

# Primary Care in Massachusetts

A high-functioning primary care system leads to better patient outcomes, lower costs, and more equitable care. Tracking the health of primary care in Massachusetts is essential for identifying areas that need strengthening and monitoring the impact of investments.



## FINANCE

METRICS FOCUSED  
ON SPENDING FOR  
PRIMARY CARE  
SERVICES

[EXPLORE](#) ►

In 2022, MassHealth MCO and ACO-As had the highest percentage of spending on primary care (7.5%), as well as the highest use of alternative payment methods.

Medicare Advantage plans had the lowest primary care spending (4.2%) compared with other insurance categories in 2022.



## PERFORMANCE

METRICS FOCUSED  
ON ACCESS AND  
CARE

[EXPLORE ACCESS](#) ►

[EXPLORE CARE](#) ►

In 2023, 41.2% of residents reported difficulty obtaining necessary health care in the past 12 months, an increase from 33.0% in 2021.

Between 2018 and 2022, cervical cancer screening rates dropped by 5.2 percentage points.



## CAPACITY

METRICS FOCUSED  
ON THE PRIMARY  
CARE WORKFORCE  
AND PIPELINE

[EXPLORE](#) ►

In 2021, 5.6% of physicians left primary care in Massachusetts, an increase from 3.1% in 2019.

In 2023, 22% of Massachusetts medical school graduates were practicing in primary care six to eight years after graduation.



## EQUITY

METRICS FOCUSED  
ON ASSESSING  
INEQUITIES IN THE  
SYSTEM

[EXPLORE](#) ►

There were substantial racial and ethnic disparities in access to and utilization of primary care.

In 2023, compared with other racial and ethnic groups, Hispanic residents reported lower rates of having a preventive care visit and higher rates of avoidable emergency department visits.

## CONTEXT

[CONTEXT ON THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY CARE MARKET, IMPACTS OF COVID-19, AND AT-A-GLANCE HEALTH OUTCOMES MEASURES](#)

[EXPLORE](#) ►

Metrics included in this dashboard have been collected from various data sources. The Primary Care Dashboard databook includes multi-year trends where data is available. For additional information see the Primary Care [interactive Tableau dashboard](#), [databook](#), and [technical appendix](#).

## CONTEXT ON THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

At-a-glance health outcomes measures in Massachusetts and market notes

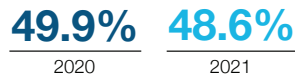
High-quality primary care is the provision of whole-person, integrated, accessible, and equitable health care by interprofessional teams who are accountable for addressing the majority of an individual’s health and wellness needs across settings and through sustained relationships with patients, families, and communities (as defined by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine [NASEM]).

Metrics in this dashboard are sourced from various publicly available datasets and reflect the most recent data available. Some of the metrics include data from the COVID-19 pandemic, during which primary care and preventive visits, along with other services, may have been delayed or cancelled.

Additional data stratified by race/ethnicity for these health outcomes measures are included in the [databook](#).

### Percentage of Residents Who Have a PCP as Part of Plan Design

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who have a primary care physician (PCP) as part of plan design.



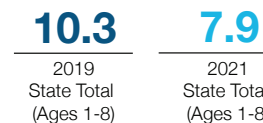
### Infant and Child Mortality

Infant and child mortality in Massachusetts.

#### Infants (per 1,000)



#### Children (per 100,000)



### Maternal Mortality<sup>1</sup>

Number of pregnancy related deaths per 100,000 Massachusetts residents live births.



### Adult Life Expectancy

Adult life expectancy at birth in Massachusetts.

#### Males

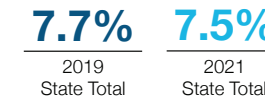


#### Females



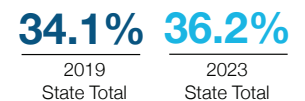
### Low Birth Weight

Percentage of all newborns in Massachusetts who have low birth weight, stratified by race/ethnicity.



### Avoidable Emergency Department (ED) Use

Of Massachusetts residents who had at least one ED visit in the past 12 months, percentage who reported that their most recent ED visit could have been treated by a general doctor if one had been available.



Note: <sup>1</sup>Only one year of data displayed due to data availability.

