

2026 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 2024, MassHealth had the highest percentage of spending on primary care (8.4%) followed by commercial (6.6%) and Medicare Advantage (4.2%).

While total spending on primary care services for commercial members increased from \$1.8 billion to \$2.0 billion in 2025, spending on other services outpaced that of primary care, resulting in a decline in the proportion of primary care spending.



CAPACITY

METRICS FOCUSED ON THE PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE AND PIPELINE

[EXPLORE](#) ▶

In 2024, medical assistants (7.9%) and physician assistants/NPs/Other APRNs (7.8%) had the highest primary care sector job vacancy rates.

Bristol, Plymouth, and Franklin counties had the fewest primary care physicians per 1,000 MA residents in 2023. Suffolk county had the highest.



UTILIZATION

METRICS FOCUSED ON THE USE OF PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

[EXPLORE](#) ▶

In 2025, 75.1% of MA residents reported having a preventative care visit in the past 12 months, a decrease from 81.3% in 2023.

In 2024, 10.7% of MA residents received care at a Federally Qualified Health Center, a slight increase from 2023.



ACCESS

METRICS FOCUSED ON ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

[EXPLORE](#) ▶

In 2025, 43.1% of MA residents reported difficulty obtaining necessary health care in the past 12 months, an increase from 41.2% in 2023. Thirty percent of residents reported difficulty accessing primary care in 2025.

In 2025, 87.5% of MA residents reported having a usual source of care, compared with 88.9% in 2023.



CARE

METRICS FOCUSED ON THE QUALITY OF PRIMARY CARE

[EXPLORE](#) ▶

The rate of childhood immunizations among commercially insured children declined 0.2 percentage points from 72.6% in 2023 to 72.4% in 2024.

Among commercially insured adults with hypertension, 77.2% of adults had controlled high blood pressure, an increase from 76.8% in 2023 (higher is better).



EQUITY

METRICS FOCUSED ON ASSESSING INEQUITIES IN THE SYSTEM

[EXPLORE](#) ▶

The percentage of residents who reported having difficulty obtaining necessary health care increased in most MA regions, with Western MA residents reporting the highest percentage (50.4%).

Only 61.7% of non-Hispanic Black residents reported having a preventative care visit in 2025. The rate of MA residents who had a preventative care visit in the prior year declined across all races/ethnicities between 2023 and 2025.

CONTEXT

NOTES ON THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY CARE MARKET 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 workbook](#), [databook](#), and [technical appendix](#).



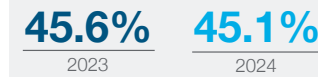
CONTEXT ON THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

These health and community indicators provide essential context for understanding the primary care landscape and the measures related to access, quality, and utilization that illustrate the underlying needs across communities in the Commonwealth.

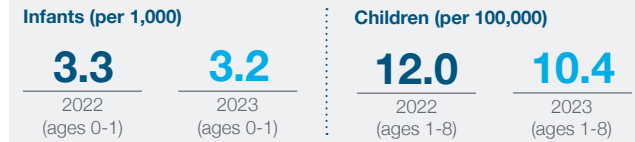
This dashboard covers a period of ongoing policy efforts to reshape the Commonwealth's primary care system to improve access, equity, and affordability. In 2025, the Massachusetts Legislature created a Primary Care Access, Delivery, and Payment Task Force to strengthen primary care.¹ To date, recommendations from the Task Force include standardizing data and reporting, setting a target to increase primary care spending to 15 percent (or double current levels) over 5 years, and expanding advanced payment models, with future deliverables focused on service delivery needs, plan design, and workforce development. In 2023, MassHealth also introduced a sub-capitation model for primary care within accountable care organizations (ACOs). Despite these efforts, federal policy changes and affordability challenges may disrupt coverage and worsen access, underscoring the need for continued monitoring and reform.

Metrics in this dashboard are sourced from CHIA and external publicly available datasets reflecting the most recent data available. Additional stratifications for these measures are included in the interactive tableau workbook.

Residents With 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
Number of deaths of children ages 0-8 in Massachusetts.



Maternal Mortality
Number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 Massachusetts resident live births.



Adult Life Expectancy
Average expected life span in Massachusetts, at birth.



Low Birth Weight
Percentage of all newborns in Massachusetts whose birth weight is below 5.5 lbs.



