

MetroBoston DataCommon

A partnership between the Metropolitan Area Planning Council & the Boston Indicators Project at the Boston Foundation

Whether you are a data novice or an expert researcher, the MetroBoston DataCommon can help you get the information you need to learn more about your community, understand regional trends, and make more informed decisions. Loaded with data from a wide variety of sources, the DataCommon is a resource for the growing community of residents, advocates, academics, and policy makers in Greater Boston who are using data to improve the effectiveness of their work. You can use the DataCommon to document existing conditions, research compelling data to make your case, design responsive policies, and measure progress on shared goals.



Community Snapshots

Summary profiles of current conditions and trends for all 101 cities and towns in the MAPC region. Just select the city or town you would like to explore in "snapshot" mode from the drop-down menu. You can view all available data, or target your selection to one topic area, such as:

- Demographics
- Housing
- Environment
- Employment
- Education
- Public Health

...with more topics and datasets added regularly.

The Visualization Gallery

Explore the many maps and data visualizations created by MAPC, the Boston Indicators Project and other DataCommon users. Visit the Tutorial to learn how to view and explore existing maps and visualizations. You can focus on specific topics or places, or add additional data to existing analyses.



Do-It-Yourself

Create your own charts and maps. Save your work, export it as an image file, or embed the data visualization into your website. You can keep your analysis in a private workspace, or you can choose to share it with others on the site!

Options for data visualization include:

- Bar charts
- Histograms
- Scatter Plots
- Statistical Analysis
- Line Charts
- Tables
- Maps

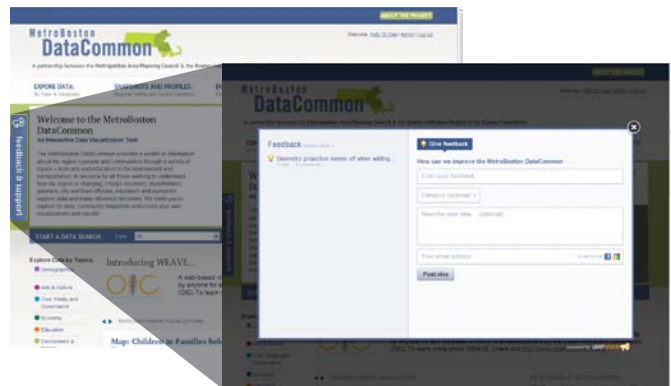
About the MetroBoston DataCommon

MetroBostonDataCommon.org is an interactive data portal and online mapping tool that provides a wealth of information about the region's people, communities, and neighborhoods across a wide variety of topics — from demographics and education to public health, the environment, and transportation. It is a resource for residents, planners, city and town officials, educators, students, journalists and other stakeholders to learn more about the region, understand how it is changing, and make informed decisions.



The DataCommon is co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Boston Indicators Project at the Boston Foundation. “Weave,” the visualization software that powers the DataCommon, is an open source platform developed by faculty and students at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in partnership with teams from around the country. Learn more at (www.oicweave.org.)

How You Can Get Involved:



Attend a Hands-On Training

DataCommon user trainings are held every month at the offices of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council in downtown Boston. Municipal planners, government employees, advocates, and private-sector organizations are all welcome to attend. Participants receive an orientation to the various components of the website, and complete a hands-on tutorial of the DataMap Tool to create their own customized maps. Group trainings for mission-driven organizations can generally be provided upon request.

Contribute Data and Maps

You can contribute your data and visualizations for inclusion in the DataCommon. Create a user profile and save your work to the Visualization Gallery. You can also upload your own data, too. Be sure to read the Data Formatting Guide in About the Project under the FAQ's.

Give Us Feedback

We want your feedback. We are always interested in improving the DataCommon for our users. Use the Feedback and Support Forum to make suggestions for new functions, report bugs and errors, or even give us compliments!

Become an Affiliate

The DataCommon can be tailored to your organization or municipality through our Affiliates program. The Affiliates program tailors the DataCommon site to an organization's mission through custom datasets and visualizations targeted to a specific topic, audience, or geographic location.

For more information, please contact Holly St. Clair at hstclair@mapc.org (617) 451-2770 x 2014.