

Somerville Community Data Profile

Cambridge Health Alliance 2022 Regional Wellbeing Assessment



	Somerville		Massachusetts	
	Estimate	Statistic	Estimate	Statistic

Information about how to navigate this Community Data Profile and interpret the color coding is provided on the last page.

Demographics

Population Overview

Total population (count) ¹	--	80,906	--	6,850,553
Female	40,800	50.4%	3,526,346	51.5%
Male	40,106	49.6%	3,324,207	48.5%
Change in population size from 2010 to 2020 (percent change) ²	--	7.0%	--	7.4%
Total public school district enrollment (count) ³	--	4,691	--	911,465
Female	2,231	48.7%	443,625	49.4%
Male	2,452	51.3%	467,362	50.5%
Non-binary	8	0.1%	478	0.1%

Population by Age¹

Median age (years)	--	31.3	--	39.5
<5 years	3,359	4.2%	361,016	5.3%
5-9 years	2,685	3.3%	365,889	5.3%
10-17 years	3,461	4.3%	644,355	9.4%
18-24 years	11,511	14.2%	697,610	10.2%
25-39 years	33,820	41.8%	1,396,010	20.4%
40-64 years	18,774	23.2%	2,278,584	33.3%
65-74 years	4,172	5.2%	633,197	9.2%
75+ years	3,124	3.9%	473,892	6.9%

Population by Racial/Ethnic Group¹

American Indian and Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	112	0.1%	9,667	0.1%
Asian (non-Hispanic)	8,246	10.2%	449,793	6.6%
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	4,534	5.6%	473,181	6.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any racial group)	9,995	12.4%	809,179	11.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	5	0.0%	2,210	0.0%
Some other race (non-Hispanic)	714	0.9%	56,363	0.8%
Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	2,117	2.6%	146,621	2.1%
White (non-Hispanic)	55,183	68.2%	4,903,539	71.6%

School district enrollment by racial/ethnic group³

African American	403	8.6%	84,766	9.3%
Asian	286	6.1%	65,625	7.2%
Hispanic	1,914	40.8%	203,257	22.3%
Native American	5	0.1%	1,823	0.2%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	5	0.1%	911	0.1%
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	216	4.6%	37,370	4.1%
White	1,862	39.7%	516,801	56.7%

Population by language spoken at home (for population 5 years and older)¹

For each community, the 10 most common languages other than English are identified. Residents who speak other languages are grouped in "All other languages." Not all languages are available at the community level, but may be at the state level. Portuguese, for example, is categorized as "Other Indo-European languages" at the community level, but is available at the MA level. Languages are sorted by frequency at the community level.

Only English	54,103	69.8%	4,942,231	76.2%
Other Indo-European languages	8,000	10.3%	--	--
Portuguese	--	--	194,006	3.0%
Spanish	7,595	9.8%	592,436	9.1%
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	2,075	2.7%	135,121	2.1%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	1,919	2.5%	139,674	2.2%
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	845	1.1%	--	--

