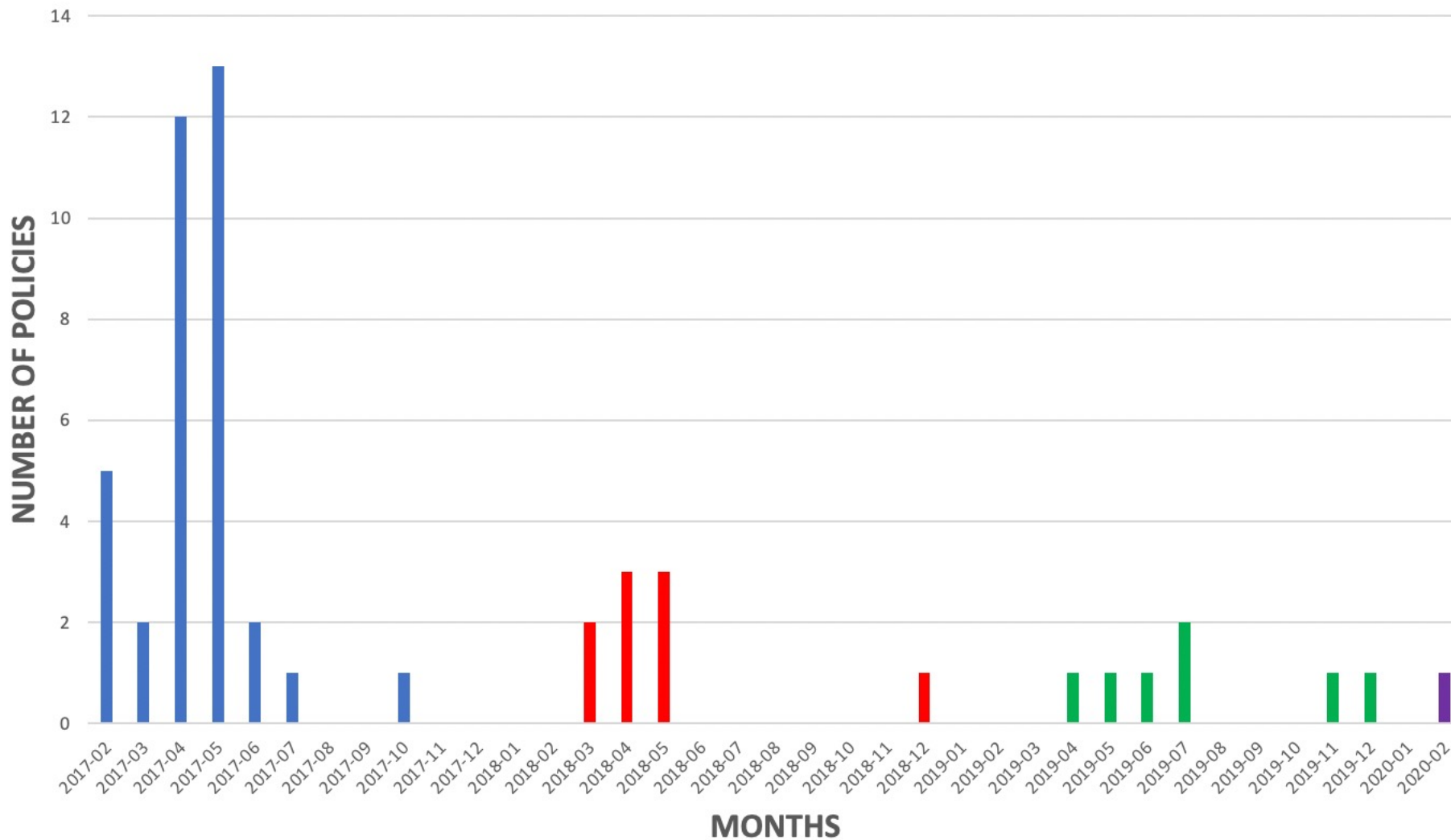
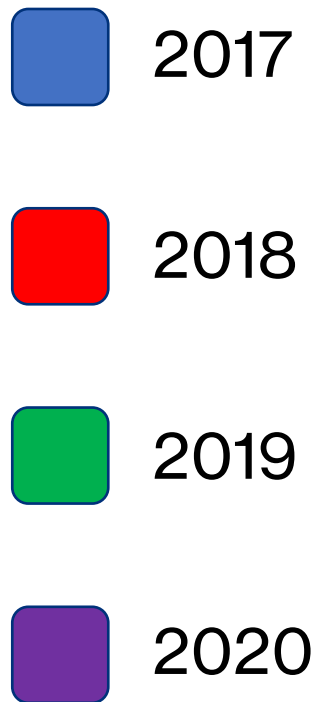
**55** Policies were issued in total

**12** **Cities** issued policies

**36** **Towns** issued policies



# MASSACHUSETTS LOCAL-GOVERNMENT POLICIES DURING TRUMP ERA





# Supporting Advocates



REAL-TIME INFO



INFO: HEARTS  
AND MINDS



TESTIMONY: SAFE  
COMMUNITIES ACT



REPORT: SAFE  
COMMUNITIES

# Safe Communities Project

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Phase One: Municipal Policies

Phase Two: Police Policies

# Safe Communities Project

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Phase One: Municipal Policies

