



The Irish Population In Boston

March 17, 2023



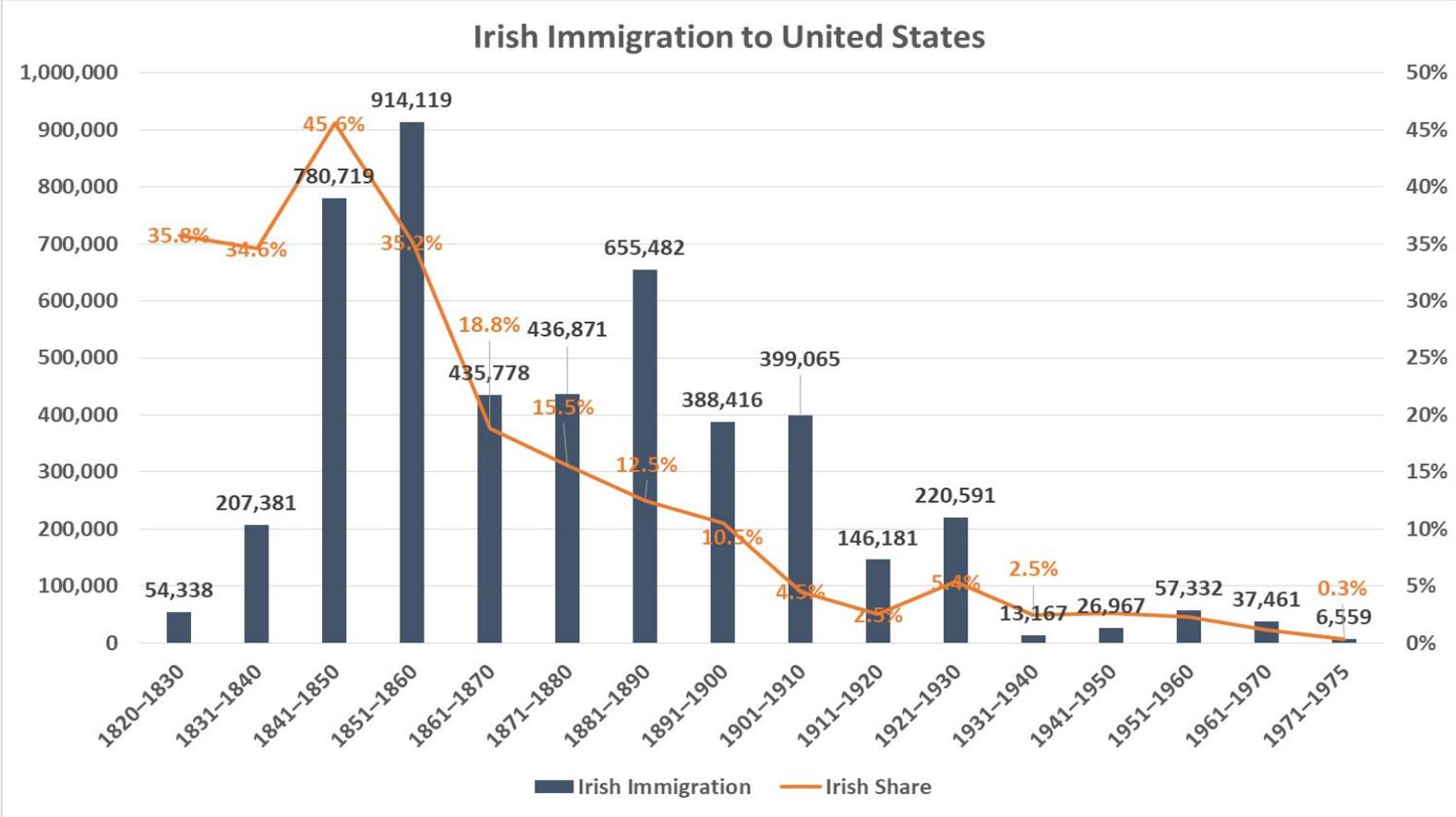
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01

Historical Population



By 1860, with 39% of the foreign-born population, the Irish were the largest



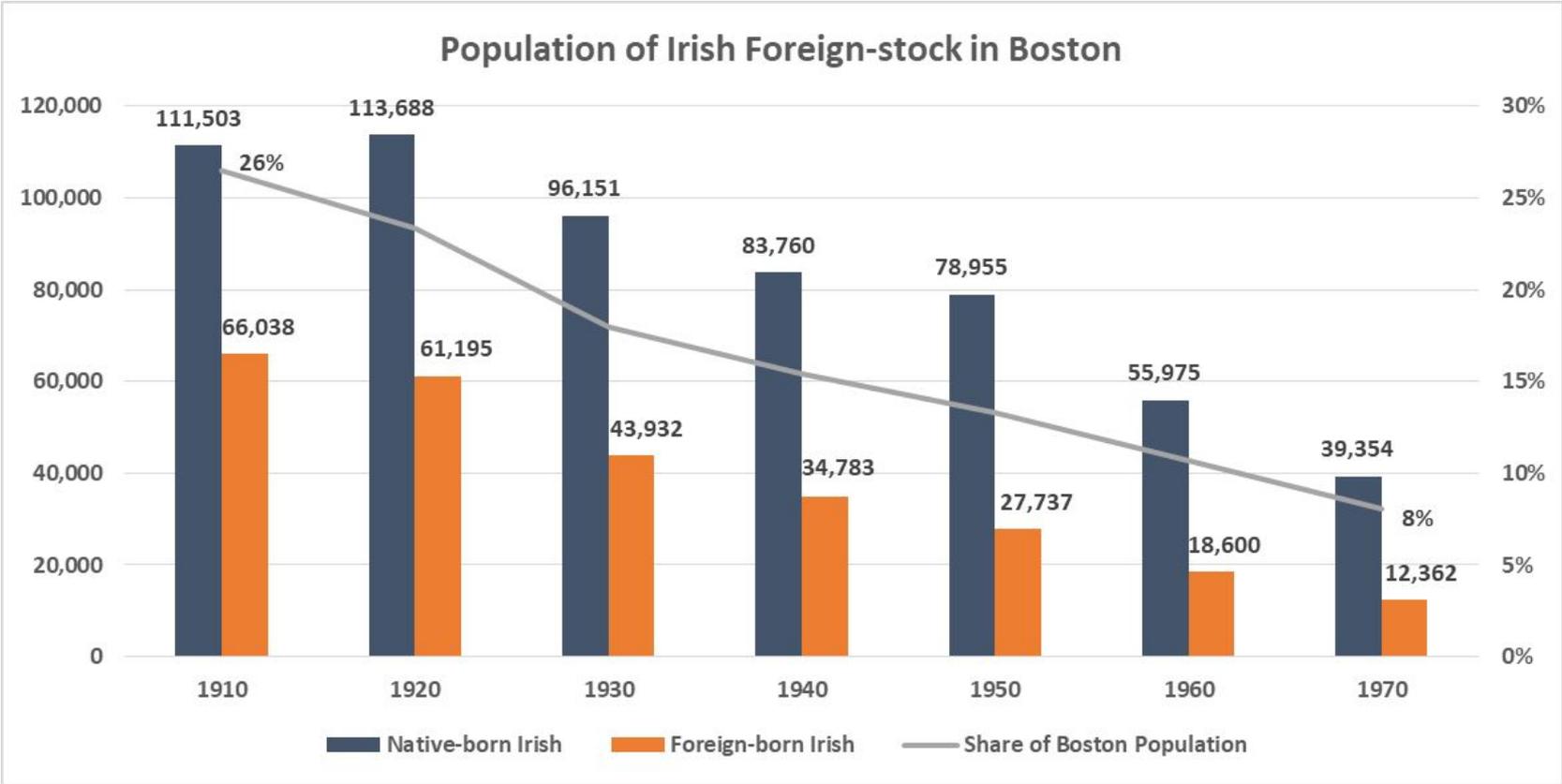
Blessing, Patrick J. (1980). "Irish". In Thernstrom, Stephan (ed.). Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups.

1850



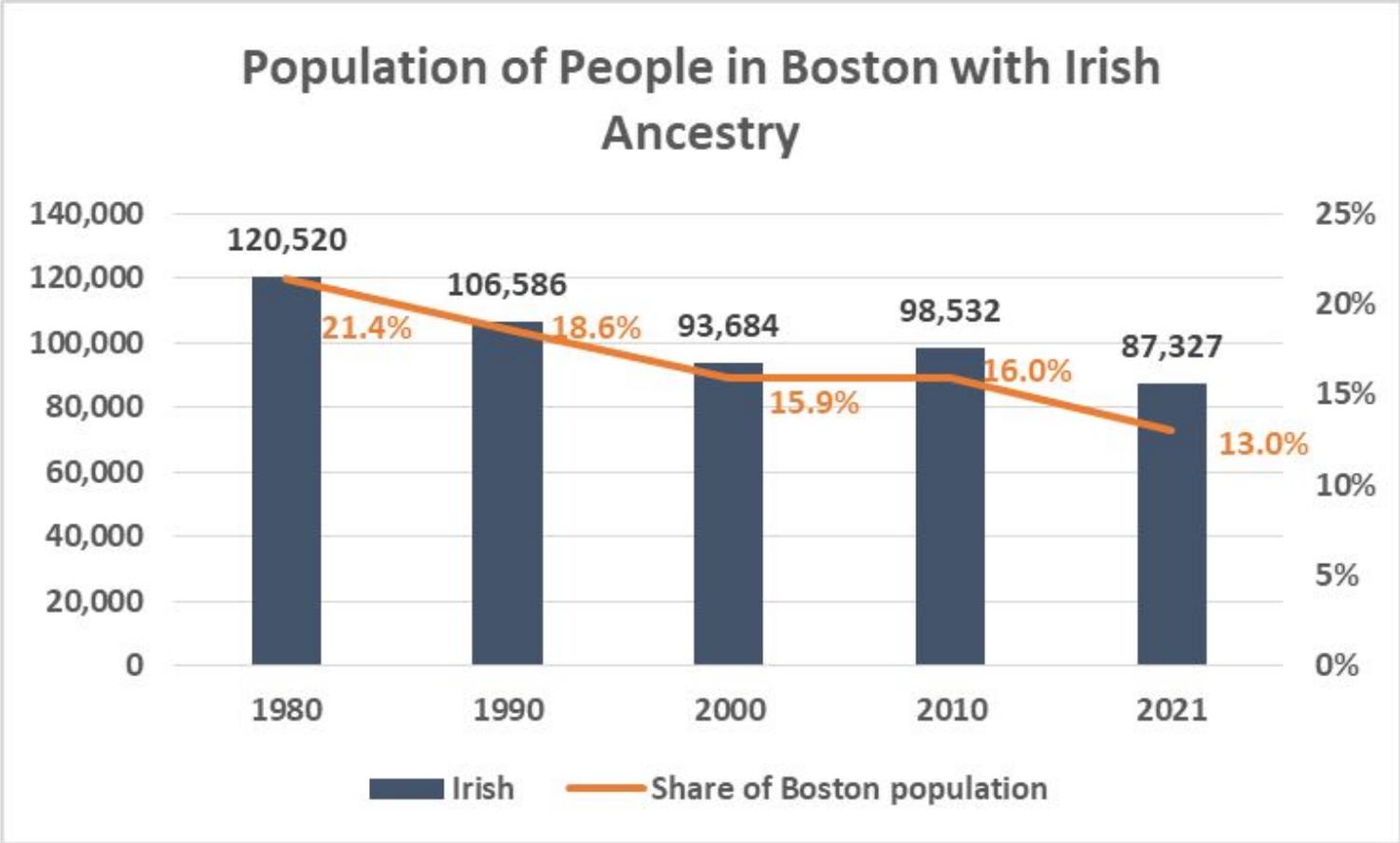
Source: Pew Research Center
<https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2015/09/28/chapter-5-u-s-foreign-born-population-trends/>

