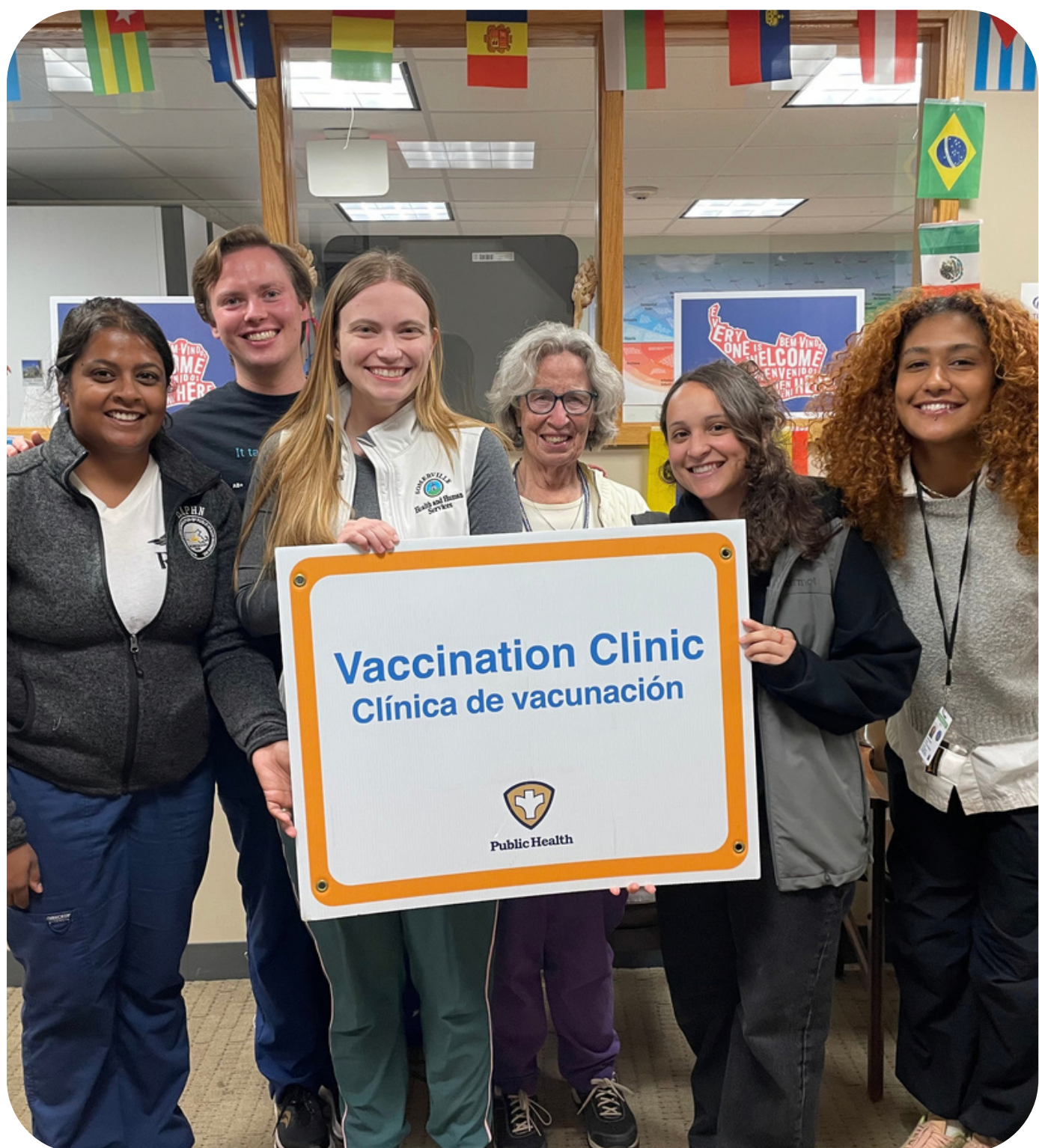


Somerville-Cambridge Public Health Collaborative



Cambridge, Somerville



A Stronger, More Equitable Public Health System

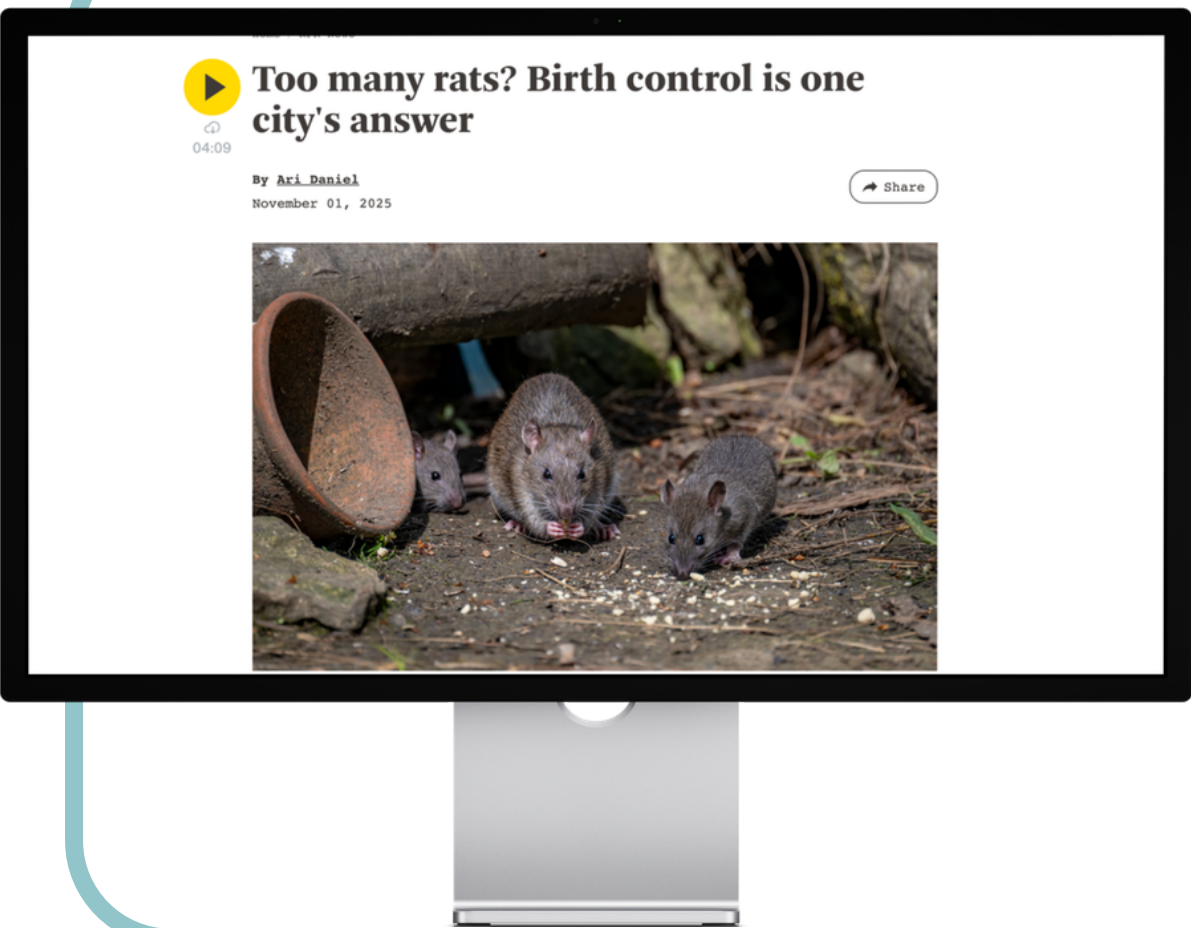
The Somerville-Cambridge Public Health Collaborative is strengthening public health across both cities through modernized data systems, strategic hiring, public outreach, and innovative research. The work included hiring a bilingual Regional Clinical Community Health Worker to reach and deepen trust among multilingual residents, distributing resource kits to unhoused residents, launching a-first-of-its-kind rodent mitigation study, and establishing regional workgroups to share best practices across inspectional services, clinical care, and epidemiological data.

Meeting Neighbors Where They Are

Somerville and Cambridge share a sizable unhoused population. The Collaborative used Public Health Excellence grant funding to purchase culturally appropriate hygiene kits, distributed through outreach to the Warming Center, community partners, and unhoused residents directly. Cooling kits were also distributed to help prevent heat-related illness during hot days. In total, more than 800 kits were distributed, each paired with written materials and visual graphics explaining proper usage, along with guidance on self-care and when to seek further help. **Beyond preventing infection and illness, these efforts laid the foundation for lasting relationships with the region's residents.**



A New Approach to an Old Problem



Rodent control looks a little different these days. The Collaborative launched a Two-City Rodent Fertility Control Study, piloting a new bait product designed to reduce the rat population without traditional poisons. **Residents were recruited to help with the study, raising the profile of local public health while engaging the community directly in an issue that impacts daily life.** Smart traps help track rodent activity and shape data-driven strategies, and progress is shared monthly.

“It is not just about the existence of the shared services, but the hard part of finding and connecting, and that is where my role as a Regional Community Health Worker in this shared services project comes into play. Mapping out the services and connecting the people.”

Larissa Loschiavo, Clinical Community Health Worker