Phase Two: Police Policies



# **Collecting Police Policies**

**Law students!**

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## **Police Policies**

- Public-records requests

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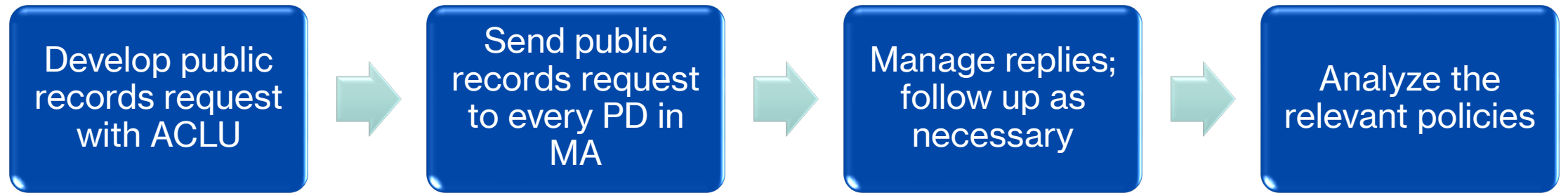
# Obtaining Government Records

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- **Federal Law:**  
Freedom on Information Act
- **Massachusetts Law:**  
Public Records Law



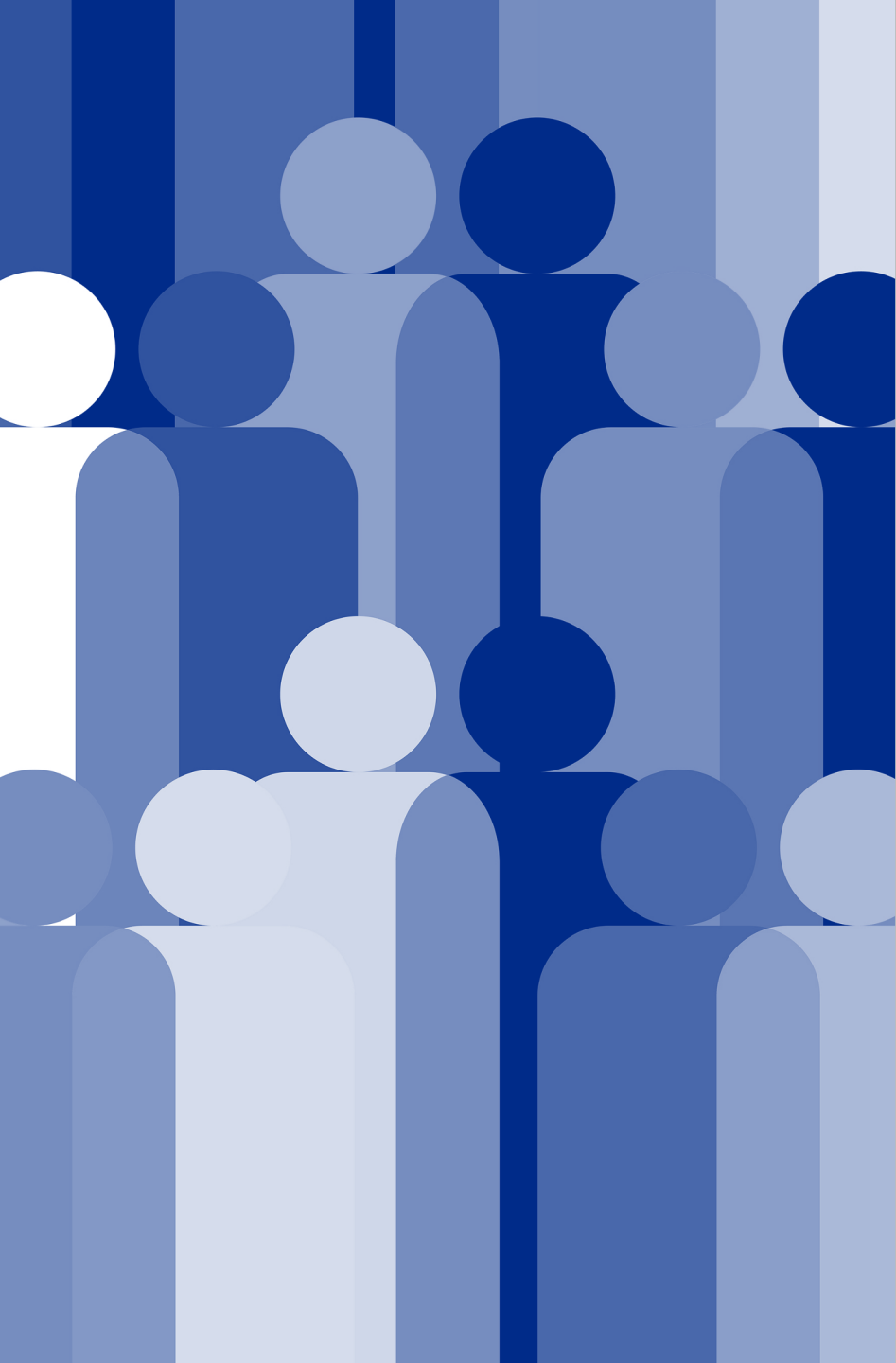
# Police Policies Project: The Process



# **Preliminary Results**

**131** Policies in total

**96** Police departments



# **The Safe Communities Project**

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**Thank you!**



# **Law Student Support of Advocacy Research**

**Hemanth Gundavaram**

Immigrant Justice Clinic and LSSC Program



# **Convenings, Amicus Briefs, Public Comments, and Testimony**

**Mehreen Butt**

Center for Health Policy and Law



Mehreen N. Butt  
Managing Director



Wendy E. Parmet  
Faculty Director

- Convening
- Legal Research
- Amicus Briefs
- Public Comment
- Testimony



# Picturing Collaboration

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# **Qualitative Interviews in Multiple Languages, Testimony, and Op-Eds**