Historical Foreign-stock Irish Population in Boston



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Historical Irish Ancestry Population



Source: 1980-2000 Census, 2006-2010 & 2017-2021 (PUMS) American Community Surveys, BPDA Research Division Analysis

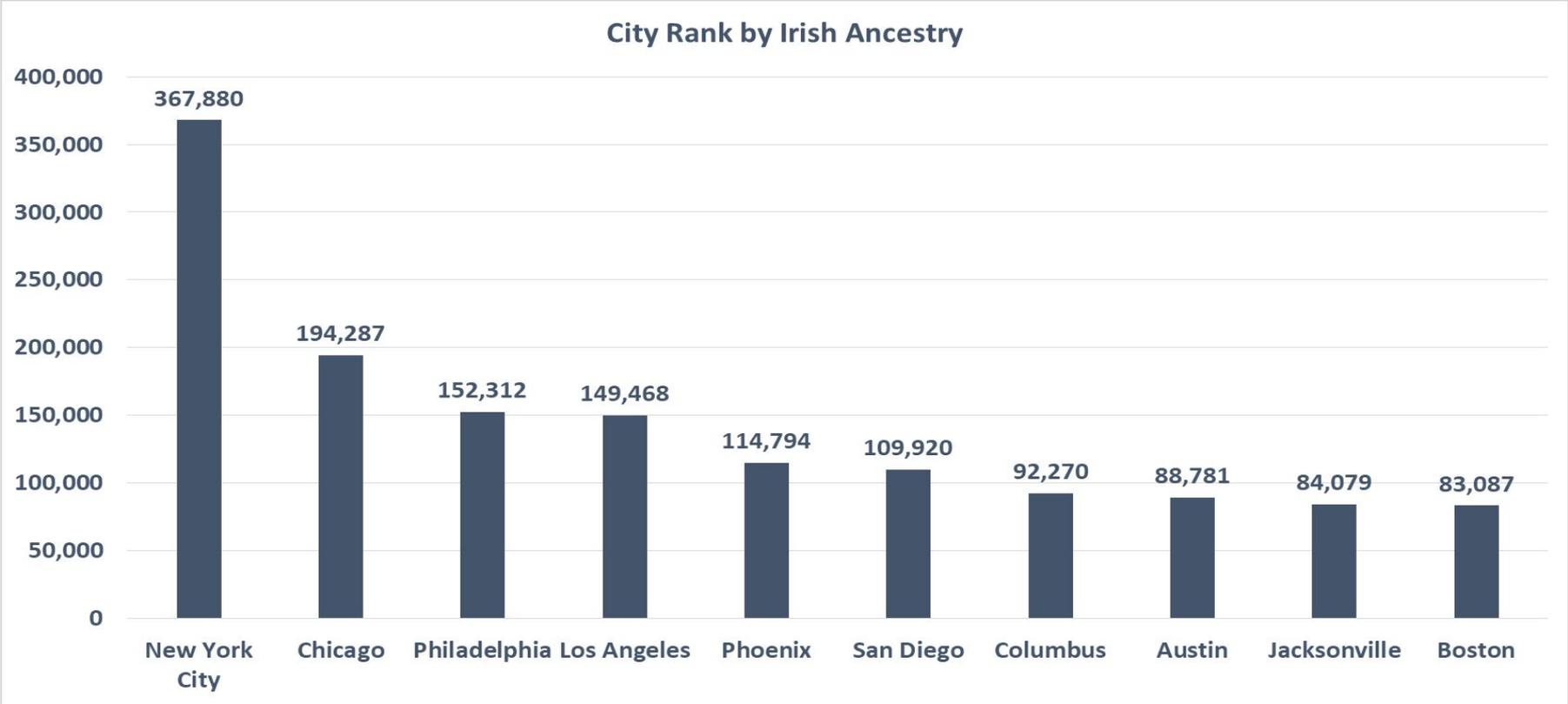
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Irish in the United States



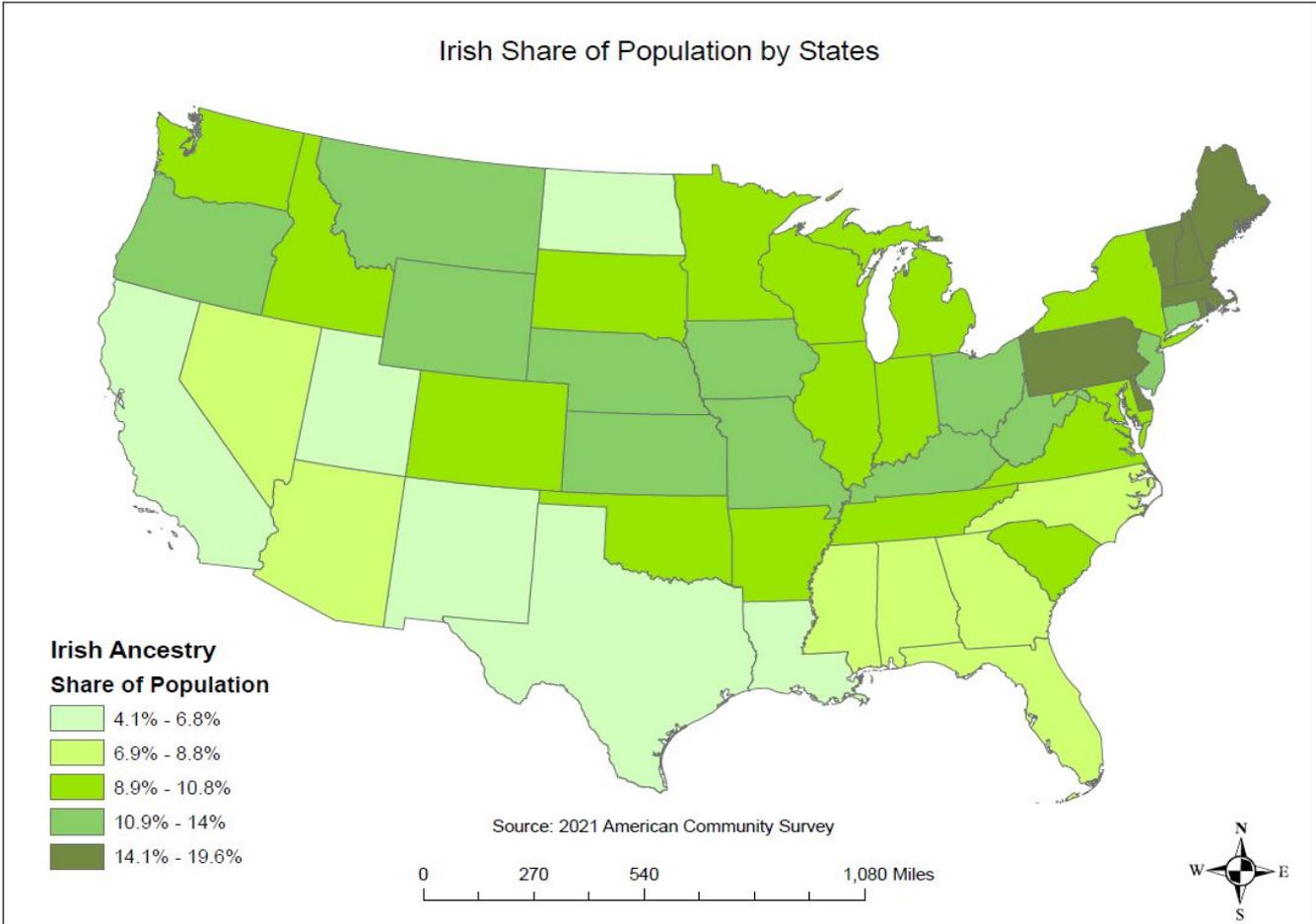
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Boston has the 10th largest population in the United States, and its 13% share is the largest of any of these cities

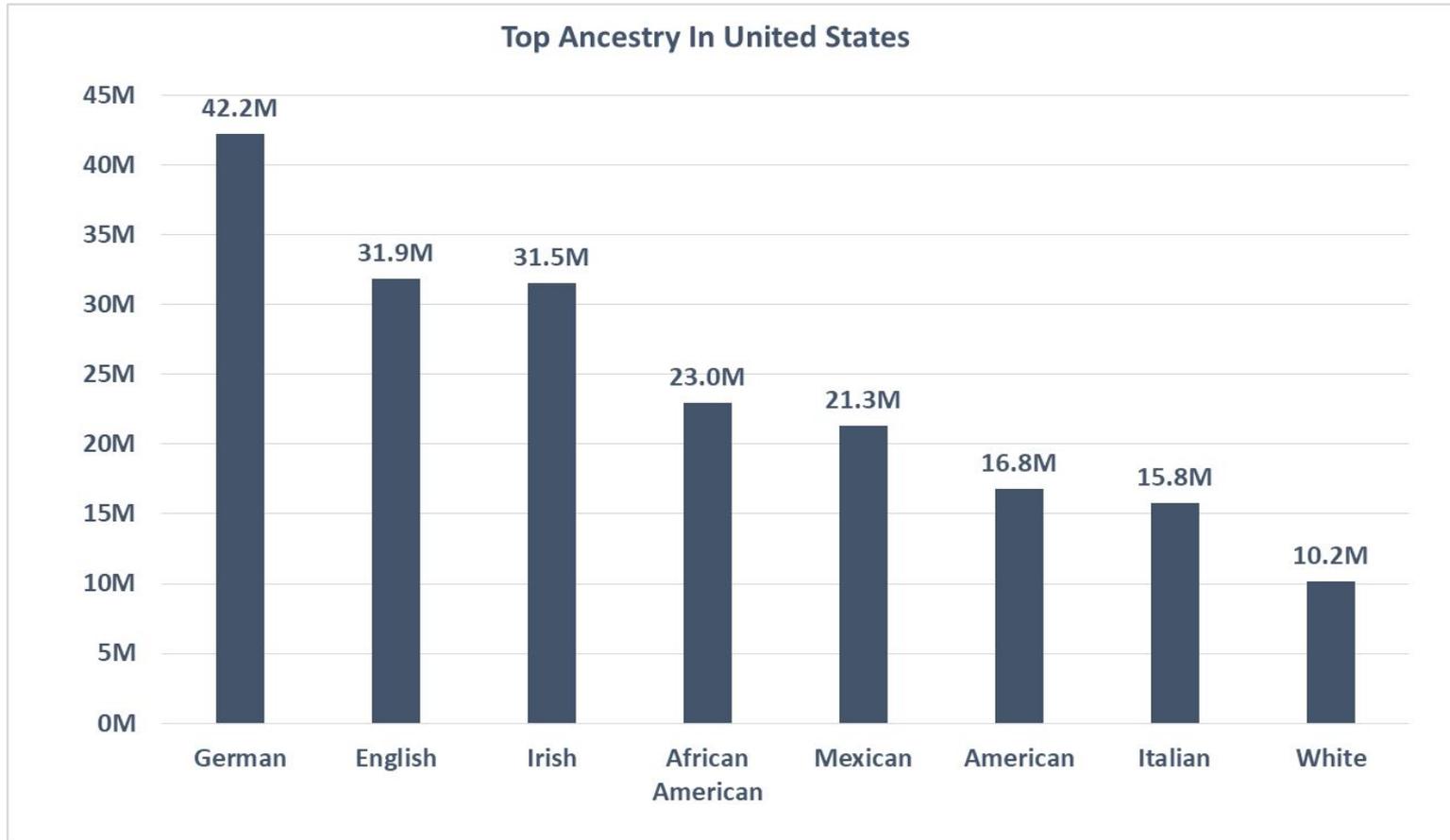


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Only New Hampshire has an higher share of its population Irish in 2021 than Massachusetts