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Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	730	0.9%	--	--
Russian	--	--	40,744	0.6%
Vietnamese	433	0.6%	43,102	0.7%
German or other West Germanic languages	427	0.6%	--	--
Arabic	400	0.5%	33,534	0.5%
All other languages	1,020	1.3%	338,608	5.2%
School district enrollment by language³				
First language other than English	2,261	48.2%	213,283	23.4%
English language learner	858	18.3%	95,704	10.5%
Population by country of origin for foreign-born population¹				
<i>For each community, the 10 most common countries of origin among foreign-born residents are identified. Residents born in other countries are grouped in "All other countries of origin." Countries are sorted by frequency at the community level. Countries that are not represented within the 10 most common in MA overall are noted with "--".</i>				
Foreign-born population (percent of total population)	20,207	25.0%	1,148,909	16.8%
Central America: El Salvador	2,394	11.9%	41,580	3.6%
South America: Brazil	1,685	8.3%	75,217	6.6%
Eastern Asia: China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	1,415	7.0%	95,477	8.3%
Southern Europe: Portugal	1,312	6.5%	52,580	4.6%
South Central Asia: India	1,222	6.1%	73,766	6.4%
South Central Asia: Nepal	1,183	5.9%	--	--
Caribbean: Haiti	870	4.3%	57,815	5.0%
Central America: Guatemala	638	3.2%	29,105	2.5%
Eastern Asia: Korea	524	2.6%	--	--
Northern America: Canada	523	2.6%	29,555	2.6%
All other countries of origin	8,646	42.8%	573,363	49.9%
Disability				
Persons with disabilities ¹	6,351	7.9%	784,593	11.6%
Students with disabilities ³	915	19.5%	170,444	18.7%
Household size by family and non-family households¹				
Households (total count)	--	32,802	--	2,617,497
Family households	13,920	42.4%	1,659,300	63.4%
2-person (family)	6,812	48.9%	704,833	42.5%
3-person (family)	3,154	22.7%	402,333	24.3%
4-person (family)	2,620	18.8%	348,316	21.0%
5-person (family)	766	5.5%	136,191	8.2%
6-person (family)	360	2.6%	44,903	2.7%
7-or-more person (family)	208	1.5%	22,724	1.4%
Nonfamily households	18,882	57.6%	958,197	36.6%
1-person (nonfamily)	9,780	51.8%	745,793	77.8%
2-person (nonfamily)	5,374	28.5%	165,884	17.3%
3-person (nonfamily)	2,371	12.6%	30,630	3.2%
4-person (nonfamily)	1,031	5.5%	11,834	1.2%
5-person (nonfamily)	259	1.4%	2,783	0.3%
6-person (nonfamily)	43	0.2%	879	0.1%
7-or-more person (nonfamily)	24	0.1%	394	0.0%

Social Environment | PEOPLE

Civic Engagement

Voter enrollment ⁴	58,141	95.4%	4,812,909	95.7%
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Voter enrollment is calculated as the number of registered voters in 2020 as reported by Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, divided by the total citizen voting age population as estimated by the American Community Survey.

Social Support				
Adults older than 65 living alone ¹	2,817	38.6%	312,687	28.2%
Youth social supports ⁵				
High school students who have a teacher or other school adult to talk to about a problem	--	68.1%	--	--
High school students who have parent or other adult family member to talk to about important issues	--	76.9%	--	--
Middle school students who have a teacher or other school adult to talk to about a problem	--	63.4%	--	--

The Massachusetts High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey did not assess these items.

Violence + Trauma ⁸				
Violent crime (crude rate per 100,000 population)	166	203.3	22,578	327.6
Property crime (crude rate per 100,000 population)	1,025	1255.1	81,317	1179.8
Youth experiences of violence and trauma ⁵				
High School Students reporting being bullied	--	11.6%	--	16.3%
High School Students reporting being cyber-bullied	--	11.7%	--	13.9%
High School students reporting sexual harrassment or assault	--	6.1%	--	9.8%
High School Students reporting witnessing violence at home (past 12 months)	--	7.8%	--	--
Middle School Students reporting being bullied	--	11.9%	--	--
Middle School Students reporting being cyber-bullied	--	9.5%	--	--
Middle School students reporting sexual harrassment or assault	--	4.1%	--	--
Middle School Students reporting witnessing violence at home (past 12 months)	--	5.1%	--	--

For Somerville and for Massachusetts, bullying and cyber-bullying were assessed during the past 12 months. Bullying was defined as physical or verbal, and incidents were defined as taking place at school. For Somerville, sexual harrassment or assault was defined as students having "been touched, pinched, grabbed, or patted in a sexual way against their will at school (past 12 months)." For Massachusetts, sexual harrassment or assault was defined as students "experiencing sexual violence by anyone, including kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sex against their will (past 12 months)."