**Tiffany Joseph**

Language Access and Health Care

# Language Access and Health Care



**Tiffany D. Joseph, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor of Sociology & International Affairs**

**Northeastern University**

**Partnership for Immigrants' Rights Conference**

**April 11, 2023**

# Today's Presentation

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## Working with and Using Data

- Overview of Qualitative Research Project: Boston Immigrants' Healthcare Access
- Findings on Language Access and Health Care
- Data and Advocacy
- Grant Opportunity for Community Organizations

# Overview of Qualitative Research Project

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Goal: To gain insight into three main questions about Boston immigrants' healthcare access over time

- 1) How have recent policy changes reconfigured immigrants' access to and experiences of health care?
- 2) How have documentation status, race, ethnicity, and language shaped ability to obtain coverage and care?
- 3) How has intensifying racialized immigration and law enforcement influenced immigrants' healthcare decisions?



# Overview of Project, cont'd

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## Policy Analysis of MA and ACA Reforms

- Role of documentation status, race, ethnicity
- Intersection with immigration and welfare policy

## 207 Semi-structured Interviews: 3 groups in Boston

- Immigrants
- Healthcare Providers
- Immigrant/Health Organization Employees

Observations at immigration, healthcare events

# Overview of Project, cont'd

## Semi-Structured Interviews (N=207)

Stakeholder Group	Pre-ACA 2012-2013	Post-ACA 2015-2016	Post-2016 Election 2019
<b>Immigrants (N=82)*</b>	<b>N=31</b>	<b>N=39</b>	<b>N= 12</b>
Brazilians	21	15	8
Dominicans	10	14	2
Salvadorans	N/A	10	2
<b>Health Care Providers at BHC (N=50)</b>	<b>N=19</b>	<b>N=19</b>	<b>N =12</b>
Physicians	5	6	5
Medical Interpreters	4	4	2
Other Medical Staff	10	9	5
<b>Immigrant/Health Organizations (N=75)</b>	<b>N=20</b>	<b>N=25</b>	<b>N =30</b>
Brazilian	6	4	7
Dominican	2	4	2
Salvadoran	N/A	2	2
General Immigrant Organizations	3	5	9
Health Organizations	9	7	8
City/State Officials	0	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>54</b>

BHC = Boston Health Coalition; BHC Providers (N=10 reinterviews); Orgs (N=22 reinterviews)

# Findings: Language Access and Health Care

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## Accessing Coverage: Paperwork and Assistance in English

- Daniel, health advocate interviewed in 2013

*Sometimes they are eligible for Commonwealth Care, but they don't know what to do. . . They are missing all the information, and also the letters, more than 50 percent are in English. A lot of them . . . don't speak English; plus, I know some people, they don't know how to read. So that is even worse.*

- Romina, Salvadoran immigrant interviewed in 2016

*The truth is many people...who don't have documents or don't have health coverage,...who are really sick and don't go to the hospital and nearly die.... There are opportunities, but there are also limitations without health coverage or speaking the language. ...And because they [people] know they'll try to apply for coverage and won't get it, sadly.*

# Findings, cont'd

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## Navigating Complex US Healthcare System

- Jenny, health advocate interviewed in 2016

*You may read English or you may read Spanish, but if you don't understand the words, you don't understand what's a deductible, what's a co-pay, what's a premium, what are tax penalties and advance premium tax credits. Well, are you really able to make informed decisions about health care and health insurance?*

- Julia, health advocate interviewed in 2016

*When you get a phone call from the hospital or whatever, it's usually in English. Yes, they have like interpreters and they try their best, supposedly, to make sure that they have someone who can speak the language, but it's not necessarily always the case. And you know our notes on visits, they're all in English. So if a patient wants access to their medical record, there's no way for them to understand what it is we're saying about them.*

# Findings, cont'd

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## Interacting with Providers and Navigating Follow Up Care

- Francisca, Brazilian immigrant interviewed in 2012

*My husband speaks very little English, and today he went to the doctor and had an interpreter there. Where he goes, they have to have people who speak Portuguese there. . . . [I think] language [makes a difference] because when neither my son or me can go with my husband to medical appointments, it takes him longer to be seen. If you need an interpreter, you could wait two or three months to get appointments.*

- Kevin, provider interviewed in 2012


*Basically I have a bunch of patients who feel like, because of the wait time [on hold] or lack of people even picking up the phone and then language problems once they do, that they have to physically show up at the office to get any business done. ...But there are a few people who can't even get that far and . . . can't even schedule appointments over the phone.*

- Josefina, advocate interviewed in 2019

*Even when going to the hospital, you can't find someone who speaks Spanish and they don't try to find anyone who does to the [medical] interpretation become they don't want Hispanics there. At least, that's the message we receive, "learn English or leave."*

# Data and Advocacy Example

**Language Access and Inclusion in Massachusetts**



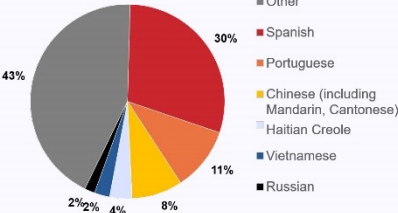
**Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act**

Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act requires services that receive federal funds to make provisions to ensure that limited English speakers can meaningfully access important services such as education, legal services, health and mental health care. Massachusetts has statutory and regulatory standards for language access which are meant to “provide the broadest possible protection for the rights of non-English speaking persons to understand and to be understood.”<sup>1</sup>