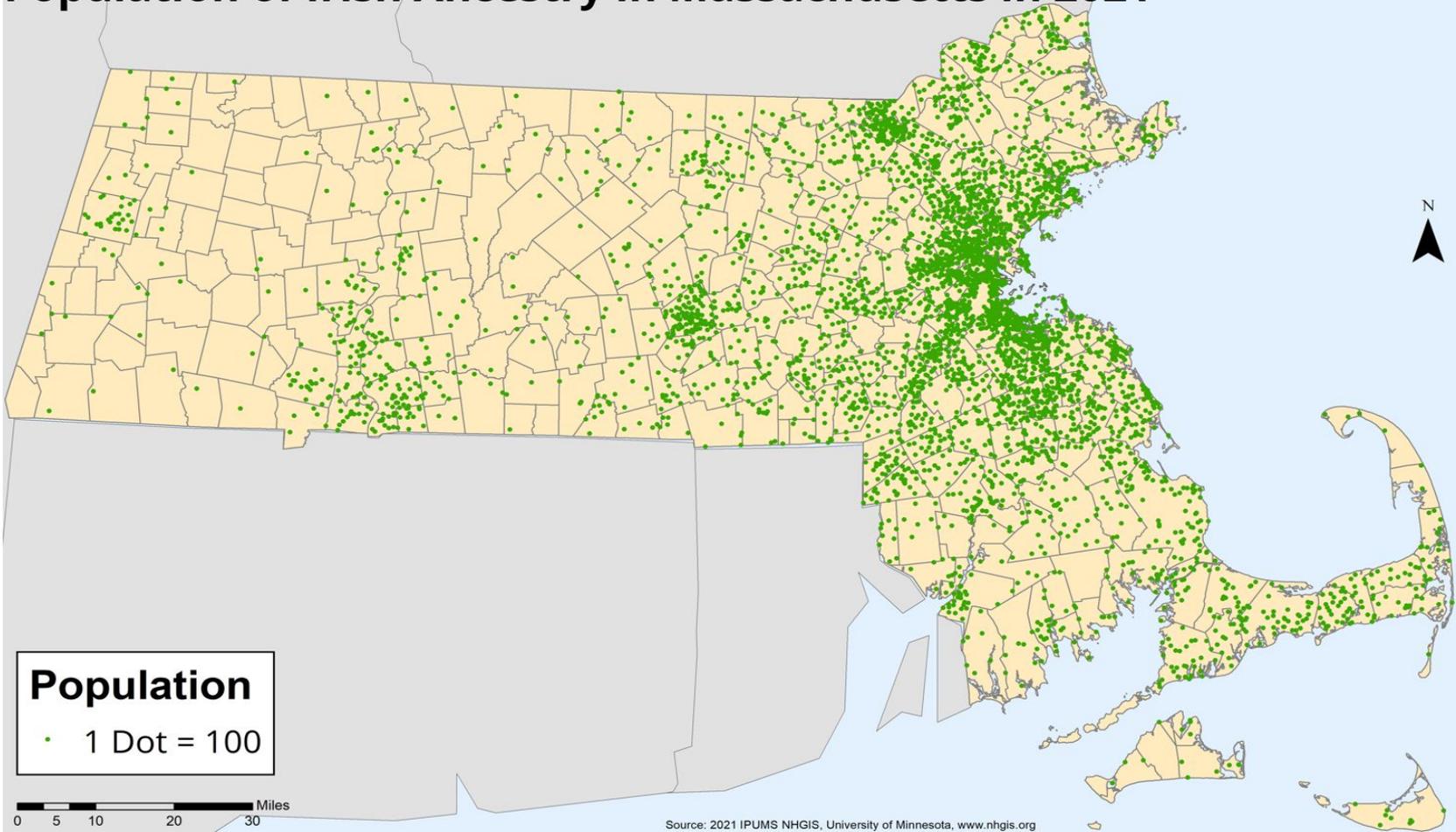
However, Irish are the 3rd largest ancestry group in the United States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey, BPDA Research Division Analysis

Irish in Massachusetts live primarily in and around Boston

Population of Irish Ancestry in Massachusetts in 2021



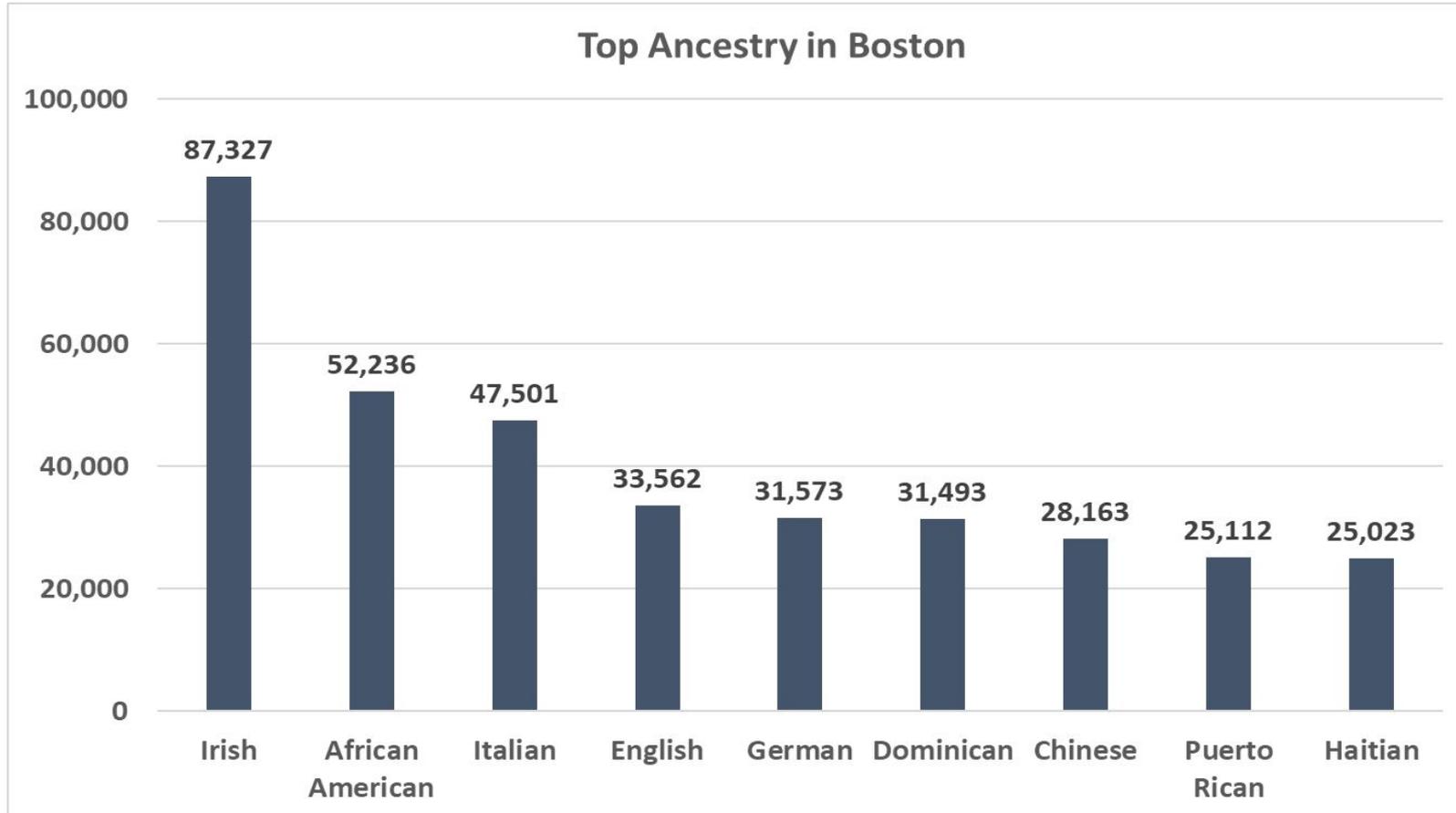
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Irish Population in Boston



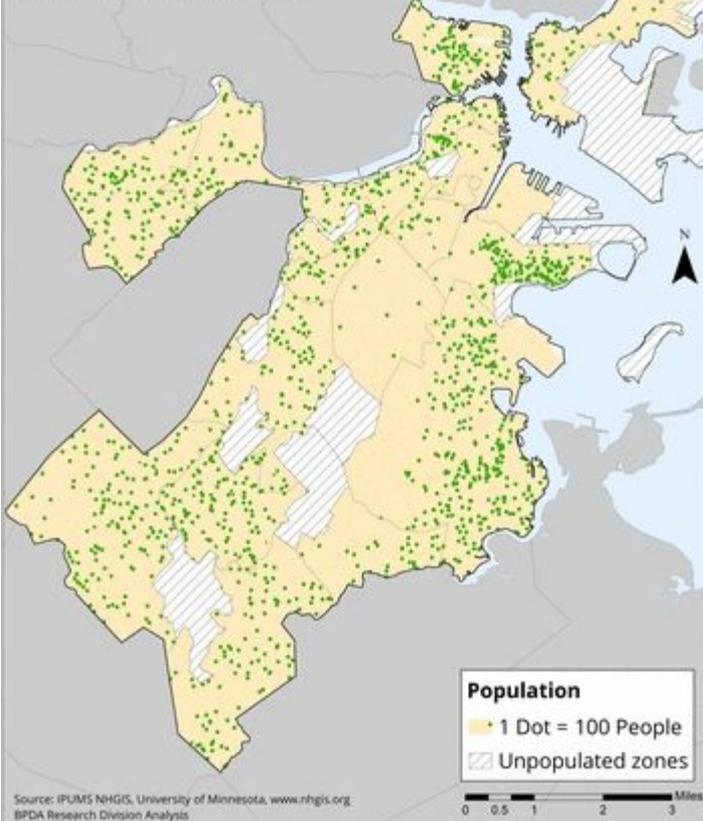
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The Irish are the largest ancestry group in Boston



