

HUMANS AND RATS

BASICS



**METRO
PUBLIC HEALTH
COLLABORATIVE**

Building Healthier Communities Together



Humans and Rats

Where do they come from?

PEOPLE

Where there are people and food sources, rodents, such as rats, may follow

DEVELOPMENT

Increased construction and urban development push rats above ground

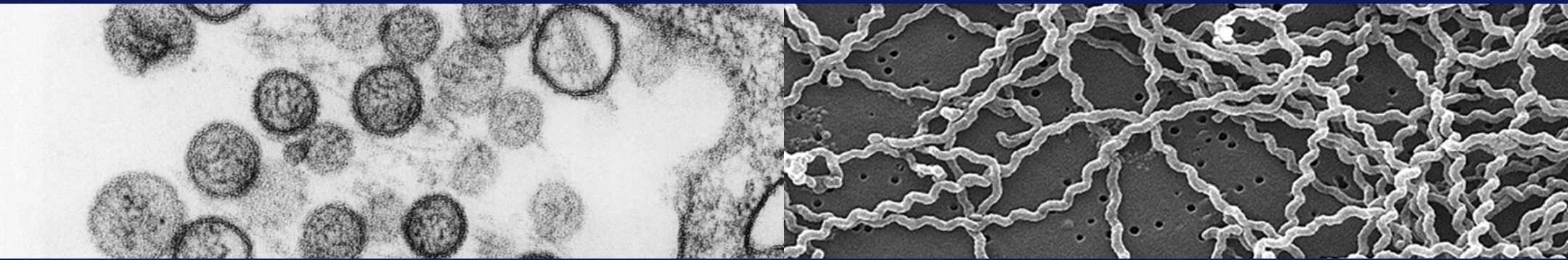
CLIMATE CHANGE

A lack of natural predators and shorter, warmer winters help rats thrive



Humans and Rats

Can rats spread disease?



Rats can carry hantavirus and leptospirosis (a bacterial infection), but both are **extremely rare** in this region



Only one hantavirus case has ever been recorded in MA



Leptospirosis typically occurs after touching infected urine of wildlife



Safely **clean up rat waste with gloves and cleaning solution**. Do not vacuum or sweep.



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Prevention at a Glance

Securely store trash and recycling in bins with no holes and lids fully closed

Maintain your property by sealing any gaps and keeping your yard clean

Remove food and water sources such as bird feeders, standing water, and pet food

Talk to your neighbors about what works and what doesn't