Natural and Built Environment | PLACE

Water Quality ⁷				
Lead 90% value (parts per billion, ppb)	--	12.9	--	8.6
Copper 90% value (parts per billion, ppb)	--	110.0	--	132.0

For lead and copper levels, the values in the Massachusetts column reflect the values for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) service area, not the state overall. The action level for lead is 15 ppb. The action level for copper is 1300 ppb.

Food Security				
Food insecurity rate ¹²	9,470	11.7%	566,930	8.2%
SNAP Gap (persons eligible but not enrolled in SNAP) ¹³	6,366	52.5%	705,424	43.9%
SNAP enrollment indicators ¹				
Households receiving SNAP benefits	2,849	8.7%	305,089	11.7%
Households with persons 60 years and older receiving SNAP benefits	1,229	14.9%	127,108	12.0%
Households with children under 18 years receiving SNAP benefits	988	17.2%	121,103	15.9%

Transportation				
Means of Transportation to Work ¹				
Car, truck, or van	23,158	42.1%	2,743,859	77.4%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	18,482	33.6%	368,684	10.4%
Walked	6,216	11.3%	173,707	4.9%
Bicycle	3,905	7.1%	31,905	0.9%
Worked from home	2,475	4.5%	184,342	5.2%

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Means of transportation to work is calculated for the population of workers ages 16 years and older.

Economic and Education Environment | EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY

Housing				
Housing Affordability ¹				
Median monthly rent	--	\$1,874	--	\$1,282
Median monthly owner costs for households with mortgages	--	\$2,585	--	\$2,225
Renter households with housing cost burden (30-49% of income)	4,899	22.5%	231,265	23.5%
Renter households with severe housing cost burden (50% or more of income)	3,221	14.8%	228,445	23.2%
Owner households with housing cost burden (30-49% of income)	1,825	16.5%	260,550	16.0%
Owner households with severe housing cost burden (50% or more of income)	1,285	11.6%	173,905	10.7%

Eviction & Homelessness				
Evictions executed per 1,000 renter households (2016 pre-pandemic reference) ⁸	160	6.9	15,708	15.2
Evictions executed per 1,000 renter households (2021) ⁹	5	0.2	4,017	4.08
Public school district students experiencing homelessness ¹⁰	92	1.9%	1,090	2.4%

For public school district students experiencing homelessness, the values in the Massachusetts column reflect the average percent across the CHA primary service area, not the state overall.

Employment				
Unemployment rate (annual, not seasonally adjusted) ¹¹	3,325	6.5%	324,200	8.9%

Income + Poverty ¹				
Median household income (in the past 12 months; 2019 inflation-adjusted)	--	\$97,328	--	\$81,215
Poverty rate: Total population	8,980	11.5%	680,962	10.3%
Poverty rate: Children under 18	1,883	20.2%	177,630	13.2%
Poverty rate: Families	1,141	8.2%	116,151	7.0%

School district measure of economic wellbeing ³				
Public school students economically disadvantaged	2,097	44.7%	333,596	36.6%

Public school district students who are "economically disadvantaged" are defined based on a student's participation in one or more of the following programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC); the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) foster care program; and MassHealth (Medicaid).

Education				
Total population (25 years and older) by highest level of education completed ¹				
Less than high school graduate	5,612	9.4%	441,944	9.2%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	8,301	13.9%	1,148,525	24.0%
Some college or associate's degree	7,378	12.3%	1,102,149	23.1%
Bachelor's degree	19,984	33.4%	1,151,870	24.1%
Graduate or professional degree	18,615	31.1%	937,195	19.6%

Public school district enrollment indicators ³				
High school graduation rate	258	86.9%	66,655	89.8%
High school drop-out rate	24	1.9%	4,297	1.5%
Intake (transfer-in) rate	--	3.9%	--	3.4%
Churn rate	--	9.2%	--	7.4%

Intake Rate measures the number of students that enroll in (transfer into) the district/school after the beginning of the school year. It is provided as a statistic only. Churn Rate measures the number students transferring into or out of the district/school throughout the course of a school year. It is provided as a statistic only.