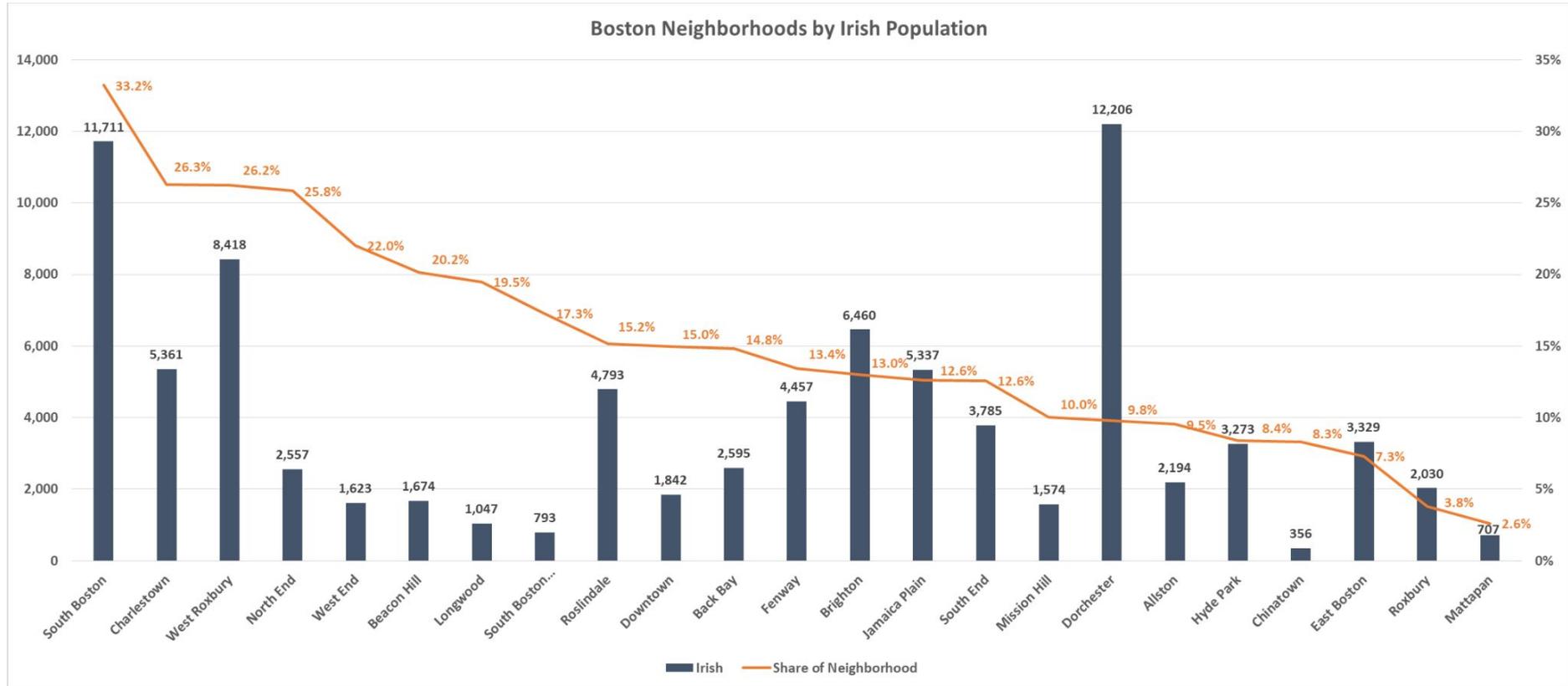
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS), BPDA Research Division Analysis

Population of Irish Ancestry in Boston in 1980



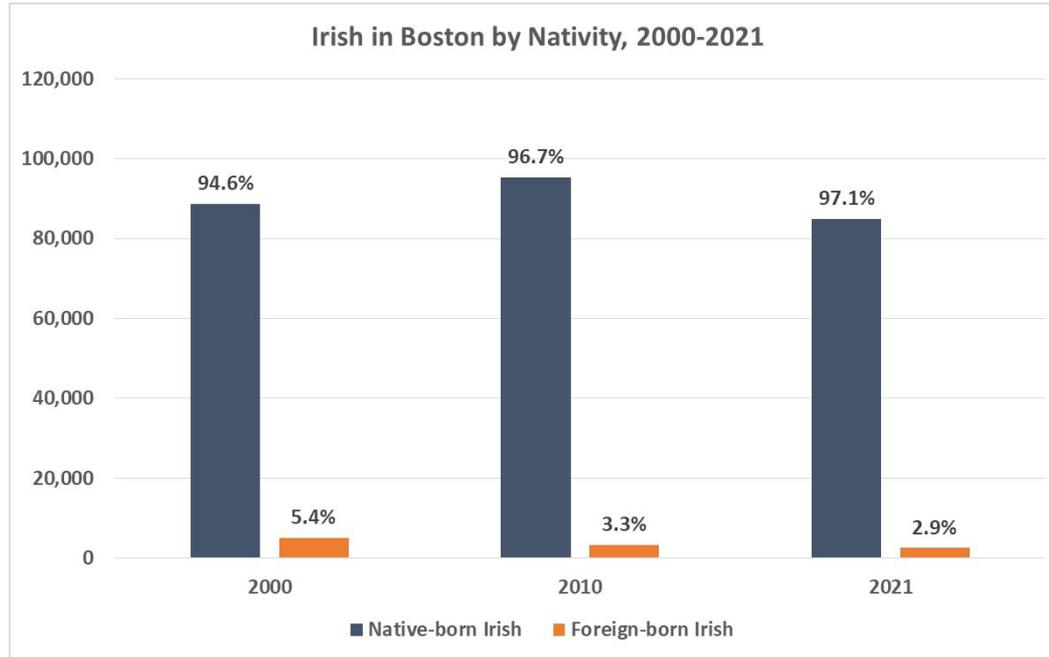
**South Boston 33%,
Charlestown, West Roxbury
and North End 26% have the
largest Irish ancestry
populations**

Boston Neighborhoods by Irish Population



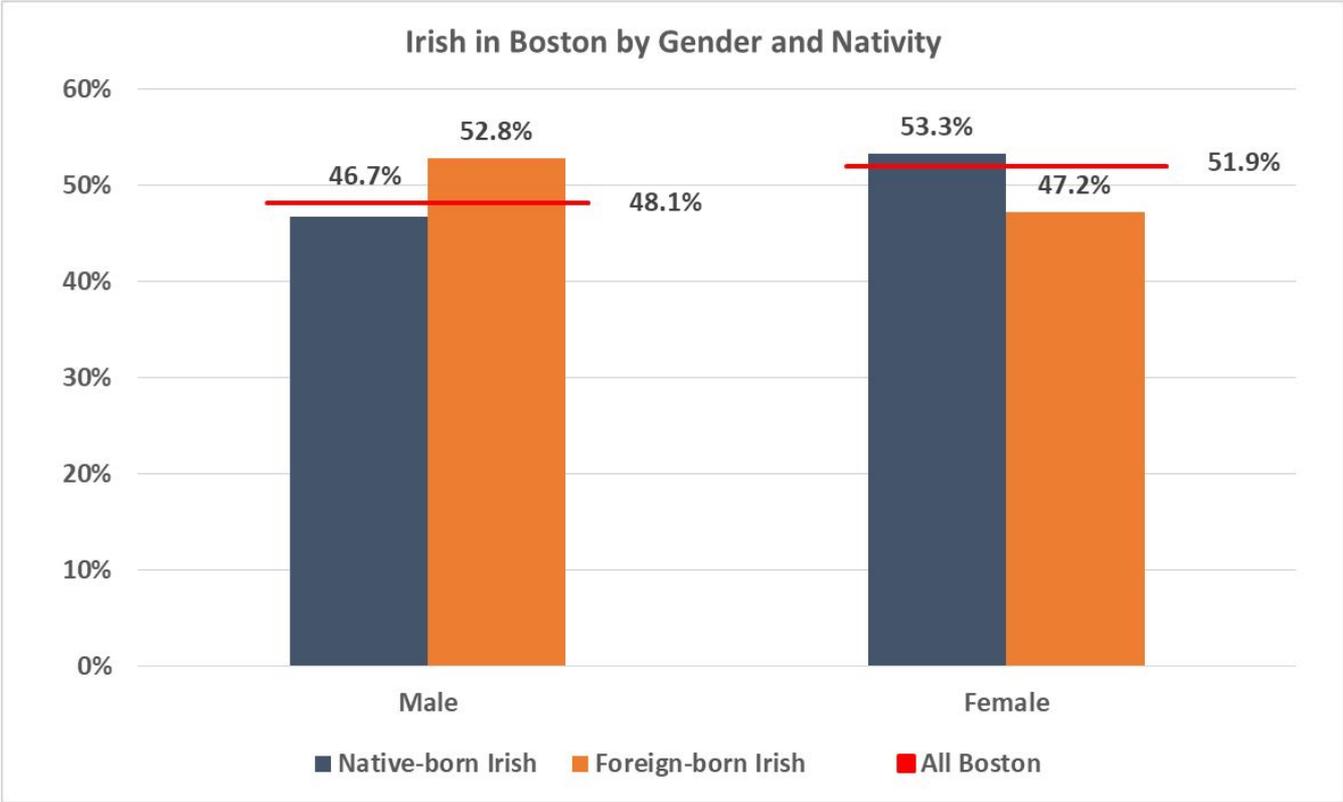
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Surveys ; BPDA Research Division Analysis

The Irish population in Boston stayed relatively constant between 2000 and 2010 but declined slightly in 2021



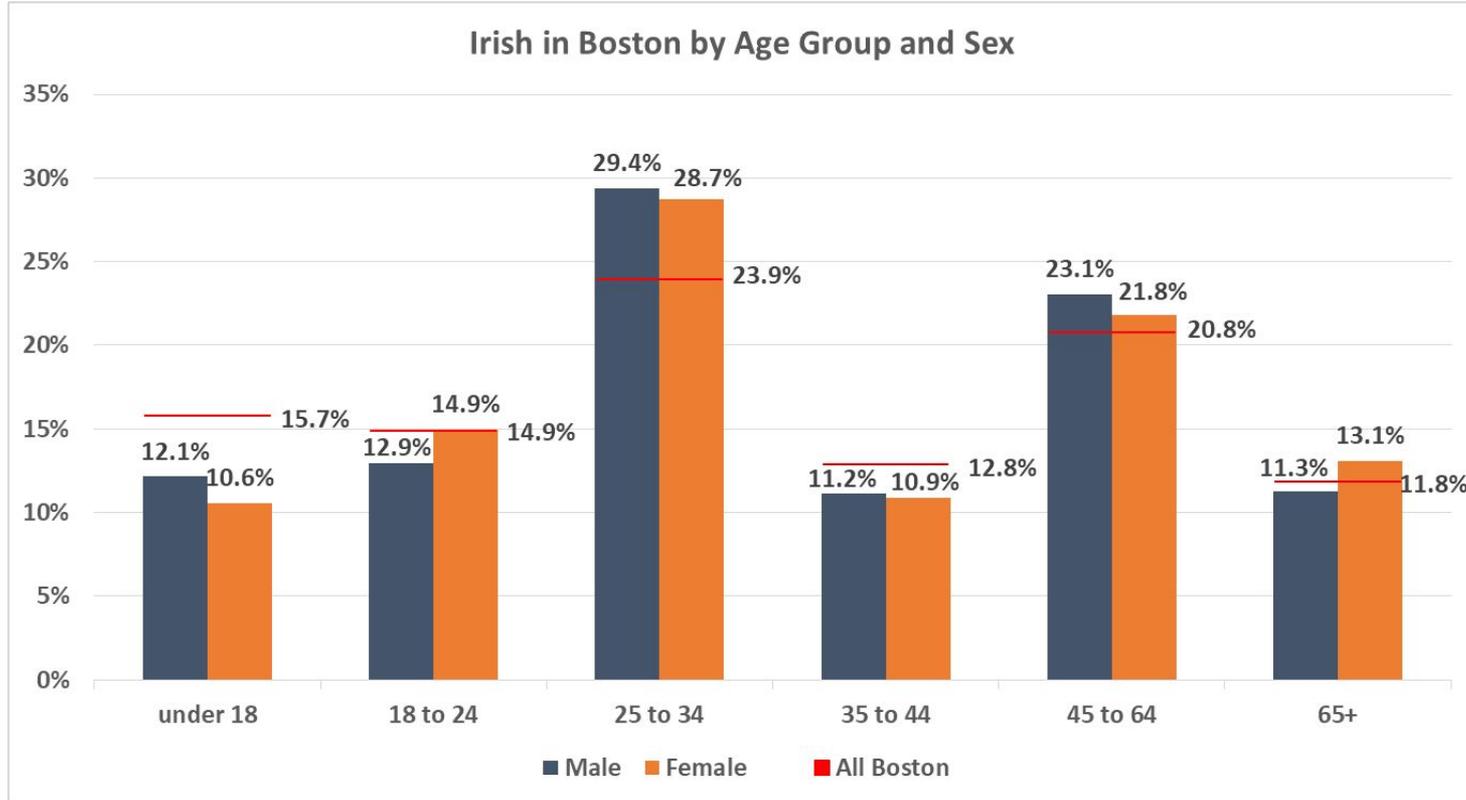
“Native-born” Irish were typically born in the United States and have United States citizenship from birth. “Foreign-born” Irish were typically born in Ireland, but may be naturalized United States citizens.

