



The MassINC Polling Group
Health Equity Compact
Health Equity in the Commonwealth Survey
 Survey of 1,546 residents of Massachusetts
 Field dates: May 15 – 24, 2023

In general, would you say your health is poor, fair, good, very good, or excellent?

Excellent	13%
Very good	29%
Good	40%
Fair	15%
Poor	3%
Don't know / refused	<1%

How about others in your neighborhood? On average, would you say the health of residents of your neighborhood is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent	6%
Very good	24%
Good	49%
Fair	15%
Poor	1%
Don't know / refused	5%

Thinking about your own neighborhood, would you say you agree or disagree with each of the following?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know / Refused
ROTATE ORDER					
There are enough good jobs for people who want them	20%	48%	18%	9%	5%
In this area, you can find nice homes to buy or rent that don't cost too much	9%	23%	29%	37%	3%
I feel safe from violence in this area	35%	46%	13%	4%	2%
The air and water in this area are clean	30%	51%	13%	4%	2%
There are enough open spaces like public parks and green spaces in this area	34%	42%	17%	6%	2%

When it comes to people in Massachusetts, how much would you say you agree or disagree with each of the following?

ROTATE ORDER	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know / Refused
Many people don't have the same opportunities to be as healthy as others	37%	41%	13%	5%	4%
Everyone should have the opportunity to live a long, healthy life, regardless of their income, education, or race	75%	21%	2%	1%	1%
There are groups of people who face more obstacles to getting health care	41%	39%	11%	5%	5%
There are groups of people who face more obstacles to being healthy	40%	43%	8%	4%	5%

How much do you agree or disagree that everyone in Massachusetts has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible?

Strongly agree	25%
Somewhat agree	41%
Somewhat disagree	22%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't know / refused	3%

What do you see as the main barriers to health equity in the state, meaning everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible?

Lack of universal health insurance/coverage	14%
Cost of health insurance/healthcare services	23%
Socioeconomic factors (poverty, unemployment, homelessness)	23%
Racial disparities	7%
Access to healthy food / exercise facilities	11%
Availability or proximity of PCPs and healthcare facilities	8%
Mobility/transportation to healthcare appointments	5%
Personal choices	10%
Don't know / not sure	10%
Other	6%
None	7%

How much of a role do you think the healthcare system should have in improving health equity? We are using the term "health equity" to mean that "everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible."

Major role	72%
Minor role	19%
No role	4%
Don't know / refused	5%

How much of a role do you think employers should have in improving health equity? We are using the term “health equity” to mean that “everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.”

Major role	53%
Minor role	35%
No role	7%
Don’t know / refused	6%

How much of a role do you think state government should have in improving health equity? We are using the term “health equity” to mean that “everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.”

Major role	71%
Minor role	19%
No role	6%
Don’t know / refused	4%

Over the next few years, how much attention do you think state policymakers should give to improving health equity?

A great deal	49%
A fair amount	34%
Not too much	9%
None at all	4%
Don’t know / refused	4%

State leaders are considering different ideas to ensure everyone in Massachusetts has equal access to great healthcare. How important would you say each of the following goals are for state leaders to pursue?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don’t Know / Refused
ROTATE ORDER					
Making medications for conditions like asthma, heart disease, and diabetes more affordable	78%	17%	3%	1%	2%
Investing in local efforts to build healthier, stronger communities	58%	32%	6%	2%	3%
Promoting programs that recruit, train, and support a diverse healthcare workforce	55%	30%	9%	4%	3%
Staffing health-related state agencies with diverse leaders	45%	34%	11%	6%	4%
Making sure healthcare services are respectful and responsive to diverse cultural backgrounds of patients	62%	27%	5%	3%	3%
Maintaining access to telehealth services	50%	35%	9%	1%	5%
Ensuring all our community members, regardless of immigration status, have access to MassHealth or Medicaid, if otherwise eligible	56%	24%	6%	8%	6%

Of the items you rated in the previous question, which would you say is the most important?

Making medications for conditions like asthma, heart disease, and diabetes more affordable	41%
Investing in local efforts to build healthier, stronger communities	12%
Promoting programs that recruit, train, and support a diverse healthcare workforce	4%
Staffing health-related state agencies with diverse leaders	2%
Making sure healthcare services are respectful and responsive to diverse cultural backgrounds of patients	10%
Maintaining access to telehealth services	5%
Ensuring all our community members, regardless of immigration status, have access to MassHealth/Medicaid, if otherwise eligible	21%
None of the above	1%
Don't know / refused	3%

When dealing with the healthcare system in Massachusetts over the last 5 years, have you ever faced discrimination due to factors such as race, gender, sexual orientation, language barriers, income, disability, or immigration status?

Yes I have	18%
No I have not	76%
Don't know / refused	6%

ASK IF YES TO PREVIOUS QUESTION, HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

You mentioned you have faced discrimination in the healthcare system. What do you believe was the reason you were discriminated against?

Race	33%
Gender	28%
Sexual orientation	13%
Language barriers	13%
Household income	26%
Disability	16%
Immigration status	6%
Something else (specify: _____)	14%
Don't know / refused	8%

Results shown are the percentage of the 18% overall who said "yes" to the previous question

Demographics:

Gender:

Man	48%
Woman	51%
Nonbinary, Genderqueer, not exclusively male or female	1%
I am questioning or not sure of my gender identity	<1%
I don't understand what this question is asking	<1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

Age:

18-29	23%
30-44	24%
45-59	26%
60+	27%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

Race:

White	72%
Black	7%
Latino	11%
Asian	7%
All other	3%
Don't know / Refused	<1%

Education

High School or less	34%
Some college, no degree	26%
College graduate (BA/BS)	23%
Advanced degree	17%
Don't know / Refused	1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,546 Massachusetts residents. Responses were collected via live telephone interviews via landline and cells phones, online survey, and text to web interviewing May 15-24, 2023. Oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian respondents were obtained to bring the total interview count to at least 250 for each group. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted to age, gender, geography, and education level for each group. Groups were then combined and weighted to the population parameters by race for the state as a whole. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 3.1 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. This project was sponsored by the Health Equity Compact.