**Limited English Proficient Speakers<sup>2</sup>**

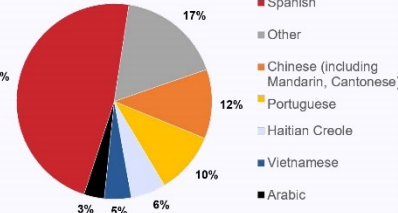
In Massachusetts, 1 in 10 foreign-born residents report speaking English “less than very well” and are defined as Limited English Proficient (LEP) speakers. There are an estimated 853,374 LEP speakers in Massachusetts over the age of 5. The top six languages spoken at home among LEP speakers in Massachusetts are Spanish (52.4%), Portuguese (18.7%), Chinese including Mandarin and Cantonese (14.9%), Haitian Creole (6.5%), Vietnamese (4.5%), and Russian (3.0%). The top six languages spoken at home by Low Income Limited English Proficient Speakers in Massachusetts are Spanish (57.3%), Chinese including Mandarin and Cantonese (13.8%), Portuguese (12.4%), Vietnamese (5.4%), and Arabic (4.1%).

**Top Languages Spoken at Home among LEP speakers in Massachusetts**



Language	Percentage
Spanish	52.4%
Portuguese	18.7%
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	14.9%
Haitian Creole	6.5%
Vietnamese	4.5%
Russian	3.0%
Other	3.0%

**Top Languages Spoken at Home among Low-Income LEP speakers in Massachusetts**



Language	Percentage
Spanish	57.3%
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	13.8%
Portuguese	12.4%
Vietnamese	5.4%
Arabic	4.1%
Other	3.0%

**Foreign-Born Population in Massachusetts**

Approximately 1.2 million Massachusetts residents are foreign-born, totaling over 17% of the state’s population, or about 1 in every 6 residents. Massachusetts’ foreign-born population includes 78,439 children and is incredibly diverse. In addition, an estimated 32.3% of children in Massachusetts have at least one foreign-born parent.

**Join MIRA Coalition’s Work around Language Access**

MIRA is working with MA Appleseed, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and the Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts as part of the Mass Speaks Coalition on [state legislation](#) which would create enforceable language access standards and protocols for public facing state agencies in Massachusetts. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Mariana Dutra [mdutra@miracoalition.org](mailto:mdutra@miracoalition.org).

**Note:** This fact sheet was last updated on February 1, 2023.

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts regulation, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/regulatory-information-for-language-access>.  
<sup>2</sup> Most data taken from the Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/US>, and Mass Legal Services data, <https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/maps-low-income-lep-speakers-massachusetts>.

- Language and Inclusion Act (S.1990, H.3084)
- Quotes “humanize” stats
- Public testimony for legislators
- Op-eds for informing general public

# Grant Opportunity for Community Organizations

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## Grant Opportunity : Yield Giving Open Call

- Aim: “elevating organizations working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States”
  - [Give \\$1M to 250 organizations for unrestricted use](#)
- Eligibility Criteria
  - Annual operating budget of \$1M-\$5M for last 2 fiscal years
  - 90% of work must take place in US
  - Organization in existence for at least 3 years
- Important Deadlines
  - [May 5 at 4pm \(CST\)](#): register for application process
  - [June 12 at 4pm \(CST\)](#): application deadline
  - [Early 2024](#): awardees announced
- Relevant Link
  - <https://yieldgivingopencall.leverforchange.org/submit>

# Acknowledgements

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Respondents

Partnership for Immigrants' Rights

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Scholars Program

ASA FAAD Program/National Science Foundation

Ford Foundation

Institute for Citizens and Scholars (Formerly Woodrow Wilson Foundation)

National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health

College of Arts and Sciences, Stony Brook University

College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University

Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research, Northeastern University

Research Team



# Questions?

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Website: [www.tiffanydjoseph.com](http://www.tiffanydjoseph.com)



# Supplemental Slides

# Research Sample

## Latin American Immigrants (N=82)

Demographics	2012-2013 Immigrant Sample (N=31)		2015-2016 Immigrant Sample (N=39)			2019 Immigrant Sample (N=12)		
	<i>Brazilians (N=21)</i>	<i>Dominicans (N=10)</i>	<i>BRs (N=15)</i>	<i>DRs (N=14)</i>	<i>Salvadorans (N=10)</i>	<i>BRs (N=8)</i>	<i>DRs (N=2)</i>	<i>SNs (N=2)</i>
Gender (# women)	12	5	8	10	6	5	2	2
Median Age (years)	40	55	43	56	40	43.5	54.5	34
Average Time in US (years)	12	14	10	21	19	10	15+	7
<b>Documentation Status</b>								
- Current Undocumented (N)	6	3	6	0	5	6	0	1
- Current Visa/Green Card Holders (N)	14	4	8	11	4	0	0	1
- Current Naturalized Citizens (N)	1	3	1	3	1	2	2	0
<b>Health Insurance Coverage</b>								
- Uninsured (N)	1	0	2	2	3	1	0	0
- Public Coverage (N)	12	8	10	10	7	3	0	2
- Private (N)	8	2	3	2	0	4	2	0