Digital Access ¹				
Households without any Internet subscription	3,865	11.8%	349,025	13.3%
Households with a cellular data plan only (no other type of Internet subscription)	1,862	5.7%	181,187	6.9%
Households without a computer	2,675	8.2%	225,504	8.6%

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Households with a smartphone only (no other type of computing device)	1,154	3.5%	122,400	4.7%

Healthcare and Health Outcomes

Preventive Care				
Population without health insurance ¹	2,507	3.1%	184,322	2.7%
Routine medical check-up in past year among adults (age-adjusted %) ^{14b}	--	79.4%	--	80.5%
Dental care visit in past year among adults (age-adjusted %) ^{14a}	--	74.8%	--	73.8%

Chronic Diseases

Cancer

Prevention ^{14a}				
Mammography among women aged 50-74 years, in past 2 years (age-adjusted %)	--	79.1%	--	86.6%
Cervical cancer screening among women aged 21-65 years, in past 3 or 5 years (depending on age and type of test) (age-adjusted %)	--	88.8%	--	83.0%
Colon cancer screening among adults aged 50-75 years, in past year, 3 years, 5 years, or 10 years depending on type of test (age-adjusted %)	--	70.4%	--	77.0%
Incidence ¹⁵				
Cancer (all sites) standardized incidence ratio (females)	751	97.3	--	--
Breast cancer standardized incidence ratio (females)	195	87.8	--	--
Colorectal cancer standardized incidence ratio (females)	45	78.9	--	--
Lung cancer standardized incidence ratio (females)	105	101.4	--	--
Melanoma standardized incidence ratio (females)	26	83.4	--	--
Cancer (all sites) standardized incidence ratio (males)	648	95.9	--	--
Colorectal cancer standardized incidence ratio (males)	52	95.1	--	--
Lung cancer standardized incidence ratio (males)	117	134.1	--	--
Melanoma standardized incidence ratio (males)	29	84.1	--	--
Prostate cancer standardized incidence ratio (males)	137	92.2	--	--
Mortality ¹⁶				
Cancer (all types) deaths (male + female) (age-adjusted rate per 100,000)	476	155.5	63,229	143.7

For cancer incidence, Standardized Incidence Ratios (SIR) are used to describe how the incidence of a type of cancer in a given city compares to the state as a whole. The estimate provided is the actual number of newly diagnosed cases among residents for the given time period. The SIR describes how the observed count compares to what would be expected based on the city's population distribution by sex and age, and the corresponding statewide average annual age-specific incidence rates. An SIR above 100 indicates incidence is higher than expected. An SIR below 100 indicates incidence is lower than expected. Conditional formatting is applied based on statistical significance, with orange being statistically significantly higher, green being statistically significantly lower, and yellow being not statistically significantly different. SIRs should only be used in comparison to the state. It is NOT valid to compare SIRs between communities.

Cardiovascular				
Prevention ^{14b}				
Cholesterol screening among adults, in past 5 years	--	88.9%	--	89.4%
Taking medicine for high blood pressure control, among adults with high blood pressure	--	56.1%	--	--
Prevalence ^{14b}				
High blood pressure among adults, in past year	--	25.7%	--	25.3%
High cholesterol among adults who have been screened in the past 5 years	--	26.3%	--	26.8%
Coronary heart disease or angina (lifetime) among adults	--	4.9%	--	3.2%
Stroke (lifetime) among adults	--	2.5%	--	2.1%
Health care utilization ¹⁷				
Coronary heart disease ED visits	1,454	595.6	185,296	642.8
Coronary heart disease hospitalizations	2,860	1,056.7	410,719	1,177.7
Coronary heart disease outpatient visits	1,454	595.6	68,342	208.4

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Stroke ED visits	112	44.4	17,707	53.4
Stroke hospitalizations	471	175.7	68,741	193.1
Stroke outpatient visits	112	44.4	12,681	36.4
<i>Mortality¹⁶</i>				
Coronary heart disease deaths	426	139.4	59,736	131.3
Stroke deaths	66	21.9	12,041	26.6

For all cardiovascular indicators, statistics expressed as percentages (%) are age-adjusted percentages. Statistics expressed as numeric values are age-adjusted rates per 100,000.

