

Community Health Equity Survey

Frequently Asked Questions

Survey Takers

- **What is this survey?**

- The Community Health Equity Survey is an online anonymous survey. Results will help the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and communities across the state change conditions that get in the way of health.
- The survey was developed in collaboration with community members and partners across the state. Survey questions are based on the experiences and needs of Massachusetts residents.
- This survey asks about things that impact your health. Survey topics include access to health care and transportation, physical and mental health and wellbeing, experiences with COVID-19, housing, education, and work. It also asks for information such as age, gender, and race.

- **How will taking this survey benefit my community?**

- **Taking the survey helps make sure that the needs and priorities of your community show up in the data.** Your answers to this survey will show what things help communities be healthy, and what things make it harder for communities to be healthy.
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health will use data from the survey to guide our work. This includes improving our programs, making decisions about funding and resources, and supporting policies to improve health inequities. We will also share the results of the survey with partners across Massachusetts to support the important work they are doing to improve health in their communities.

- **Who can take the survey?**

- Anyone ages 14 and over who lives in Massachusetts for some or all of the year can take this survey

- **What language can I take the survey in?**

- You can take the survey in the following languages: Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese (simplified and traditional), English, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese. The survey will also be available in American Sign Language later this summer.
- If you'd like, someone else can translate the questions into your preferred language and fill out the survey for you.

- **How can I take the survey?**
 - The survey will be available online [here](#) on July 31, 2023 and will close in October
- **What should I expect when I take the survey?**
 - After clicking the link, you will be able to choose the language you want to take the survey in. The survey may take anywhere from 15-30 minutes.
 - You will see questions around topics like access to health care and transportation, physical and mental health and wellbeing, experiences with COVID-19, housing, education, and work.
 - The survey asks for information about you such as age, race, and gender. This helps us understand how needs and experiences differ across group.
 - You can exit the survey at any time and skip any questions you want.
- **Is this survey anonymous?**
 - The survey is completely voluntary and anonymous. The survey does not ask for any information that can be used to identify you, and your answers cannot be traced back to you in any way.
- **Who has access to my answers?**
 - Some people who work for the Department of Public Health will have access to anonymous survey responses. After the survey closes, results will be shared with community partners so that they can use the information to understand where and how to best provide resources to improve health
 - Summarized data will also be available to everyone on our website through data tables, recorded presentations, and a data dashboard. The privacy of survey respondents is important to us, and your answers cannot be traced back to you in any way.
- **I have more questions. Who can I contact?**
 - If you have additional questions about the survey, or might need help taking the survey, please email chei@mass.gov.

Community Partners

- **What are Communities of Focus?**
 - Simply put, communities of focus are groups who historically have been and currently are being denied an equal chance at health. For the 2023 survey, the communities of focus are people identifying as:
 - ☐ Immigrants
 - ☐ Older adults (age 60+)
 - ☐ Parents and caregivers of children and youth with special health care needs
 - ☐ Parents under 25
 - ☐ People identifying as LGBTQ+

- ☐ People of color (including, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American/Pacific Islanders, Black, Hispanic/Latino/a/e residents)
- ☐ People whose primary language is not English
- ☐ People with disabilities
- ☐ Pregnant people and parents of young children
- ☐ Rural residents
- ☐ Veterans
- ☐ Youth and young adults (age 14-24)

- **How can I help people in my community take this survey?**

- You know your community best! We are here and happy to support you. Here are a few ways we recommend engaging community members around taking this survey:
 - ☐ Share information about the survey! We have resources, such as email templates, social media language, and posters, that you can use to help spread the word to potential survey takers to friends, families, and colleagues.
 - ☐ Have a conversation with us! We're happy to discuss ideas with you.
 - ☐ Help us build our partner network! If you know of community partners that may be interested in working with us, please share with them our website and contact information.

Resources that can be used to help share and promote the survey in your community are available on our website: www.mass.gov/chei.

You can reach us at chei@mass.gov.

- **How and when can I access these data?**

- We strive to make this process as simple and transparent as possible. Results will be publicly available on our website soon after the survey closes in Fall 2023, and DPH will provide partners like yourself with support to use the data to address barriers to health in your community.

- **Can I get help analyzing the data?**

- Yes! We will have several supports available in Fall 2023 when survey results are published.
Check back on our website then (www.mass.gov/chei) or contact us for an up-to-date list of data supports available.

- **How can I use these findings to benefit my community?**

- Once you analyze the data for your community, you can highlight unmet needs that would benefit from public health action. Here are some examples of how our 2020 COVID-19 Community Impact Survey did just that:
 - ☐ LGBTQ+ communities: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data was used by the MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth to advocate for policies that center the

needs of the community. The data was also used to advocate for the addition of LGBTQ+ residents as a priority population for the Vaccine Equity Initiative, which provided additional community resources and funding.

- Indigenous communities: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data was leveraged to successfully apply for over \$1 million in funding towards Tribes and Indigenous People Serving Organizations.
- Rural communities: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data was used to support the rural vaccine outreach program and fund programs to support rural organizations in addressing barriers to health in their communities
- Young parents: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data showed significant unmet basic needs among young parents. Following the release of the data, the most frequent services provided by the MA Pregnant and Parenting Teen initiative were rent, housing, and utility assistance.
- Youth: After the COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data was released, youth mental health was elevated as a priority within DPH. The data was used for the procurement of new services by the Child and Youth Violence Prevention Services program.
- WIC recipients: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data was used by the WIC program to emphasize the importance and need for language accessibility in WIC outreach to ensure that families who speak languages other than English can access WIC services.
- Children with special healthcare needs: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data demonstrated specific priorities (mental health, food security, and the healthcare transition that happens at age 18). These priorities were used in multiple grant applications to improve services for children with special healthcare needs.
- Children: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data was shared at a meeting with the MA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. These findings provided evidence for them to further prioritize mental health, healthcare transition, and social determinants of health in their work.
- Medicaid recipients: The COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data was shared with MassHealth to inform the 1115 waiver application that expanded Medicaid coverage and access to care.
- People with disabilities: DPH prioritized improving vaccine access to people with disabilities. In the disability setting, people got vaccinated who likely wouldn't have, largely because of COVID-19 Community Impact Survey data.

- **I have more questions. Who can I contact?**

- If you have questions about the survey, or might need help accessing or analyzing the data, please email chei@mass.gov.