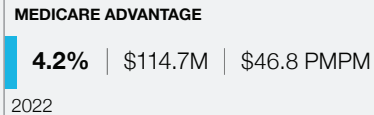
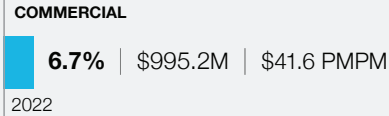


## FINANCE

Metrics focused on spending for primary care services

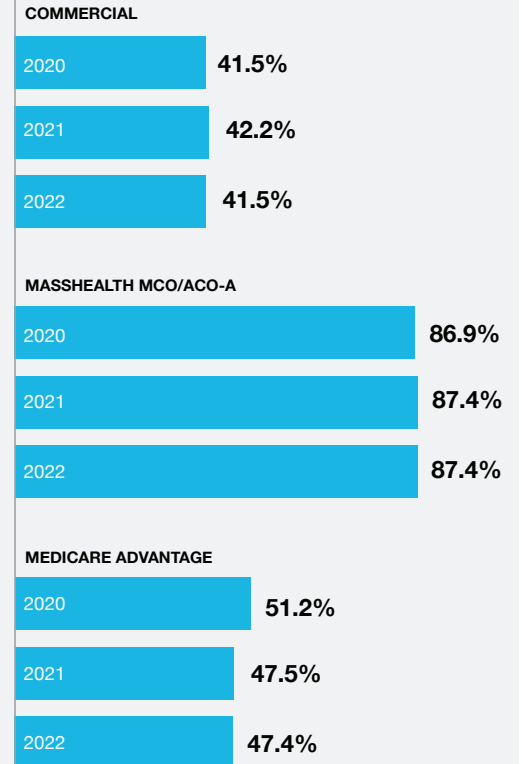
### Primary Care Spending

Spending on primary care services, and as a percentage of total medical spending by insurance category and on a per member per month (PMPM) basis.



### Managed Member Months Under an APM

The share of Massachusetts resident member months whose care is paid for under an Alternative Payment Method (APM).



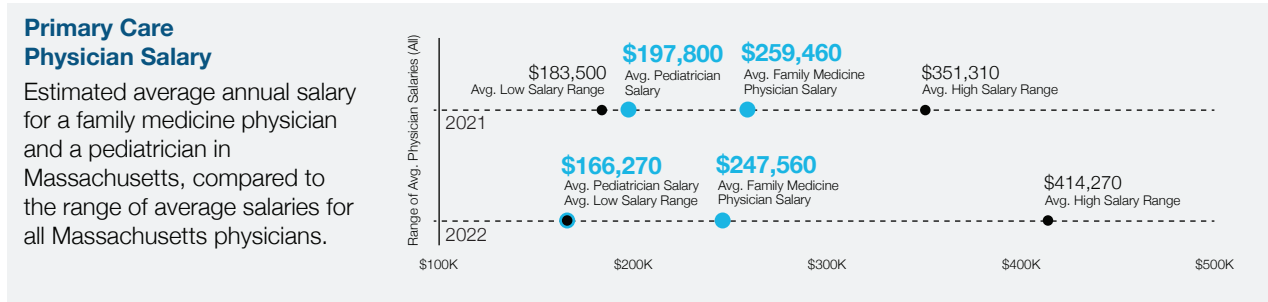
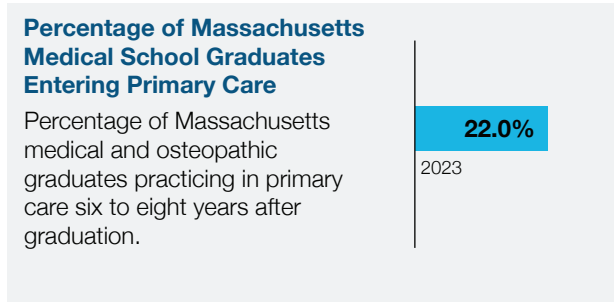
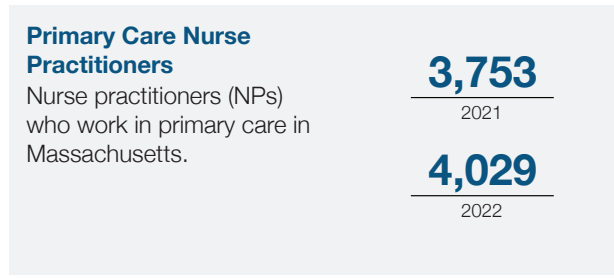
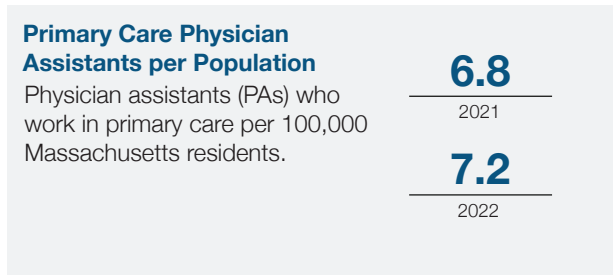
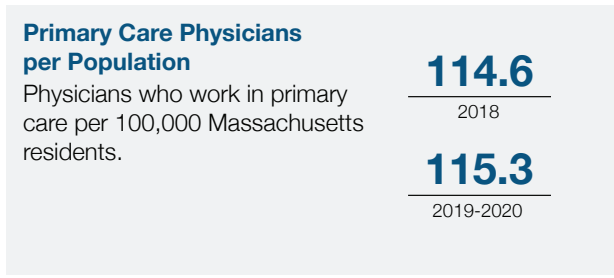
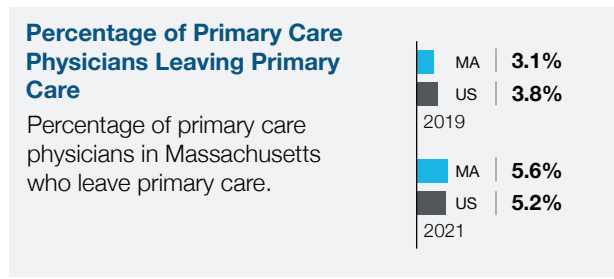
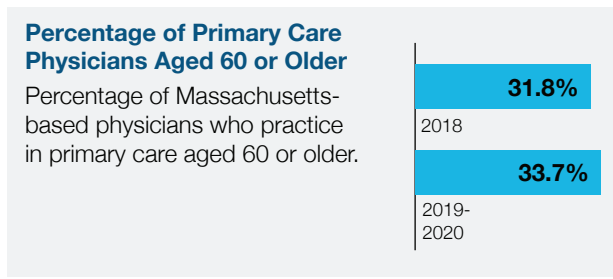
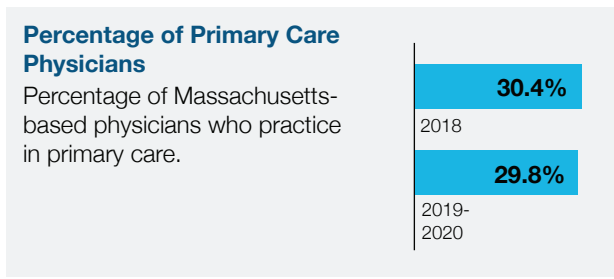
For at-a-glance health outcomes measures in Massachusetts, see the [context page](#). For additional information on the metrics displayed above, including data sources, see [technical appendix](#) and [databook](#).