Diabetes				
<i>Prevalence^{14b}</i>				
Diabetes (lifetime) among adults	--	7.5%	--	7.4%
<i>Health care utilization¹⁷</i>				
Diabetes ED visits	404	182.1	49,268	193.9
Diabetes hospitalizations	320	136.1	46,995	171.7
Diabetes outpatient visits	64	27.5	9,211	33.1
<i>Mortality¹⁶</i>				
Diabetes deaths	72	23.3	6,931	15.7

For all diabetes indicators, statistics expressed as percentages (%) are age-adjusted percentages. Statistics expressed as numeric values are age-adjusted rates per 100,000.

Obesity				
Obesity prevalence (current) among adults (BMI >= 30.0 kg/m2 as calculated from self-reported height and weight) (age-adjusted %) ^{14b}	--	23.5%	--	24.8%
Obesity prevalence among children (BMI percentile for age >= 95th percentile) (% of children screened) ¹⁸	--	22.5%	--	16.6%

Chronic respiratory diseases				
<i>Prevalence</i>				
Asthma prevalence (current) among adults ^{14b}	--	9.6%	--	10.4%
Asthma prevalence (current) among children (K-8) ¹⁹	431	10.6%	82,279	12.1%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, or chronic bronchitis (lifetime) among adults ^{14b}	--	4.7%	--	4.4%
<i>Health care utilization¹⁷</i>				
Asthma ED visits	1,067	514.0	121,165	548.4
Asthma hospitalizations	153	73.5	20,302	87.1
Asthma outpatient visits	76	33.7	9,635	41.9
COPD ED visits	339	136.6	38,108	120.7
COPD hospitalizations	392	144.7	62,280	176.8
COPD outpatient visits	87	32.9	10,212	30.2

For all asthma and COPD indicators, statistics expressed as percentages (%) are age-adjusted percentages with the exception of asthma prevalence among children (crude percentage). Statistics expressed as numeric values are age-adjusted rates per 100,000.

Mental Health				
<i>Prevalence^{14b}</i>				
Mental health reported as 'not good' for 14 or more days in the past 30 days, among adults	--	12.7%	--	13.1%
<i>Health care utilization¹⁷</i>				
Mental health ED visits	7,046	2,931.5	640,054	2,807.7
Mental health hospitalizations	2,401	1,047.9	233,375	989.8
Mental health outpatient visits	163	57.5	41,200	175.9

For the above mental health indicators, statistics expressed as percentages (%) are age-adjusted percentages. Statistics expressed as numeric values are age-adjusted rates per 100,000.