More than half of the native-born Irish population is female



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS); BPDA Research Division Analysis

27% of the Irish population is 25 to 34

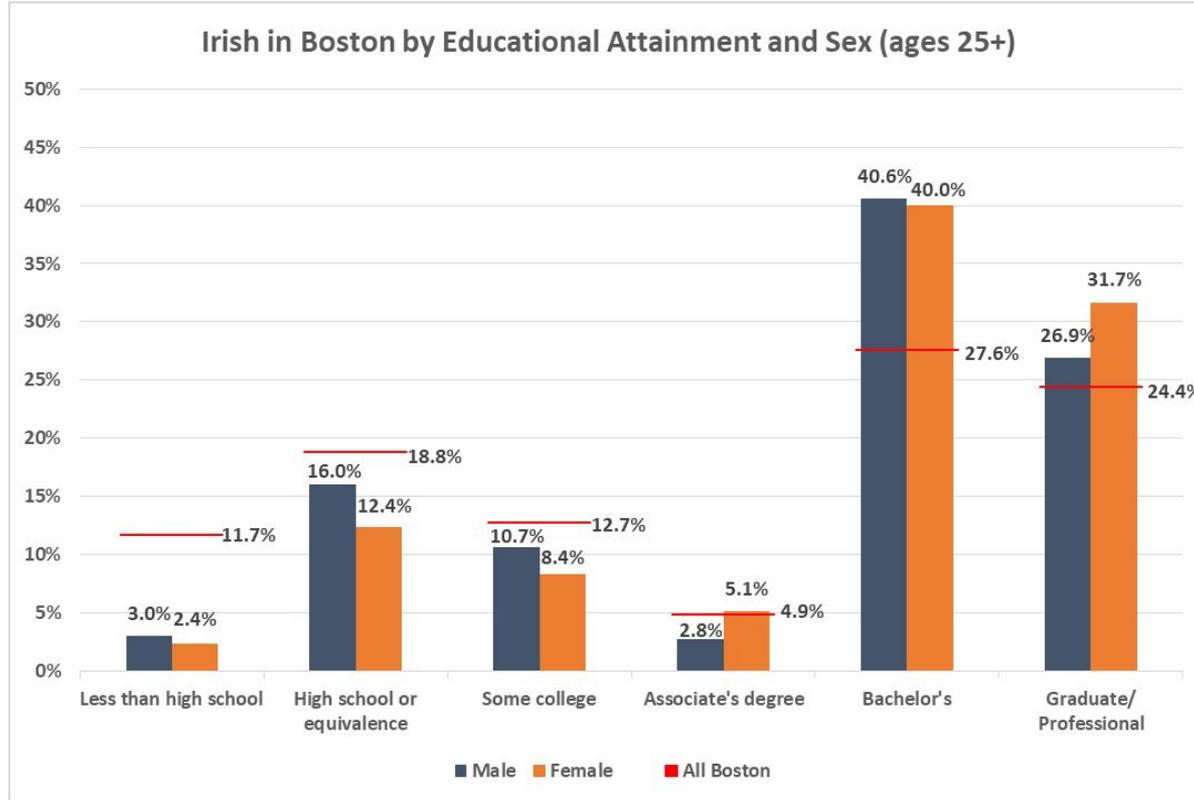


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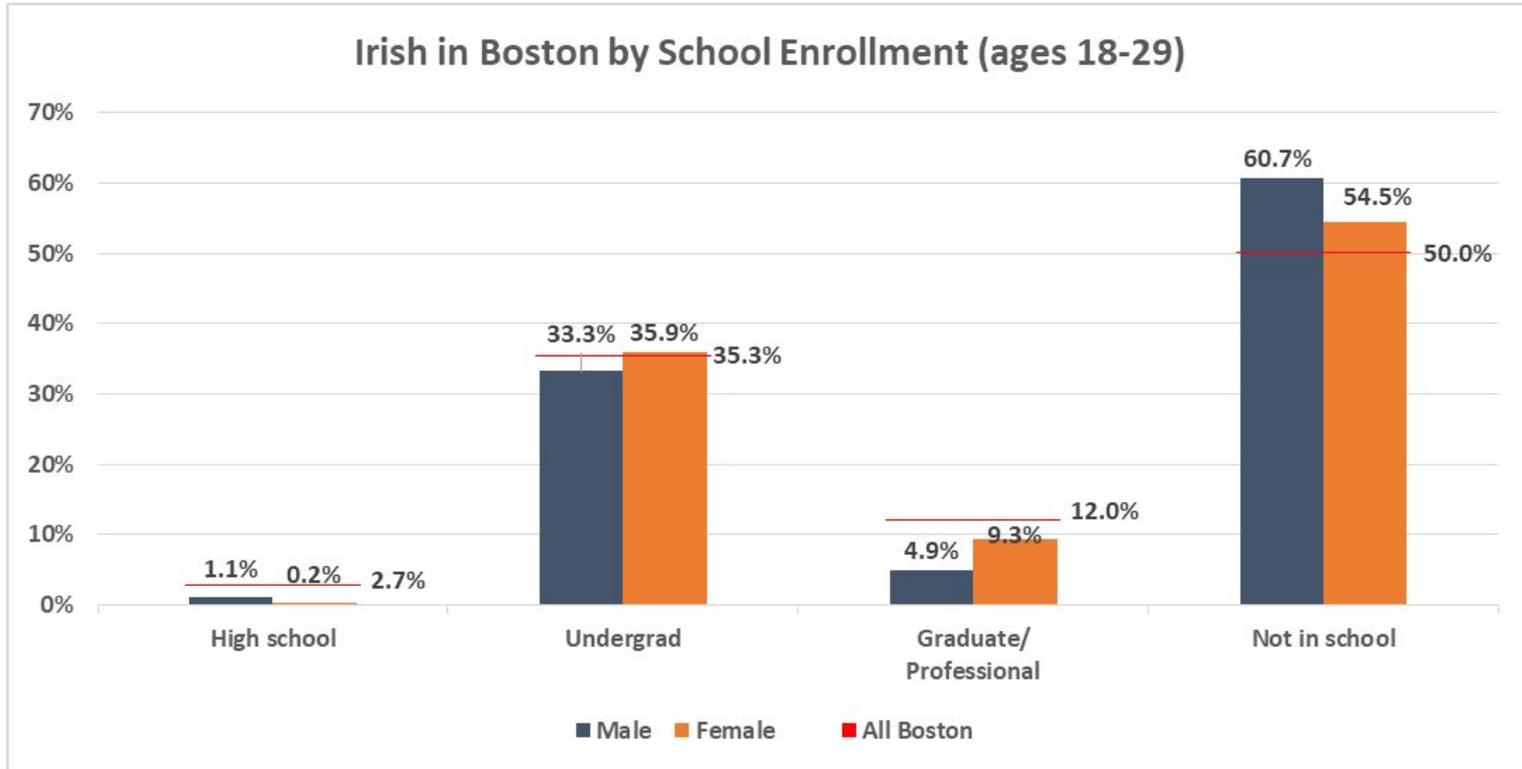
Irish in Boston: Education



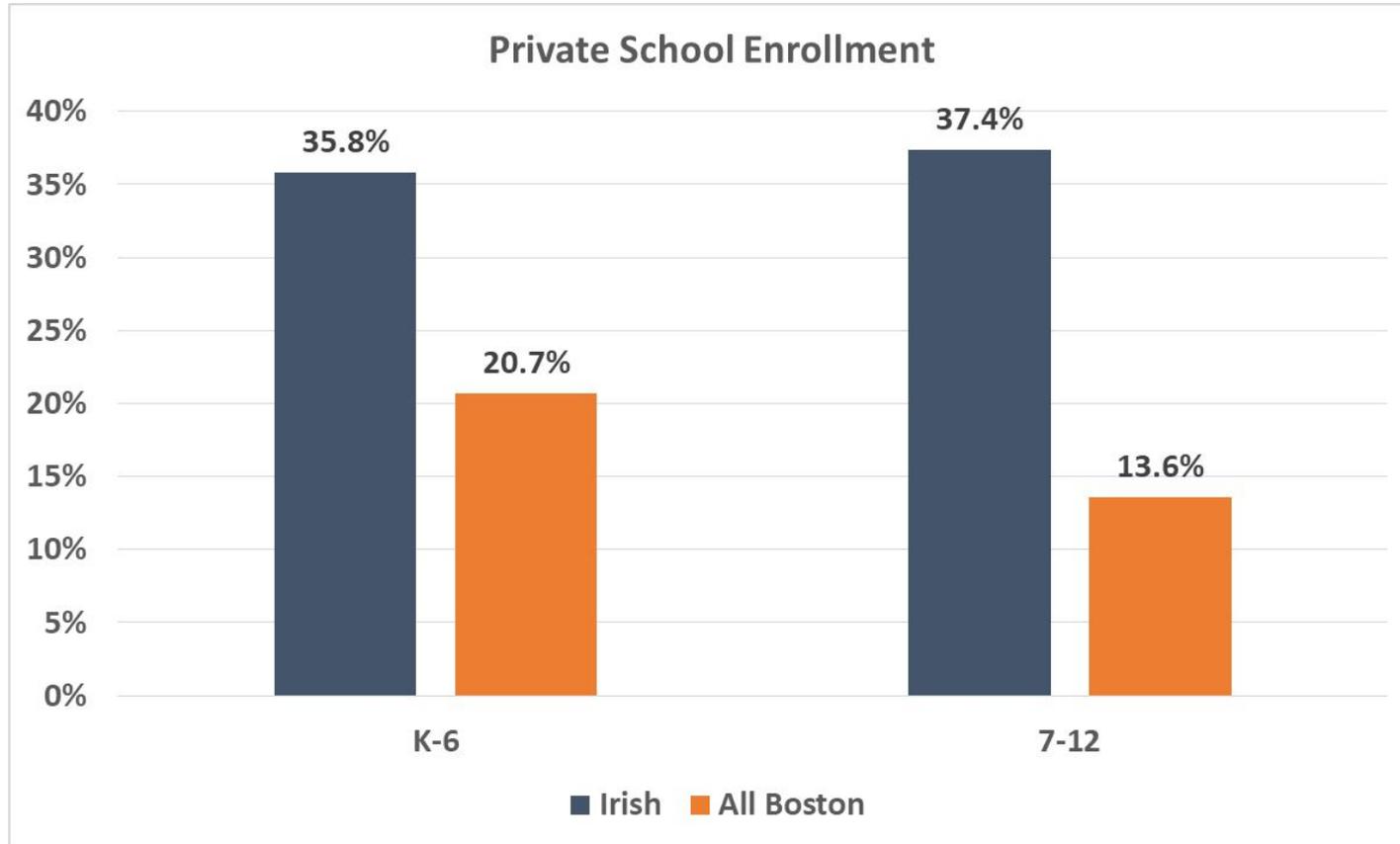
70% of Irish adults have completed at least a Bachelor's degree, compared to 52% of adults in Boston as a whole