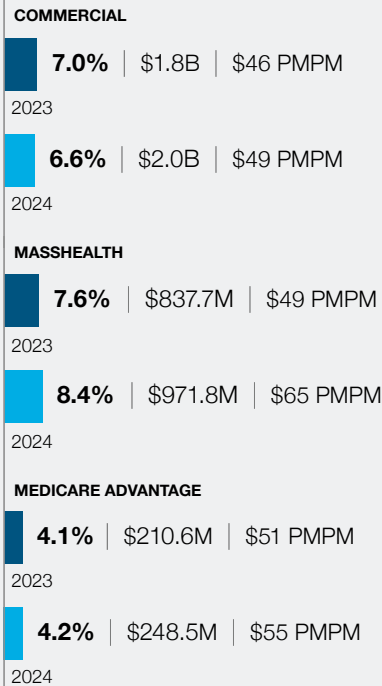


FINANCE *(page 1 of 2)*

Health care expenditures reflect both price—the amount paid to providers by plans and patients—and use of services. Patterns of primary care spending overall and by service category across the Commonwealth offer insights into how and where resources and primary care dollars are allocated. Understanding these trends can guide decision-making on primary care investment and health care spending allocation.

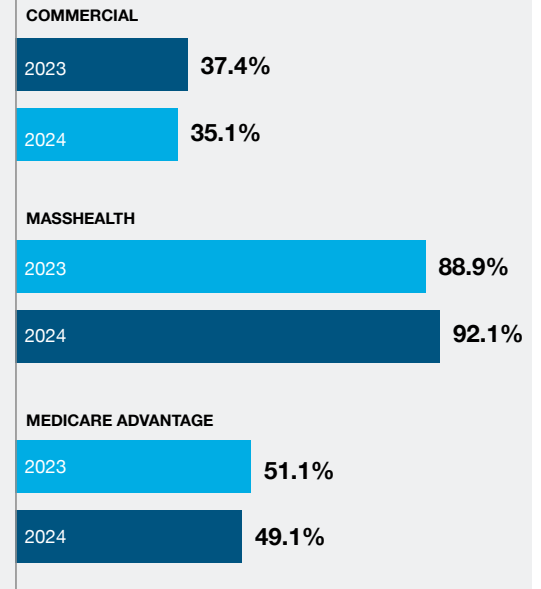
Overall Primary Care Spending

Spending on primary care services 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), which provides incentives to reduce overall costs (e.g., reduce unnecessary services and provide care in the most appropriate setting) while maintaining or improving quality.



[EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

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

Notes: Data for Original Medicare not available for this analysis. For commercial partial-claim data, CHIA estimated pharmacy spending by service type. MassHealth-submitted data includes data for members for which MassHealth is the primary payer, including ACPP, MCO, PCACO, and PCC. MassHealth members with FFS coverage (such as FFS dual eligibility, FFS with third-party liability, FFS limited and supplemental payments to providers), SCO, PACE, and One Care members are not included in this analysis. CHIA's primary care definition reflected in this report includes obstetric services such as deliveries that are billed using bundled payments. The exclusion of obstetric services from the definition of primary care results in a decrease in the proportion spent on primary care to 6.1% for commercial, 7.7% for MassHealth, and no change for Medicare Advantage (4.2%). Private commercial payers and MassHealth included facility claims in primary care definition for CY 2023 and CY 2024; review CHIA's PCBH Data Reporting Specifications for more information on inclusion of facility claims. Due to payer exclusions in prior years, data may not tie to previously published data points. Data does not reflect aggregate statewide spending, and findings should not be extrapolated for that purpose. Totals do not include any MassHealth supplemental payments. Totals may not sum due to rounding. See technical appendix for more information.



FINANCE *(page 2 of 2)*

Health care expenditures reflect both price—the amount paid to providers by plans and patients—and use of services. Patterns of primary care spending overall and by service category across the Commonwealth offer insights into how and where resources and primary care dollars are allocated. Understanding these trends can guide decision-making on primary care investment and health care spending allocation.

Primary Care Office Visits

Percentage of spending made for the evaluation and management of services delivered in an office or other outpatient setting, including telehealth delivered by a primary care provider type.

Category	2023	2024
COMMERCIAL	54.4%	55.0%
MASSHEALTH	18.3%	15.3%
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	68.8%	70.6%

Primary Care Preventive Visits

Percentage of spending made for preventive medicine services, including exams, screenings, and counseling delivered by a primary care provider type.

Category	2023	2024
COMMERCIAL	26.9%	26.4%
MASSHEALTH	7.2%	4.5%
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	5.1%	4.4%

Primary Care Obstetric Visits

Percentage of spending made for routine gynecological and obstetric care as well as OB/GYN evaluation and management services.