# Research Sample, cont'd

## Boston Health Coalition Demographics (N=52)

<b>Demographics</b>	<b>2012-2013 (N=19)</b>	<b>2015-2016 (N=19)</b>	<b>2019 (N=14)</b>
Gender (# women)	14	14	9
Average Age (years)	47	47	45
Number of Years at BHC	13	13	13
Number of BHC Sites	5	8	5
Occupation Categories	Physician, Psychiatrist, Interpreter, Social Worker, Outreach	Physician, Psychiatrist, Interpreter, Multicultural Affairs	Physician, Psychiatrist, Interpreter, Multicultural Affairs, Social Worker
<b>Ethnoracial Classification</b>			
- White (N)	9	10	5
- Black (N)	2	1	1
- Latino/Hispanic (N)	7	4	4
- Asian American (N)	0	1	1
- Other (N)	1	3	1

# Research Sample, cont'd

## Immigrant/Health Organizations Demographics (N=77)

2012-2013 (N=19)			2015-2016 (N=26)		2019 (N=32)	
Organization Type	Staff Position	# Interviewed	Staff Position	# Interviewed	Staff Position	# Interviewed
Brazilian Immigrants	Exec Director, Board Member, Health Education	6	Exec Director, Board Member, Health Educator	4	Exec Director, Health Educator and Outreach, Financial Adviser, Receptionist	5
Salvadoran Immigrants	N/A	0	Exec Director, Pastor	2	Pastor, Exec Director	2
Dominican Immigrants	Exec Director, ESL	2	Exec Director	1	Activist	1
Immigrant Advocacy	Coordinator	2	Coordinator	3	Coordinators, Attorney	7
Health Advocacy	Health Policy, Helpline Staff, Communications	9	Health Policy, Helpline Staff, Attorney	11	Health Policy, Helpline Staff, Attorneys	7
Miscellaneous Advocacy	N/A	0	Policy Coordinator, Attorney	2	Exec Director, Attorneys, Policy Coordinator	4
Local/State Government	N/A	N/A	Director	3	City Immigrant Office, City Outreach	3

# **Data Collection and Visualization**

**Amy Farrell and Carlos Cuevas**  
Hate Crimes and Trafficking


# Data Collection and Visualization: Bias Victimization Against Latinx Populations in US

Presented by Dr. Carlos Cuevas and Dr. Amy Farrell  
Co-Directors: Violence and Justice Research Lab  
Center on Crime Race and Justice  
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Supported by National Institute of Justice Grant 2016-V3-GX-001 & 2017-VF-GX-0005. Points of view in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S DOJ



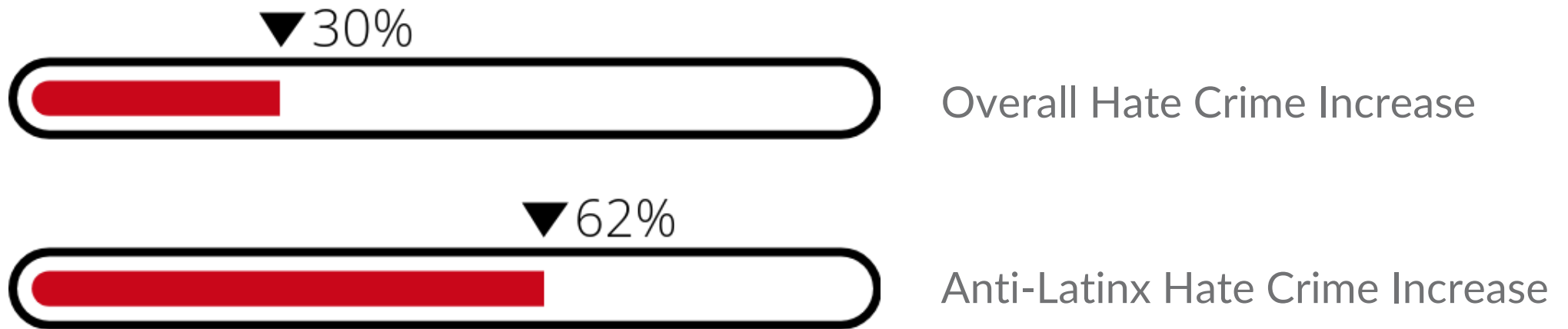
# Context

- Recent research focused on bias victimization against Latinx adult
  - Key aspects of data collection
  - Why use data visualization
- 