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Youth mental health⁵				
Anxiety or severe stress among high school students	--	46.3%	--	--
Depression among high school students	--	35.2%	--	33.8%
Anxiety or severe stress among middle school students	--	26.5%	--	--
<i>For Somerville, anxiety or severe stress was defined as students "feeling tense, nervous, or worried every day for 2 or more weeks in a row during the past 30 days." The Massachusetts High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey did not assess this item. For Somerville and for Massachusetts, depression was defined as students feeling "so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 or more weeks in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities, during the past 12 months."</i>				
Substance Use				
Binge drinking in past 30 days among adults (5 or more drinks for men, or 4 or more drinks for women, on a single occasion) ^{14b}	--	20.3%	--	20.5%
Smoking prevalence among adults (having smoked >= 100 cigarettes in lifetime and currently smoke every day or some days) ^{14b}	--	12.1%	--	12.2%
<i>Health care utilization¹⁷</i>				
Substance use related ED visits	9,202	9,706.3	710,644	7,933.4
Substance use related hospitalizations	1,912	2,194.8	224,350	2,506.7
Substance use related outpatient visits	234	214.2	40,142	437.1
<i>Mortality</i>				
Opioid-related overdose deaths (crude rate per 100,000) ²⁰	75	18.5	10,242	29.4
<i>For the above substance use indicators, statistics expressed as percentages (%) are age-adjusted percentages. Health care utilization statistics are age-adjusted rates per 100,000. Opioid-related overdose deaths are crude rates per 100,000.</i>				
Youth substance use⁵				
Alcohol use in last 30 days among high school students	--	14.3%	--	29.8%
Smoking cigarettes/tobacco in last 30 days among high school students	--	2.6%	--	5.0%
Vaping (e-cigarette use) in last 30 days among high school students	--	11.3%	--	32.2%
Marijuana use in last 30 days among high school students	--	14.2%	--	26.0%
Prescription drug misuse in last 30 days among high school students	--	0.3%	--	--
Sexual & Reproductive Health				
Youth sexual activity⁵				
High school students who have ever had sexual intercourse	--	29.1%	--	36.9%
High school students who used condom or other physical protection at last intercourse (of those who have had sex)	--	56.9%	--	51.4%
Pregnancy & birth outcomes²¹				
Infants with low birthweight (% of live births)	52	6.6%	5,203	7.5%
Preterm births (% of live births)	62	7.8%	6,124	8.9%
Births to teen mothers ages 15-19 years (rate per 1,000)	9	5.5	1,658	7.3
Sexually transmitted infections (STI)²²				
HIV incidence	33	6.9	2,904	8.6
Chlamydia incidence	1,901	361.5	142,475	408.6
Gonorrhea incidence	653	134.1	34,126	100.7
Syphilis incidence	147	33.3	5,686	16.8
<i>For all STI indicators, statistics are age-adjusted rates per 100,000.</i>				
Injury and Self-Harm				
Motor vehicle accident deaths ¹⁶	6	1.5	2,073	6.1
Homicide deaths ¹⁶	4	--	836	2.4
Firearm deaths ²³	4	--	999	3.6
Suicide deaths ¹⁶	34	8.4	3,347	9.8
<i>For all of the above injury and self-harm indicators, statistics are crude rates per 100,000. Rates are not calculated for death counts fewer than 6. Rates based on death counts fewer than 20 are considered statistically unstable and should be interpreted with caution.</i>				
Youth self-harm⁵				
Self-harm among high school students	--	13.5%	--	--

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Seriously considering suicide among high school students	--	14.2%	--	17.5%
Attempting suicide among high school students	--	5.2%	--	7.3%
Self-harm among middle school students	--	10.5%	--	--
Seriously considering suicide among middle school students	--	12.6%	--	--
Attempting suicide among middle school students	--	2.9%	--	--
<i>Self-harm, seriously considering suicide, and attempting suicide, were assessed for the past 12-month time period. The Massachusetts High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey did not assess self-harm.</i>				
Overall Mortality				
Total deaths (age-adjusted rate per 100,000) ¹⁶	2,105	676.2	301,850	686.4