Notes: Data for original Medicare was not available for this analysis. Analysis represents data from commercial payers that submitted CY2022 data: Aetna, BCBSMA, CCA, Cigna, Fallon, HPHC, HPI, MGBHP, THP, THPP, United, and United Medicare Advantage representing approximately 92% of the commercial market, 60% of the MassHealth MCO/ACO-A market, and 64% of the Medicare Advantage market in 2022. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Previously published data points are not comparable, differences are due to payer exclusions.

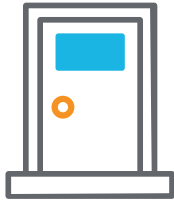


## CAPACITY

Metrics focused on the primary care workforce and pipeline



For at-a-glance health outcomes measures in Massachusetts, see the [context page](#). For additional information on the metrics displayed above, including data sources, see [technical appendix](#) and [databook](#).

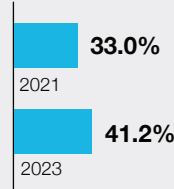


## ACCESS

Metrics focused on access to primary care

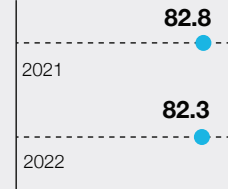
### Difficulty Obtaining Necessary Health Care

Percentage of MA residents who reported that they had difficulty obtaining necessary health care in the past 12 months.



### Primary Care Access (Adult, Commercial)

MA patient-reported experiences of primary care access for adult commercially insured members, based on aggregate survey responses, on a 0-100 scale.



### Primary Care Access (Child, Commercial)

MA patient-reported experiences of primary care access for pediatric commercially insured members, based on aggregate survey responses, on a 0-100 scale.



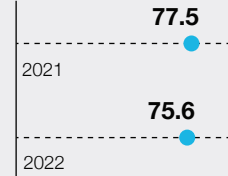
### Residents with a Primary Care Provider

Percentage of MA residents who reported that they have a primary care provider.