More than half of Irish young adults are not enrolled in school



37% of Boston Irish attend private schools



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS); BPDA Research Division Analysis

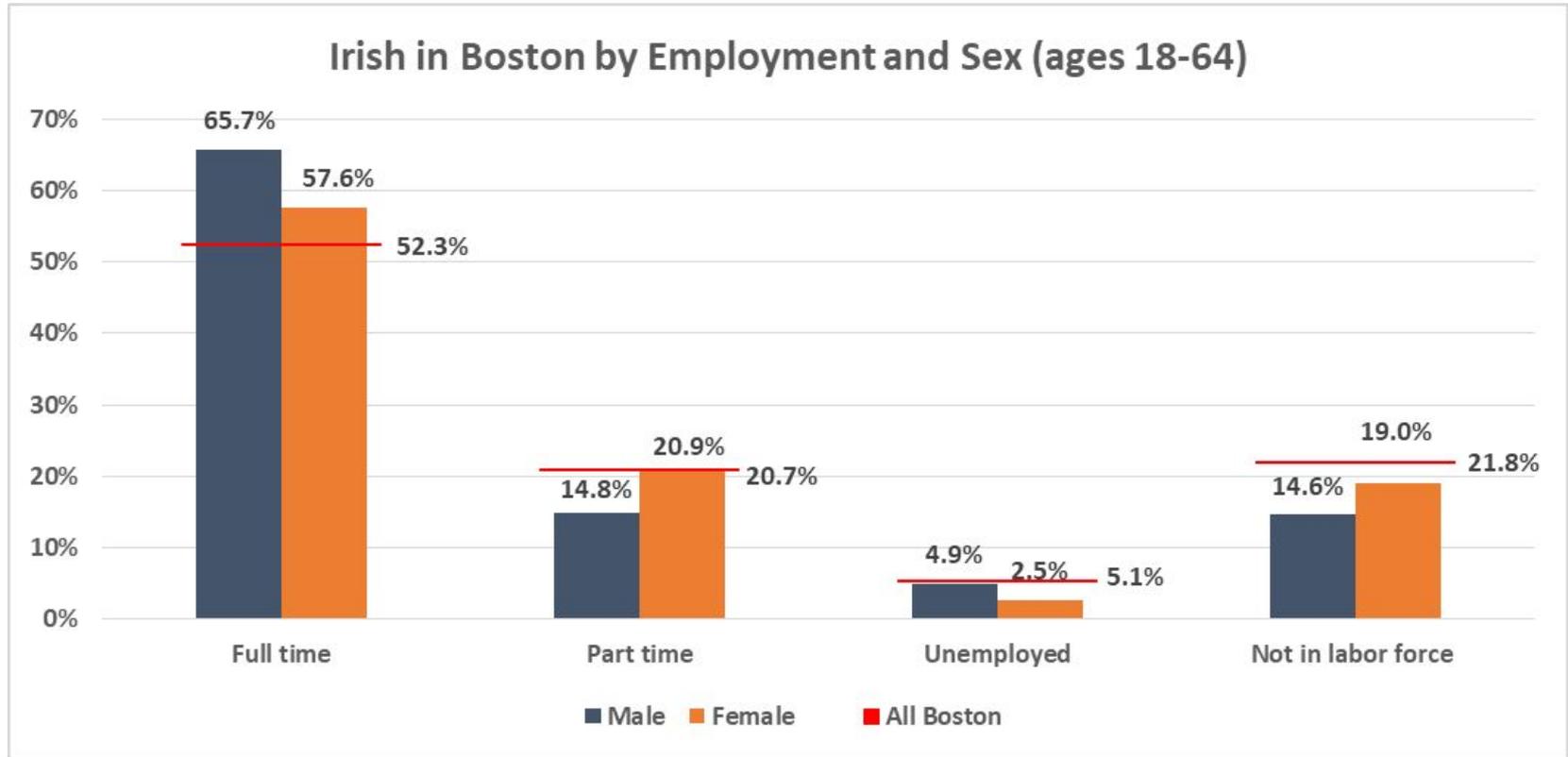
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Irish in Boston: Labor Force

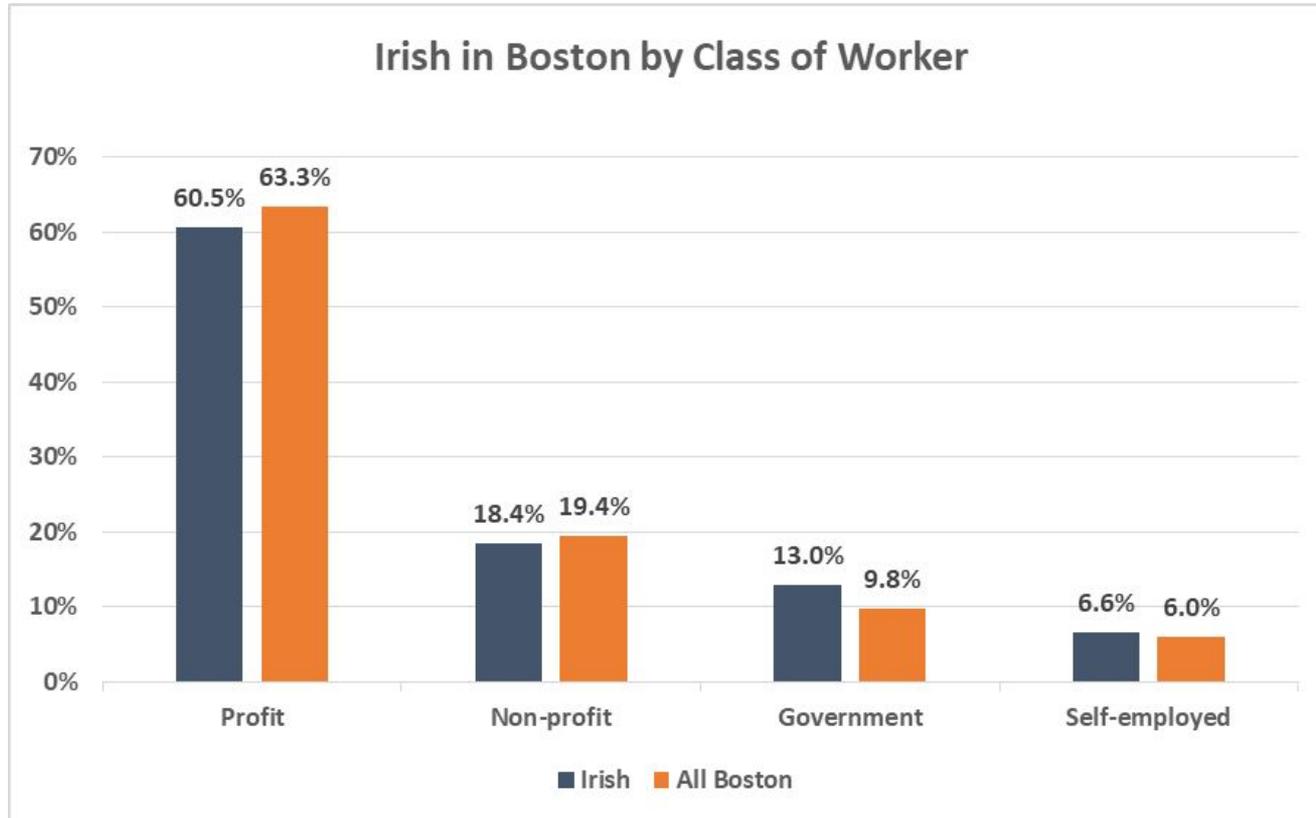


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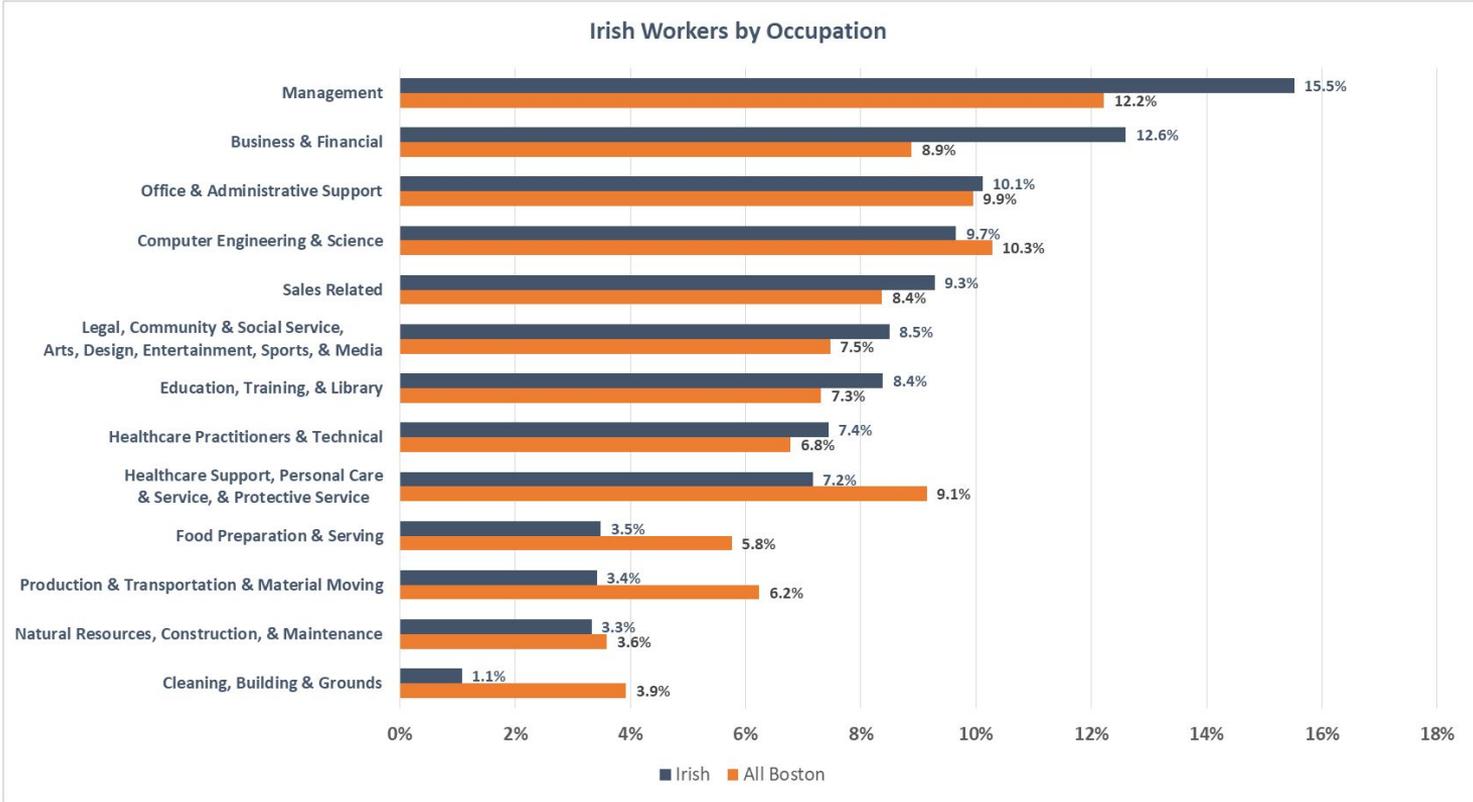
81% of female Irish in Boston are in the labor force