Sources

- 1 US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates
- 2 US Census Bureau, Decennial Census Redistricting Data (PL 94-171) 2020 vs. 2010
- 3 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, District Profiles, 2020-21 School Year
- 4 Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State Election Enrollment Statistics, 2020; US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020 5-Year Estimates, Table B29001
- 5 2020 Somerville High School Health Survey (Grades 9-12); 2019 Somerville Middle School Health Survey (Grades 6-8); 2019 Massachusetts High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (CDC)
There is no Massachusetts Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey. For all students health surveys, published results provide statistics, but not absolute estimates.
- 6 US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) 2019, Table 5 (by State) and Table 8 (by City)
- 7 Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) 2021 Drinking Water Test Results (Published June 2022)
- 8 Eviction Lab, 2016
- 9 Massachusetts Trial Court, Department of Research and Planning, Summary Process Executions Issued (Tableau Public Dashboard), 2021
- 10 US Department of Education, EDFacts SY2019-20 Homeless Students Enrolled; MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, 2019-2020 District Enrollment
- 11 Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance, Economic Research Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Calendar Year 2020
- 12 Greater Boston Food Bank 2021 Closing the Meal Gap (2019 Estimates). Made possible by: Gundersen, C., M. Strayer, A. Dewey, M. Hake, & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2021: An Analysis of County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2019. Feeding America, 2021.
- 13 Food Bank of Western MA, SNAP GAP 2021
- 14a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PLACES; Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2018
- 14b Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PLACES; Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2019
For indicators at the community level, data were sourced from the CDC PLACES 2021 release, a dataset containing Census tract and city/town level estimates of health outcomes, preventive care, and health behavior indicators. Estimates are modeled using BRFSS results extrapolated based on the demographic composition of the geographic area. They are NOT direct survey results. For indicators at the state level, data were sourced directly from the BRFSS Prevalence and Trends Tool, which provides direct estimates at the state level. Dates are aligned to the same year (2018 or 2019) between community and state. For all indicators sourced from PLACES and BRFSS, statistical estimates are provided, but not absolute estimates.
- 15 Massachusetts Cancer Registry, Cancer Incidence in Massachusetts City/Town Supplement 2011-2015
- 16 Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Selected Causes of Death, 2016-2020 5-Year Aggregate
- 17 Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), Massachusetts Acute Hospital Case Mix Database, 2016-2019 4-Year Aggregate
- 18 Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Results from the Body Mass Index Screening Massachusetts Public School Districts, 2017
- 19 Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Bureau of Environmental Health, Pediatric Asthma 2016-2017
- 20 Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Current opioid statistics, 2016-2020
- 21 Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Births, 2016-2020 Annual Average
- 22 Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, 2016-2020 5-Year Aggregate
- 23 Massachusetts Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS), 2016-2019

Community Data Profile

Cambridge Health Alliance 2022 Regional Wellbeing Assessment

Overview

This Community Data Profile compiles statistics for more than 100 indicators related to community wellbeing. Indicators are organized in five categories. Each category may be further divided into topics and sub-topics.

Demographics

Social Environment | PEOPLE

Natural and Built Environment | PLACE

Economic and Education Environment | EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY

Healthcare and Health Outcomes

Navigating the Community Data Profile

Category → Natural and Built Environment | PLACE

Topic → Water Quality⁷

Sub-topic → SNAP enrollment indicators⁷

Indicator → Households with children under 18 years receiving SNAP benefits

Topic footnotes in italics provide additional details about the indicators above.

Superscript numbers associated with each indicator, or with all indicators in a topic or sub-topic, match to Sources at the bottom of the profile. The Source also includes the time period of reference.

The estimate is the count, or number, of observations: for example, the number of people eligible for but not enrolled in SNAP, or the number of workers who commute by bicycle.

Color codes draw attention to how certain community statistics compare to state statistics. See the Interpreting Color Coding section for more details.

The statistic is the value of the associated indicator: for example, the SNAP Gap, or the percentage of workers who commute by bicycle. The measurement unit of the statistic may be specified in the statistic itself (for example, with the symbol % to indicate percentage), in the name of the indicator (for example parts per billion), or in the topic footnotes (for example, all indicators in a topic expressed as age-adjusted rates per 100,000).

Columns display data for the Community and MA.