Category	2023	2024
COMMERCIAL	8.1%	7.9%
MASSHEALTH	5.9%	5.9%

Primary Care Immunizations and Injections

Percentage of spending made for injections, infusions, and vaccines administered by a primary care provider type.

Category	2023	2024
COMMERCIAL	7.9%	7.2%
MASSHEALTH	2.9%	2.2%
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	6.4%	5.1%

Primary Care Home/Nursing Facility Visits

Percentage of spending made for evaluation and management services delivered in the home, rest home, or nursing facility by a primary care provider type.

Category	2023	2024
COMMERCIAL	0.2%	0.2%
MASSHEALTH	0.8%	1.2%
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	9.8%	9.3%

Primary Care Other PC Visits

Percentage of spending made for Medicare enrollment visits, annual wellness visits, and chronic disease care delivered by a primary care provider type.

Category	2023	2024
COMMERCIAL	1.7%	1.9%
MASSHEALTH	6.3%	1.8%
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	7.4%	7.9%

Primary Care Behavioral Health Screening

Percentage of spending made for behavioral health screenings delivered by a primary care provider type.

Category	2023	2024
COMMERCIAL	0.8%	1.3%
MASSHEALTH	1.1%	0.7%
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	0.5%	0.7%

Behavioral Health Integration

Additional primary care spending on integrated behavioral health outpatient services delivered by a primary care provider.

Category	2024
COMMERCIAL	\$280.6M
MASSHEALTH	\$52.0M
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE	\$6.9M

EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS ▶

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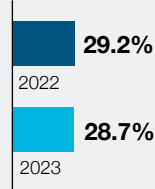


CAPACITY *(page 1 of 3)*

Understanding the composition, stability, and pipeline of the primary care workforce in Massachusetts illustrates critical information about who is delivering care as well as whether the primary care system can meet current and future demand.

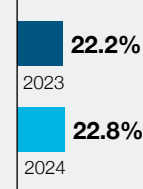
Primary Care Physicians

Percentage of Massachusetts-based physicians who practice in primary care.



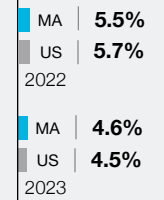
Primary Care Physicians Age 65+

Percentage of Massachusetts-based physicians who practice in primary care and are age 65 or older.



Physicians Leaving Primary Care

Percentage of primary care physicians in Massachusetts who no longer provide primary care services.



Primary Care Physicians per Population

Number of physicians working in primary care per 100,000 Massachusetts residents.



Primary Care Physician Assistants per Population

Number of physician assistants (PAs) working in primary care per 100,000 Massachusetts residents.



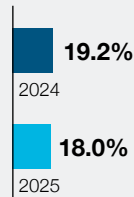
Primary Care Nurse Practitioners

Total number of nurse practitioners (NPs) working in primary care in Massachusetts.



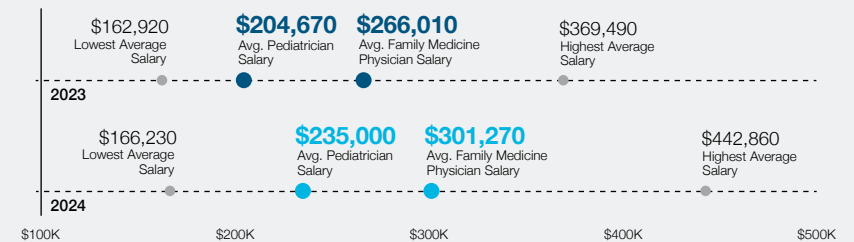
Massachusetts Medical School Graduates Entering Primary Care

Percentage of Massachusetts medical and osteopathic graduates practicing in primary care 6 to 8 years after graduation.



Primary Care Physician Salaries

Estimated average annual salaries for a family medicine physician and a pediatrician in Massachusetts compared with the average salary range across all Massachusetts physicians.



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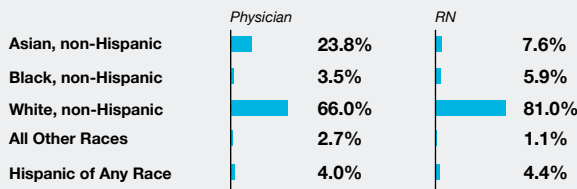


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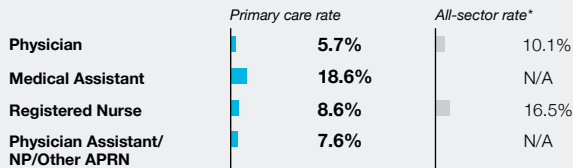
Primary Care Clinician Characteristics

Percentage of Massachusetts primary care physicians and registered nurses (RNs) by race/ethnicity in 2024.