# Change in Reported Hate Crime 2014-2018

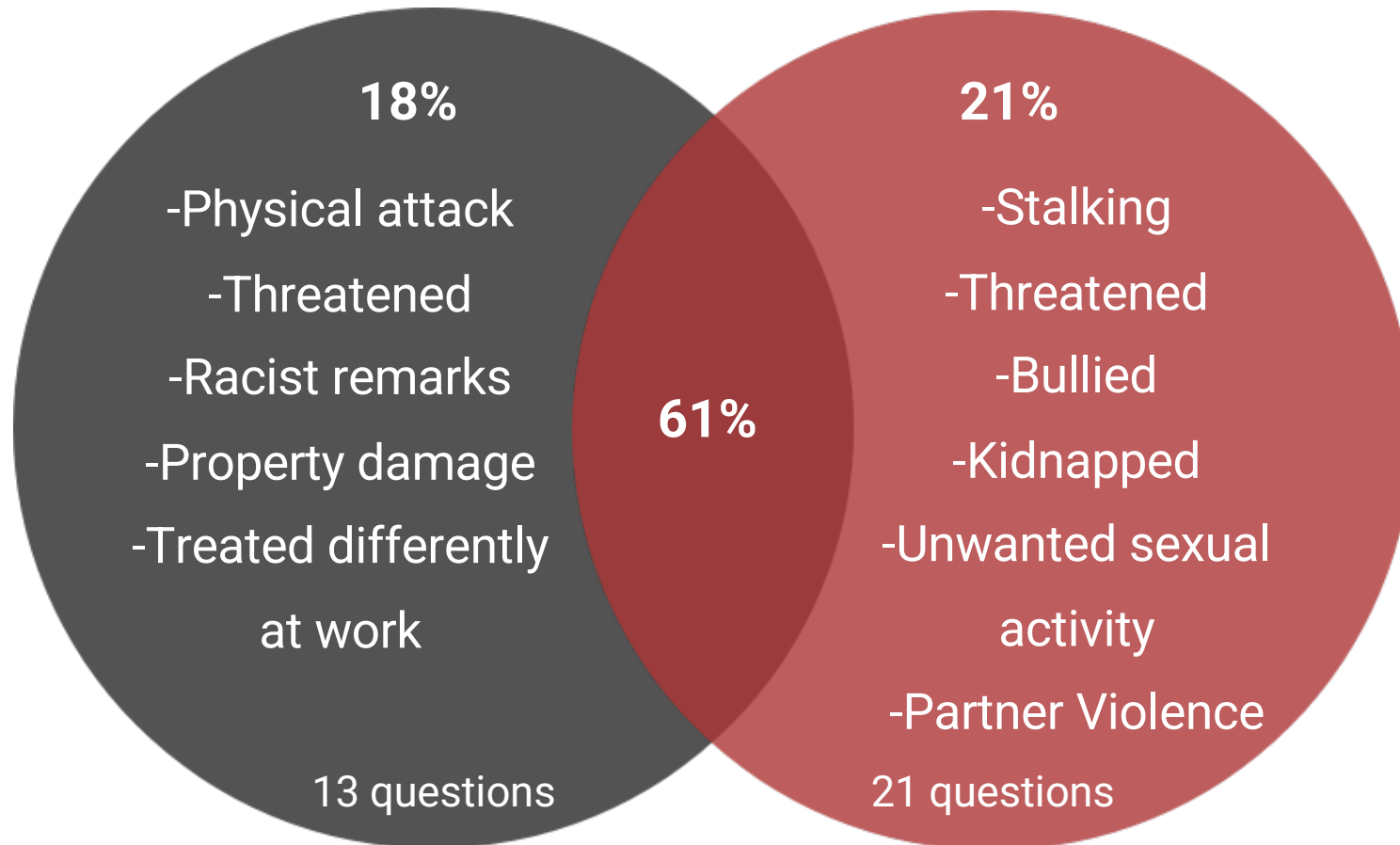
Hate crimes are personal harm directed at person over immutable characteristics and they send a message aimed to strike fear. Therefore, victims are unlikely to report.



# Victimization Types Surveyed

## Bias motivated victimization

Victimization experiences that were perpetrated due to the victim's ethnic or racial background