	Community		Massachusetts	
	Estimate	Statistic	Estimate	Statistic
Natural and Built Environment PLACE				
Water Quality⁷				
Lead 90% value (parts per billion, ppb)	--	16.2	--	8.6
Copper 90% value (parts per billion, ppb)	--	108.0	--	132.0
<i>For lead and copper levels, the values in the Massachusetts column reflect the values for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) service area, not the state overall. The action level for lead is 15 ppb. The action level for copper is 1300 ppb.</i>				
Food Security				
Food insecurity rate ¹²	5,030	7.5%	566,930	8.2%
SNAP Gap (persons eligible but not enrolled in SNAP) ¹³	8,062	48.6%	705,424	43.9%
SNAP enrollment indicators⁷				
Households receiving SNAP benefits	2,882	12.0%	305,089	11.7%
Households with persons 60 years and older receiving SNAP benefits	865	15.4%	127,108	12.0%
Households with children under 18 years receiving SNAP benefits	1,538	16.5%	121,103	15.9%
Transportation				
Means of Transportation to Work				
Car, truck, or van		55.2%	2,743,859	77.4%
Public transportation (excl		37.3%	368,684	10.4%
Walked		3.6%	173,707	4.9%
Bicycle	99	0.8%	31,905	0.9%
Worked from home	665	3.0%	184,342	5.2%
<i>Means of transportation to work is calculated for the population of workers ages 16 years and older.</i>				
Sources				
1 US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates				
7 Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) 2021 Drinking Water Test Results (Published June 2022)				
12 Greater Boston Food Bank 2021 Closing the Meal Gap (2019 Estimates). Made possible by: Gundersen, C., M. Strayer, A. Dewey, M. Hake, & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap				
13 Food Bank of Western MA, SNAP GAP 2021				

Estimates, Measurement Units, and Time Periods

Estimates: For some indicators, only a statistic is reported, without an estimate. This may occur in three situations. First, some surveys report only the total sample size and the statistics, but not the number of respondents for each item (for example, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys). Second, model-based estimates are reported as statistics only (for example, indicators drawn from the CDC PLACES data set). Third, an estimate separate from the statistic may not be applicable for certain indicators (for example, lead levels in drinking water, or population size).

Measurement Units: Most statistics are expressed as percentages or as rates. Some indicators are reported using other measurement units -- for example, counts, dollars, parts per billion, or other units. Percentages are noted using the symbol (%) next to the value of the statistic. Percentages that are age-adjusted are specified. Rates are specified as crude or age-adjusted, along with the population to which they are standardized (for example, per 100,000, or per 1,000). Measurement unit details are described either in the name of the indicator, or as a topic footnote pertaining to all indicators within a particular topic or sub-topic.

Time Periods: Some statistics may not be available until several years after the period of observation, or may not have been updated in several years. The Sources section specifies the date or time period that each indicator refers to. Time lags in data availability are important to take into account

Interpreting the Color Coding

Statistics are color coded green, yellow, or orange to draw attention to how indicators of community wellbeing compare to the Massachusetts average or another reference level. Unless otherwise indicated, these color codes are not intended to signal statistical significance nor to imply any particular action. They can be used as a starting point for discussion.

	For indicators of community strengths:	For indicators of harms or inequities:
Green	the value of the statistic is at least 5% higher than the state average	the value of the statistic is at least 5% lower than the state average
Yellow	the value of the statistic is within 5% above or below the state average	
Orange	the value of the statistic is at least 5% lower than the state average	the value of the statistic is at least 5% higher than the state average

For indicators that include a specific reference level (e.g. lead in water), color coding is applied relative to that level, rather than to a state average. The reference level may also be a regional, not state, average, which will be noted in the indicator footnote as an exception.

For cancer incidence (expressed as Standardized Incidence Ratios), color coding *does* indicate statistical significance. Green indicates the SIR is significantly lower than expected. Orange indicates the SIR is significantly higher than expected. Yellow indicates the SIR is not statistically significantly different than expected.

No color codes are applied to the demographics of the community, nor to indicators where there is not a clear "strength" or "harm" in directionality. Also, no color coding is applied if there is no comparative statistic for Massachusetts or an applicable region.