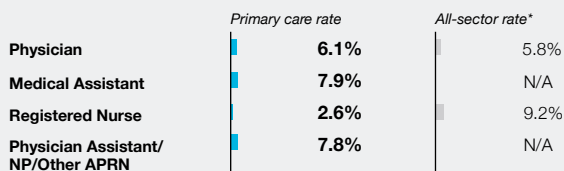
Primary Care Turnover

Rate of primary care employees leaving their role for any reason in 2024.



Primary Care Vacancies

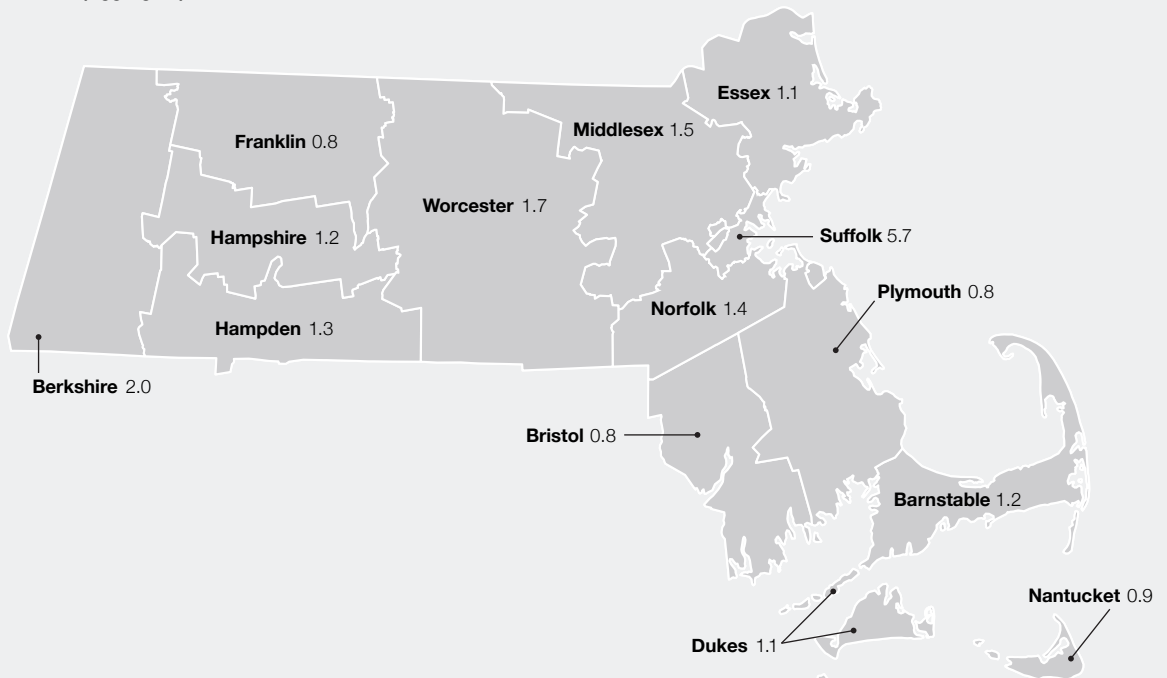
Rate of primary care job vacancies in 2024.



PCPs by Geography

Primary care physicians (PCPs) per 1,000 MA residents by county in 2023.

State Total (Aggregate): 1.8



*Refers to all occupation sectors captured in CHIA's workforce survey including primary care, hospitals, long-term care, behavioral health, and others. Please see CHIA's [Workforce Survey technical appendix](#) and [TME by Community technical appendix](#) for more information.

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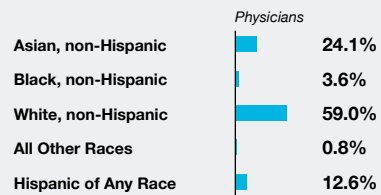


CAPACITY (page 3 of 3)

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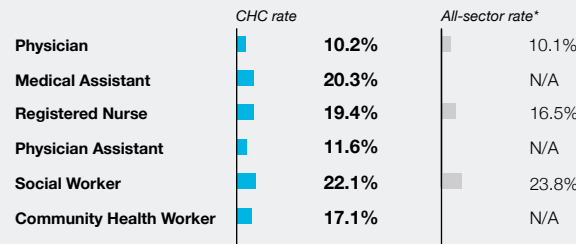
Community Health Center Clinician Characteristics

Percentage of Massachusetts community health center physicians by race/ethnicity in 2024.