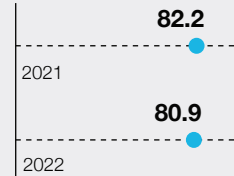
### Primary Care Access (Adult, MassHealth)

MA patient-reported experiences of primary care access for adult MassHealth members, based on aggregate survey responses, on a 0-100 scale.



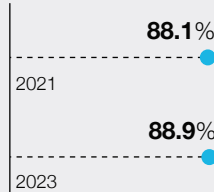
### Primary Care Access (Child, MassHealth)

MA patient-reported experiences of primary care access for pediatric MassHealth members, based on aggregate survey responses, on a 0-100 scale.



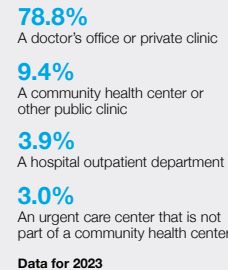
### Usual Source of Care

Percentage of MA residents who reported that they have a usual source of care.



### Usual Source of Care by Setting Type

Percentage of MA residents who reported that they have a usual source of care and by the type of care setting attended.



For at-a-glance health outcomes measures in Massachusetts, see the [context page](#). For additional information on the metrics displayed above, including data sources, see [technical appendix](#) and [databook](#).

Note: Residents Who Have a Primary Care Provider and Usual Source of Care: Patient Reported Type Clinic are new Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey questions as of 2023.



FINANCE



CAPACITY



ACCESS



CARE



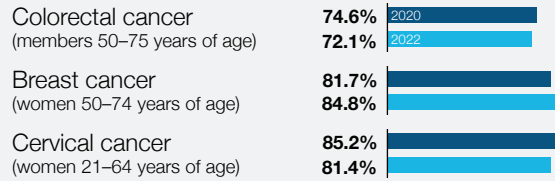
EQUITY



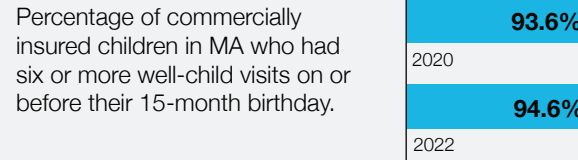
## CARE

Metrics focused on utilization and quality of primary care

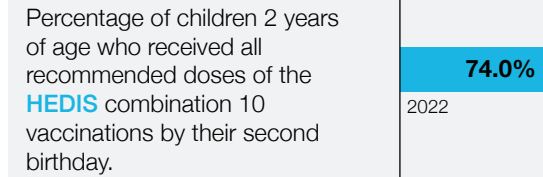
### Screenings (Adult, Commercial)



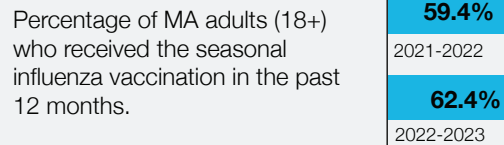
### Well-Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life, 0-15 Months



### Childhood Immunization Status (Combination 10)



### Adult Influenza Vaccinations



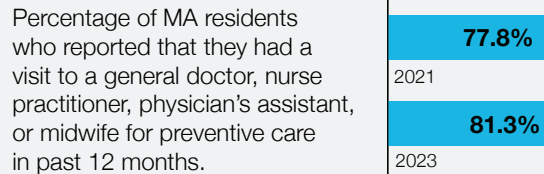
### Patient-Provider Communication (Commercial)



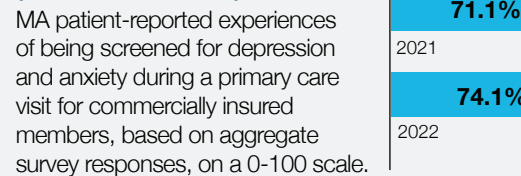
### Patient-Provider Communication (MassHealth)



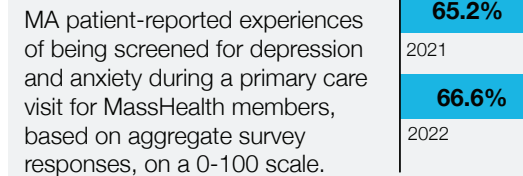
### Preventive Care Visit



### Behavioral Health Screening (Adult, Commercial)

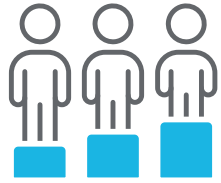


### Behavioral Health Screening (Adult, MassHealth)



For at-a-glance health outcomes measures in Massachusetts, see the [context page](#). For additional information on the metrics displayed above, including data sources, see [technical appendix](#) and [databook](#).