Irish are slightly more likely to work in government

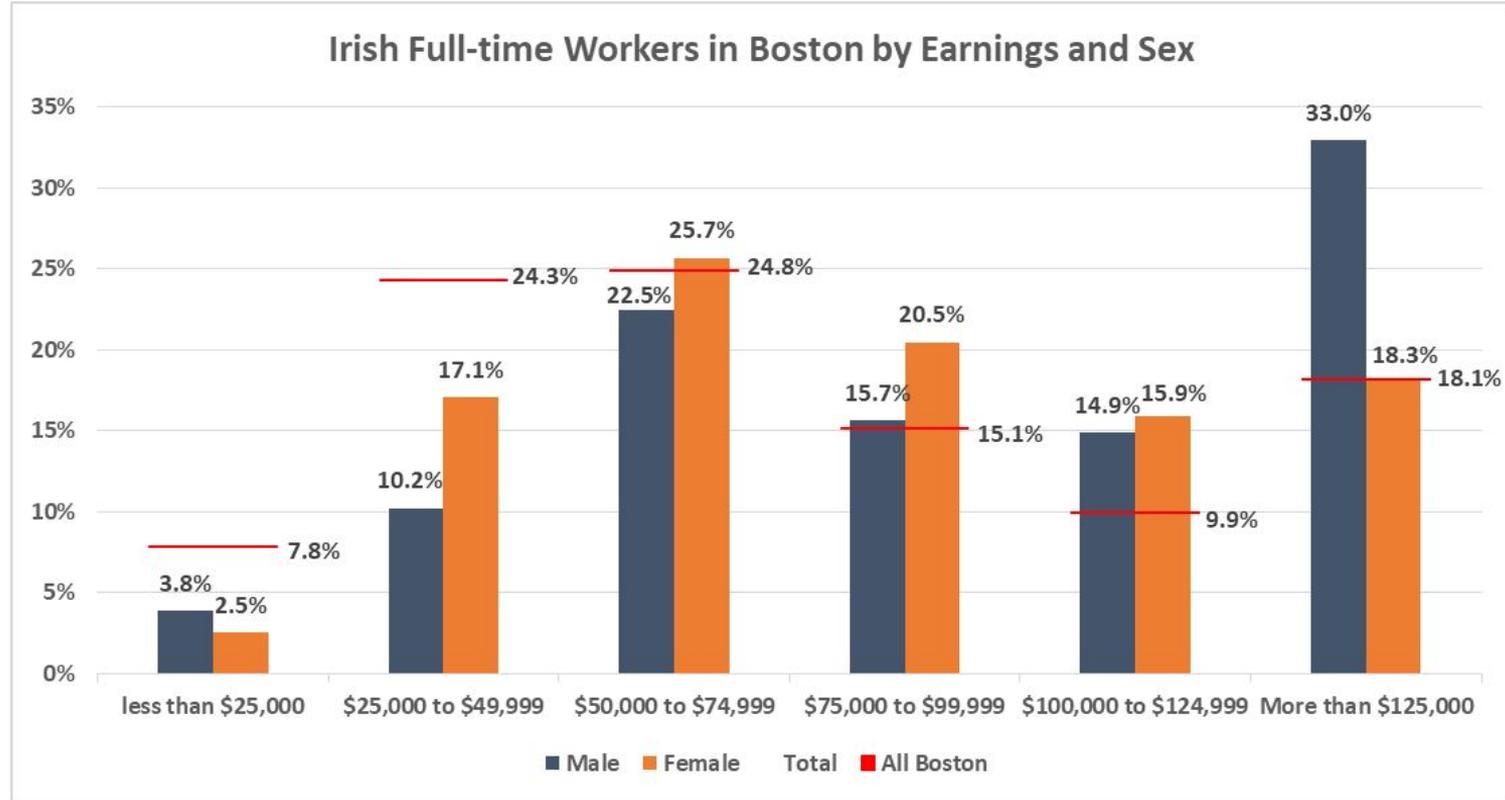


Irish workers make up 16% of management occupations



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS); BPDA Research Division Analysis

41% of Irish workers earn \$100,000 or more



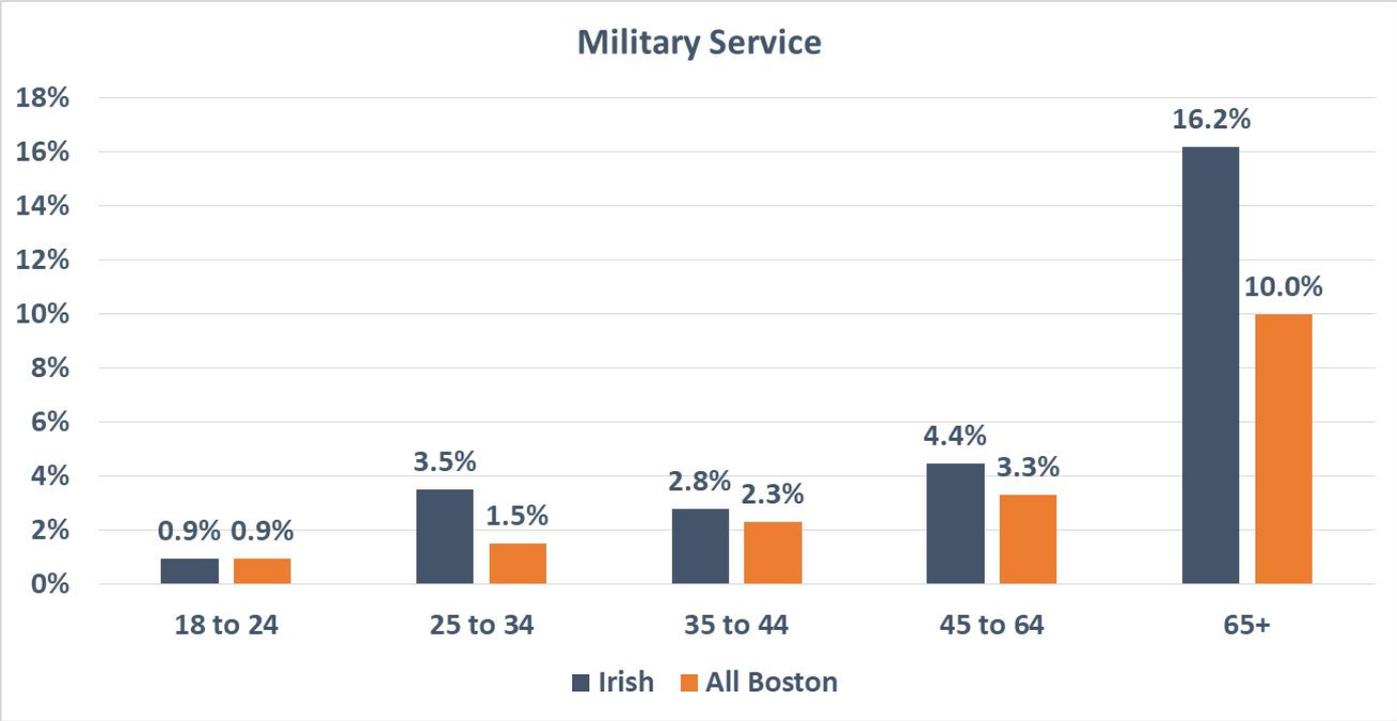
Irish employees in Boston earn more than Irish business owners



26% of self employed Irish in Boston work in professional, scientific, and technical services



In all age groups, Irish residents are more likely to have served in the military



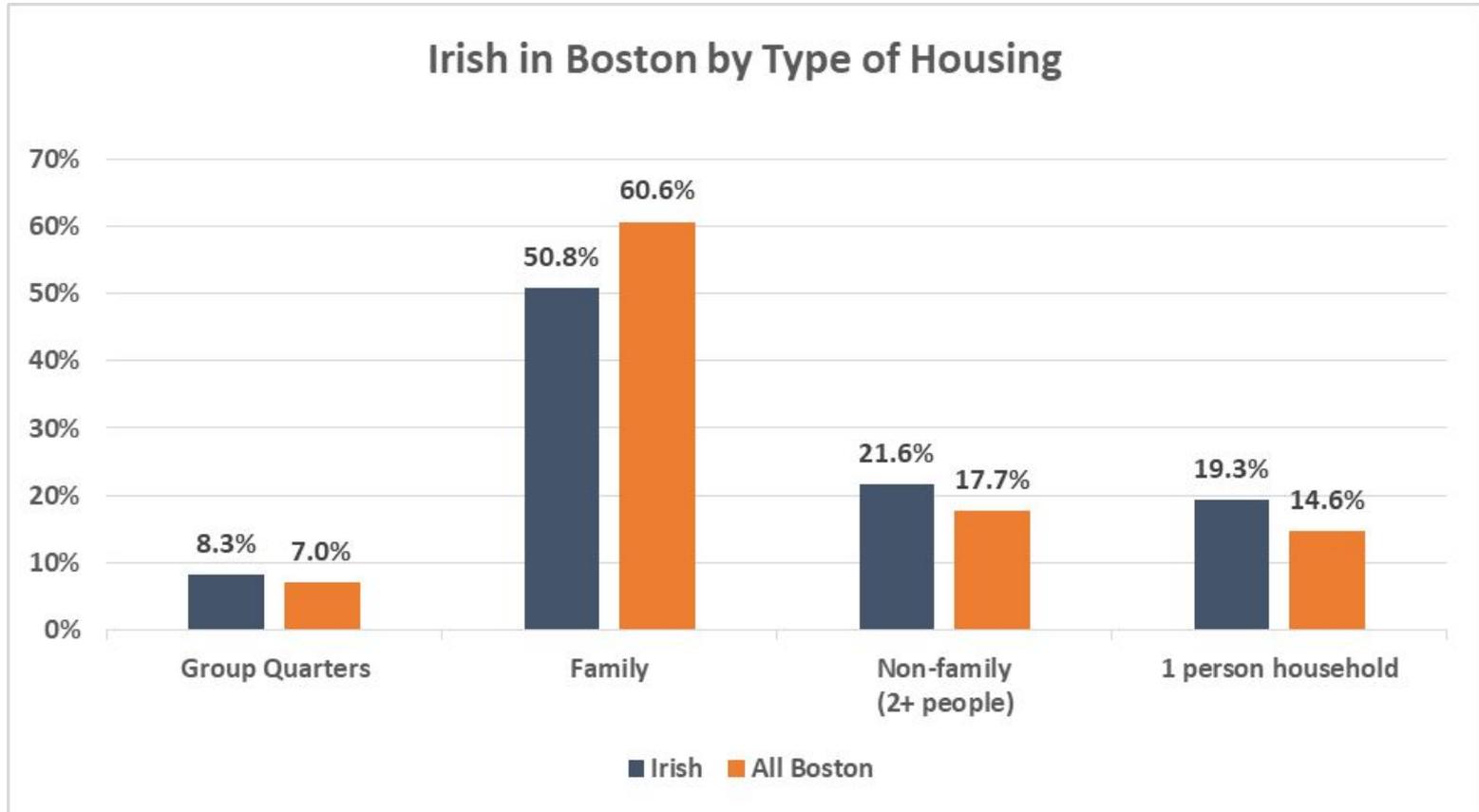
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS); BPDA Research Division Analysis

