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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Census data: Allston population spiked 14 percent over past decade

Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 6, 2011 01:00 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Allston's population spiked nearly 14 percent to 29,196 over the past decade, according to census data recently released by the city.

NEIGHBORHOOD NUMBERS

Select a neighborhood below from the dropdown to see a breakdown of Census statistics.

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Between 2000 and 2010, Allston's population growth rate was the third-highest among city neighborhoods, according to figures the Boston Redevelopment Authority compiled from U.S Census Bureau data. The only neighborhoods that grew at higher rates over that span were Fenway and Downtown, which saw 15 and 46 percent growth, respectively.

Accounting for over 80 percent of Allston's growth, were increases in the number of white and the number of Asian residents.

The portion of Asians climbed from around 16.8 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2010, according to the data. As in 2000, the neighborhood continued to claim the city's second-highest proportion of Asian residents among city neighborhoods behind Downtown.

Boston's population grew by 4.8 percent in the past decade to hit 617,594. The Hub remained a "majority-minority" city as 53 percent of residents are of a non-white race/ethnicity while 47 percent are white. In Boston, 47 percent of residents are white, 22.3 percent are Black/African American, 17.5 percent are Hispanic/Latino, and 8.8 percent are Asian.

While Boston gained over 41,000 people age 18 years and older, the city lost around 13,000 residents under 18. The 11-percent drop was among the most notable statistics for research director at Boston think-tank MassINC

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percent over decade

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"There's no question that family households have been replaced by people without kids," he

said, adding that a trend of fleeing families can often be a sign of gentrification.

The portion of residents 18 years or older grew in all but five neighborhoods; in Allston it grew from 92 to 94.5 percent. Citywide, that ratio grew from 80 to 83 percent.

The total number of housing units in Allston grew by 7 percent to 11,095. Despite a rise in vacant housing from 1.4 to 3.4 percent over the past 10 years, Allston maintained the top spot among city neighborhoods in terms of occupied housing with 96.6 percent filled during 2010.

Citywide, housing grew by around 25,000 units, or 8 percent, however, vacancies also rose by 60 percent. Around 5 percent of Boston homes were empty in 2000; in 2010, around 7.25 percent of housing was vacant.

Boston's neighborhoods have no officially-defined boundaries, according to the BRA. In order to sort census data by neighborhood, the city department said it used a combination of ZIP codes and zoning boundaries to define each neighborhood's borders.

While the neighborhoods the city has mapped out for census number crunching by-and-large match how most perceive Boston's configuration, the city acknowledged some may dispute how the BRA has defined where neighborhoods begin and end.

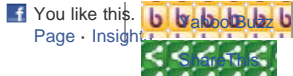
"Everyone has their own definition of 'their' neighborhood -- the best part about Boston is there is such pride in the question -- and therefore there are no official boundaries because if there were, we'd have 617,594 different opinions," said spokeswoman Susan Elsbree.

The department plans to release additional maps and is also fielding individual requests to have data provided based on customized neighborhood boundaries.

To simplify city data analyzed for this report, Boston.com grouped, as follows, smaller neighborhoods and districts into other, larger areas creating a total of 18 city subsections: Beacon Hill includes the West End; Downtown includes Chinatown and the Leather District; Roxbury includes Mission Hill and the Longwood Medical Area; South Boston includes the South Boston Waterfront; and the South End includes Bay Village. The Harbor Islands -- with a combined population of 640 and 535 residents during the 2000 and 2010 census, respectively -- were not used in this analysis.

However, raw data is still available here for each smaller neighborhood, district and islands that the BRA defined.

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