Note: Childhood Immunization Status (Combination 10) data is newly available as of 2023.



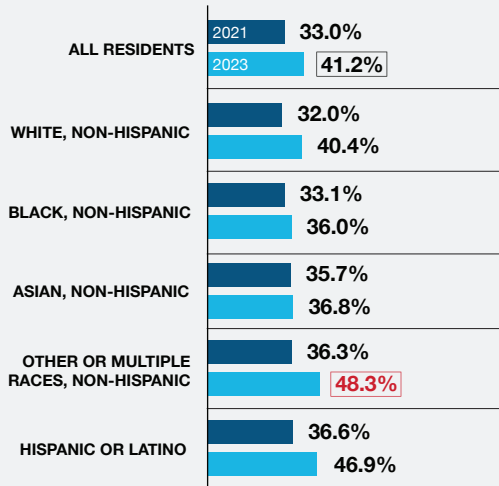
## EQUITY

Metrics focused on assessing inequities in the system

### Difficulty Obtaining Necessary Health Care, by Race/Ethnicity

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who reported that they had difficulty obtaining necessary health care in the past 12 months, stratified by resident race/ethnicity.

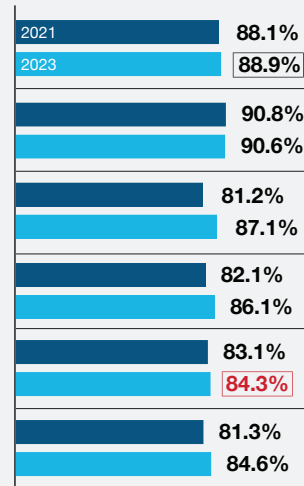
*Lower is better.*



### Usual Source of Care, by Race/Ethnicity

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who reported that they have a usual source of care, stratified by resident race/ethnicity.

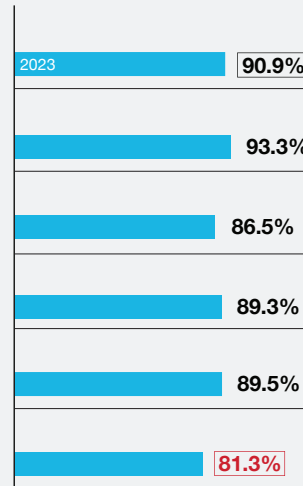
*Higher is better.*



### Residents with a Primary Care Provider, by Race/Ethnicity

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who reported that they have a primary care provider, stratified by race/ethnicity.

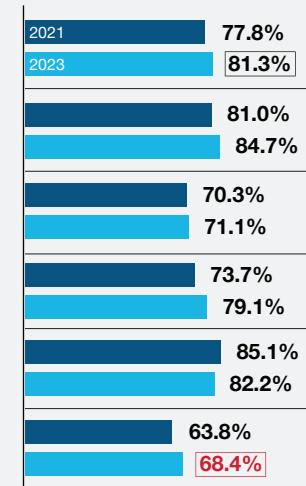
*Higher is better.*



### Preventive Care Visit, by Race/Ethnicity

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who reported that they had a visit to a general doctor, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or midwife for preventive care in past 12 months, stratified by resident race/ethnicity.

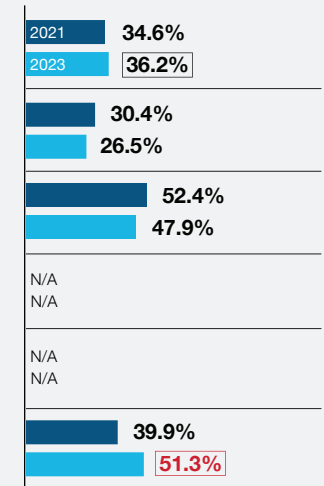
*Higher is better.*



### Avoidable Emergency Department (ED) Use, by Race/Ethnicity

Of Massachusetts residents who had at least one ED visit in the past 12 months, percentage who reported that their most recent ED visit could have been treated by a general doctor if one had been available, stratified by resident race/ethnicity.

*Lower is better.*



For at-a-glance health outcomes measures in Massachusetts, see the [context page](#). For additional information on the metrics displayed above, including data sources, see [technical appendix](#) and [databook](#).

Notes: Red boxes identify worst performing percentage for each metric compared with percentages for all residents (gray boxes) for each metric in 2023. Residents Who Have a Primary Care Provider is newly available as of 2023. Regional stratifications are included in the primary care interactive tableau. N/A = Suppressed due to cell size.