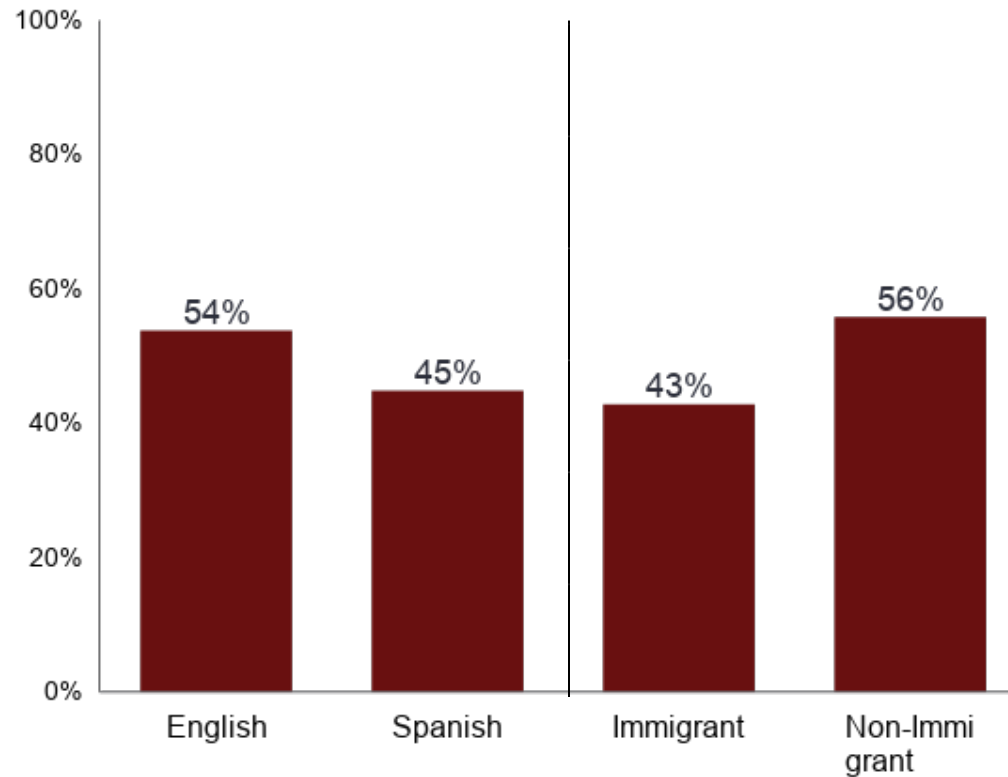
## General lifetime victimization

Any victimization experiences that had happened in a participant's lifetime

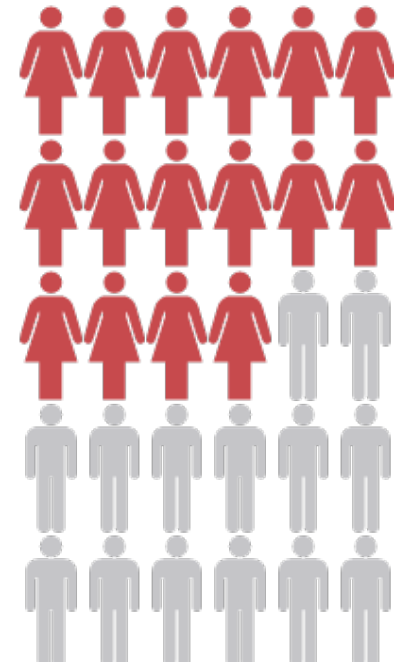
# Overview of Sample (N=910)

The sample was about equal in three main categories: language, immigration status, and gender.

### Language & Immigration Status



### Gender 52%- Female

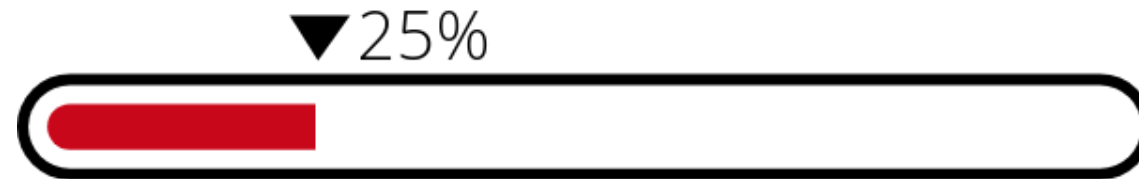


Average participant age was 36

# Instances of Bias Victimization

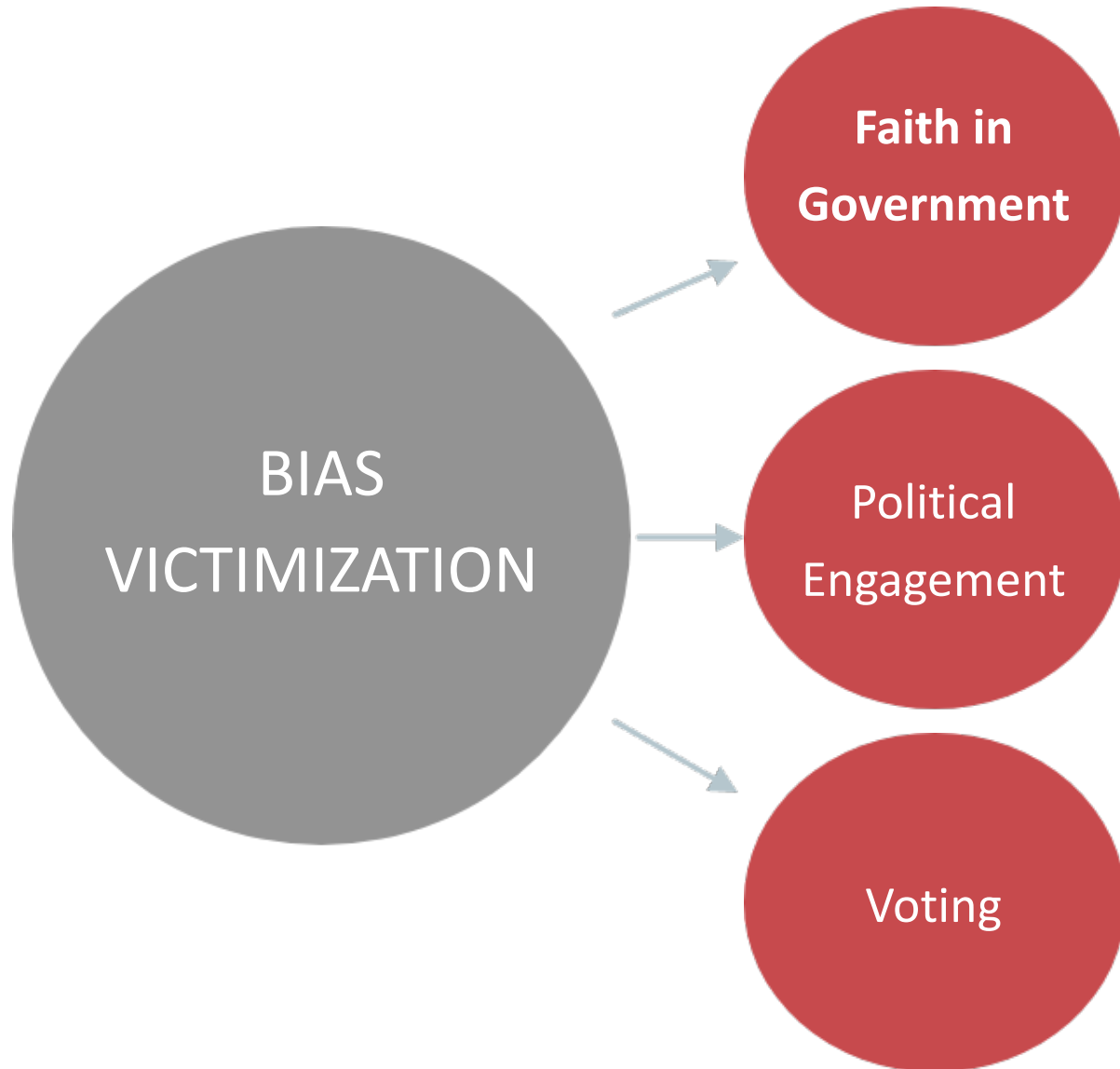


Any bias or hate crime in  
lifetime



Any bias or hate crime in past year

# Impact on Political Perception & Engagement



The belief someone reports regarding whether or not the government can be trusted to do what is right