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Irish in Boston: Housing

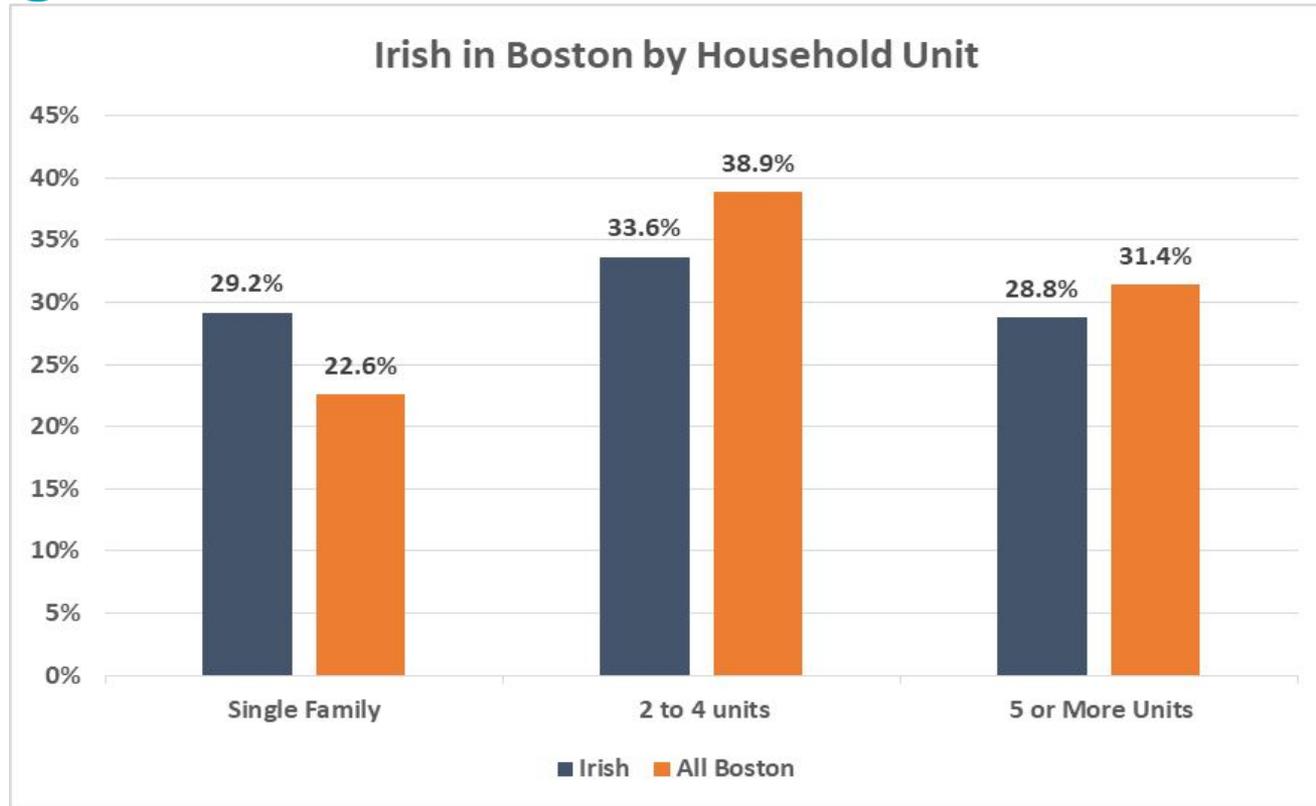


51% of Irish residents in Boston live in a family household

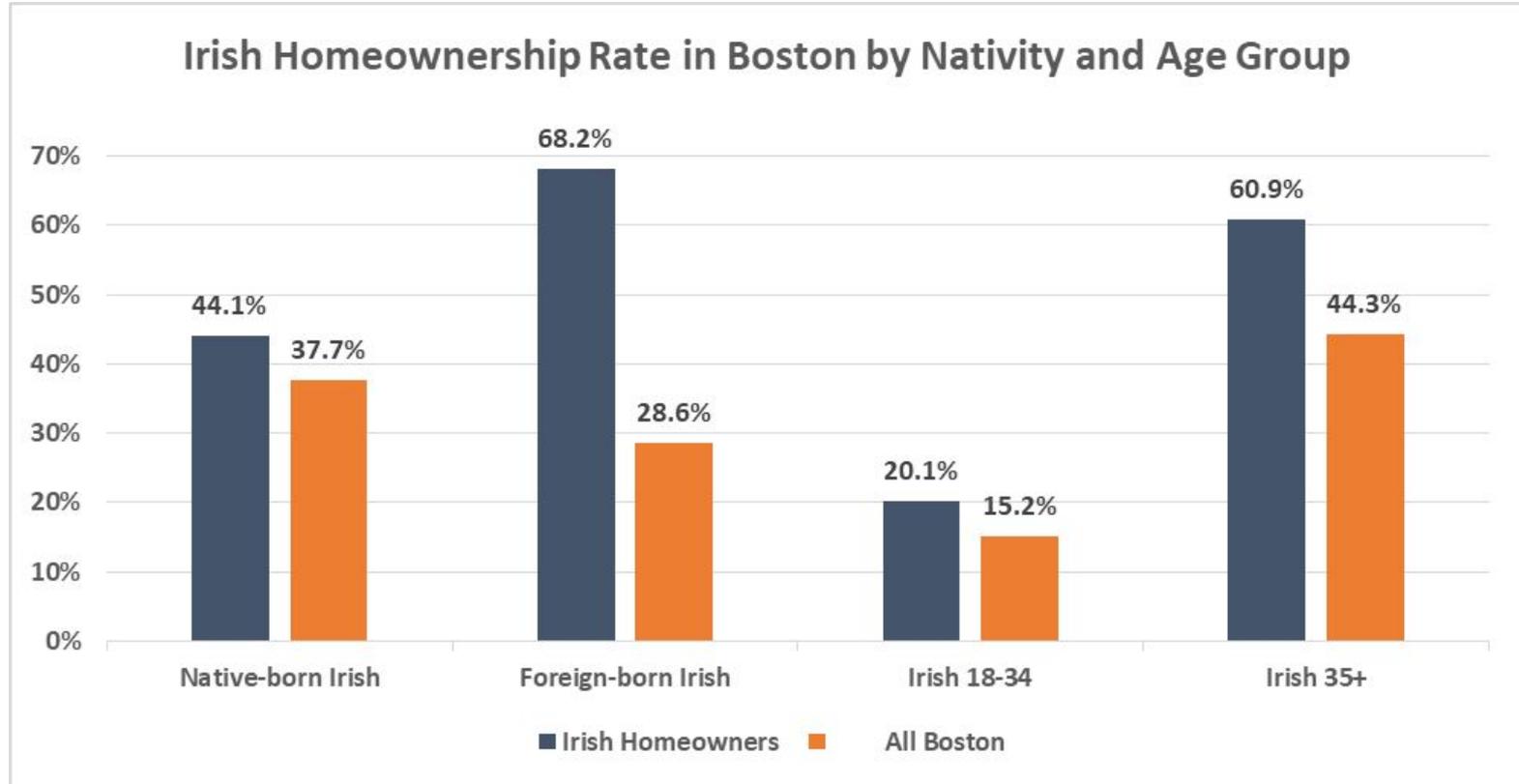


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS); BPDA Research Division Analysis

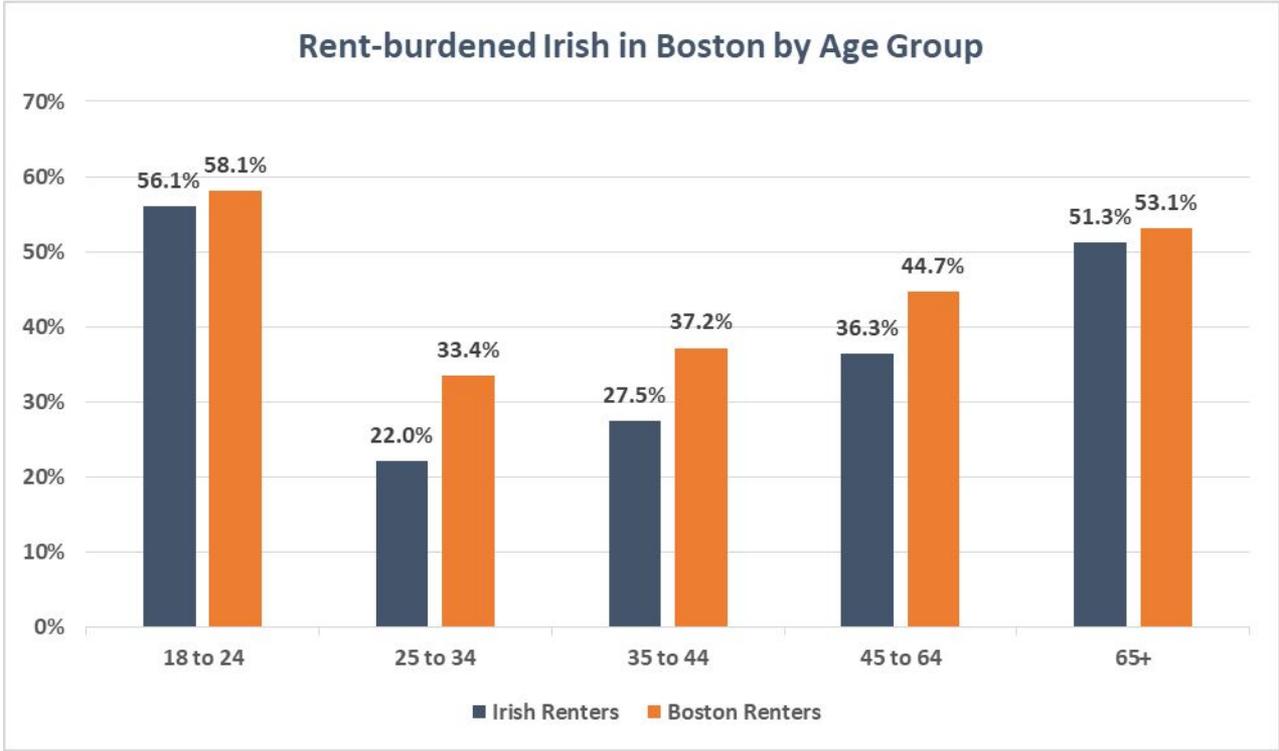
29% of Irish residents in Boston live in single family housing



Nearly half of Irish homes are owner occupied



The share of Irish renters who are rent-burdened is lower than Boston as a whole



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey (PUMS); BPDA Research Division Analysis

Irish economic contributions to Boston are significant

- Irish, people born in Ireland or who identify as having Irish ancestry, make up 13.0% of Boston's population (87,327 people).
- Irish living in Boston hold 53,022 jobs and own approximately 3,683 businesses.
- Irish in Boston earned over \$5.5 billion in wage income in 2021.
- Irish's consumer demand supported an additional 30,700 jobs and contributed \$3.4 billion to Boston's gross city product in 2021.
- Irish contributed \$201.6 million in state income taxes and \$70.1 million in state sales taxes in 2021.