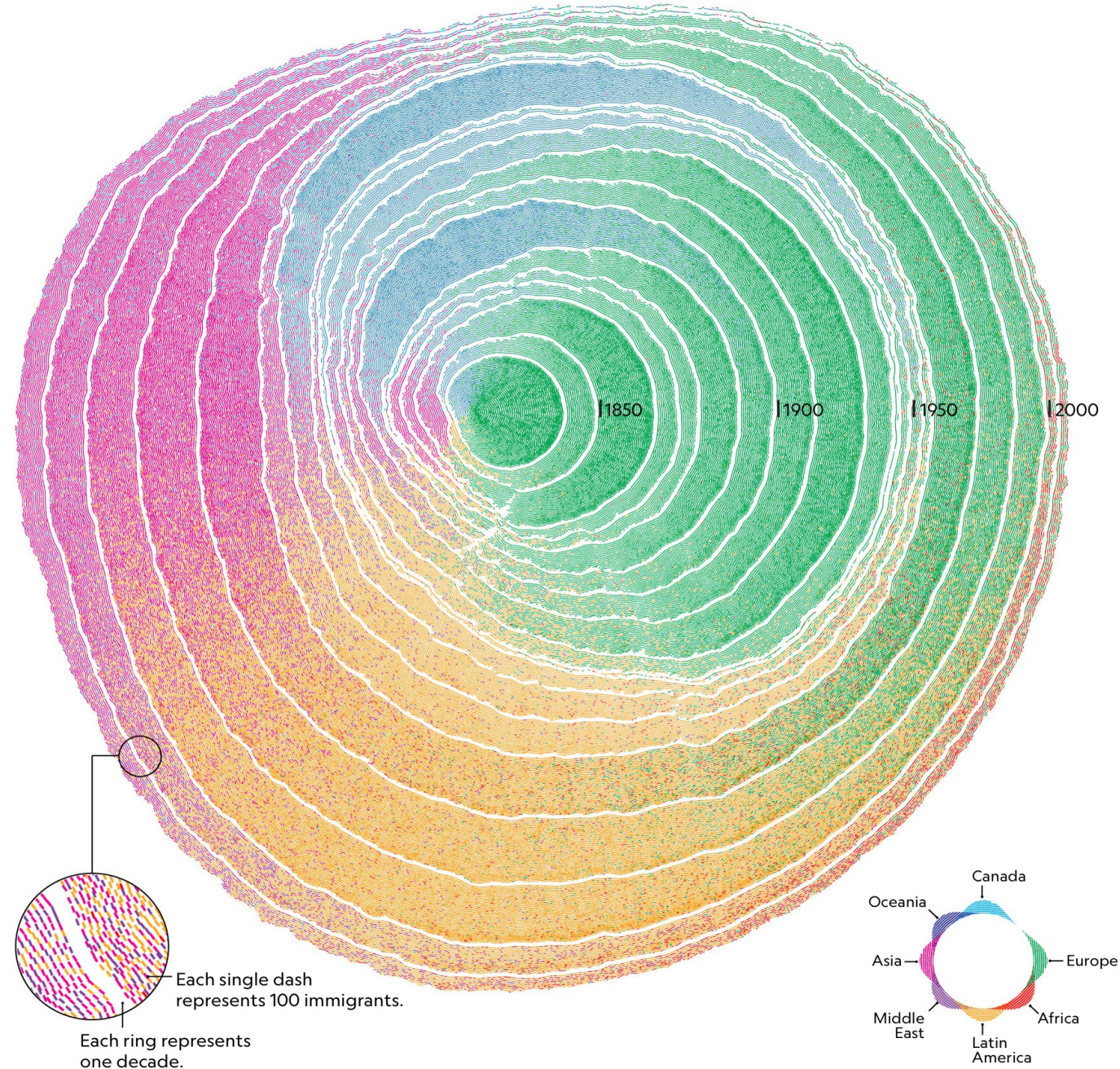
The willingness to partake in events, activities, or organizations that are politically oriented

Voted any election in the past 4 years (2016-2020)



# Advanced Visualization

- Examples online to work from
- Make complex information in a digestible format
- Ideal for dissemination of information to non-academic audiences





# Quick Poll

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# The Break

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# After Today's Conference

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## *Partnership for Immigrants' Rights Website*

List	Full List of Partnership Members
Contact	Contact Person: Elizabeth Ennen e.ennen@northeastern.edu
Link	Link to a password protected site for attendees <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Password = PFIRconference2023</li><li>• Conference slides will be available in a few days</li></ul>





# Thank you!

- The Massachusetts ACLU and MIRA!
- Conference planning committee: Mariana Dutra, Kate Froehlich, Amy Grunder, Laura Rótolo, Carmel Salhi, Sarang Sekhavat
- Technical Support: Liv Santoro (ACLU), Gina Simoncelli (ACLU), Brad Whitmarsh (Northeastern Law)
- Notetakers: Elliot Oberholtzer, Andra Lehotay de León, Francesca Korte, Anna Kane, Sima Bou Jawde

**Thank You!**

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