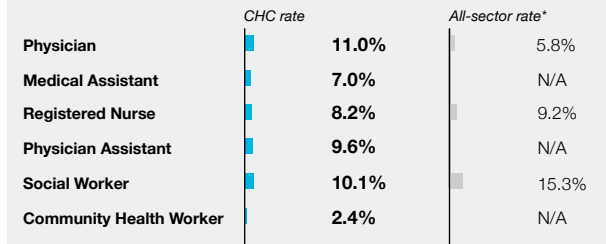
Community Health Center Turnover

Rate of community health center employees leaving their role for any reason in 2024.



Community Health Center Vacancies

Rate of community health center vacancies in 2024.



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UTILIZATION

Utilization is the extent to which individuals engage with the health care system and use medical services. CHIA monitors utilization across acute and non-acute settings. Measures of visit types and volume illustrate how often, where, and in what ways patients use primary care. Utilization disparities may reflect unmet needs in communities across Massachusetts.

Preventive Care Visit
 Percentage of MA residents who reported that they had a visit to a general doctor, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or midwife for preventive care in the past 12 months.

2023	81.3%
2025	75.1%

FQHC Patients Served
 Percentage of MA residents who received medical care at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

2023	10.3%
2024	10.7%

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

2023	36.2%
2025	31.8%

Well-Child Visits, 0-15 Months (Commercial)
 Percentage of children who had 6 or more well-child visits on or before their 15-month birthday.

2023	94.7%
2025	95.0%

Well-Child Visits, 3-21 Months (MassHealth)*
 Percentage of children who had 6 or more well-child visits between their 3-month and 21-month birthday.

2024	70.3%
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Adult Influenza Vaccinations
 Percentage of MA adults (age 18+) who received the seasonal influenza vaccination in the past 12 months.

2023-2024	59.2%
2024-2025	55.2%

Prenatal and Postpartum Care (Commercial)

Timeliness of Prenatal Care
 Percentage of deliveries that received a prenatal care visit in the first trimester on or before the enrollment start date or within 42 days of enrollment in the organization.

2023	84.9%
2024	78.5%

Postpartum Care
 Percentage of deliveries that had a postpartum visit 7 to 84 days after delivery.

2023	91.9%
2024	87.3%

Prenatal and Postpartum Care (MassHealth)

Timeliness of Prenatal Care*
 Percentage of deliveries that received a prenatal care visit in the first trimester on or before the enrollment start date or within 42 days of enrollment in the organization.

2023	89.3%
2024	80.5%

Postpartum Care*
 Percentage of deliveries that had a postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery.

2023	83.8%
2024	81.8%

*Managed care only population.
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 Notes: MassHealth measure results inclusive of FFS and Managed Care where available.



FINANCE



CAPACITY



UTILIZATION



ACCESS



CARE



EQUITY



ACCESS

Measures of access to health care services highlight the availability of primary care services and residents' ability to obtain needed and appropriate care. Understanding these trends can help guide efforts to reduce barriers and improve Massachusetts residents' access to primary care.

Difficulty Accessing Necessary Health Care

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



Difficulty Accessing Any Care by Type of Difficulty

Percentage of MA residents reporting specific types of difficulties obtaining necessary health care in the past 12 months.



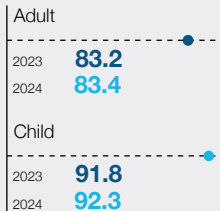
Difficulty Accessing Primary Care

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



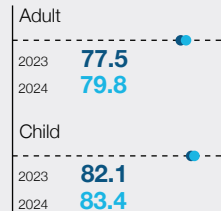
Experiences Accessing Primary Care (Commercial)

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



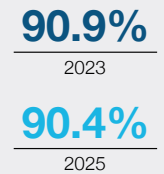
Experiences Accessing Primary Care (MassHealth)

Patient-reported experiences accessing primary care for MassHealth members, based on aggregate survey responses on a 0-100 scale.



Residents With a Primary Care Provider

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



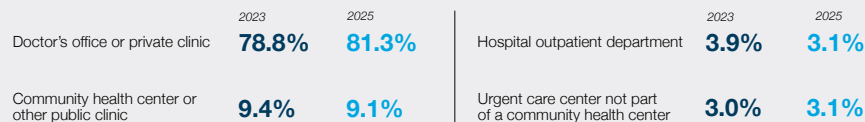
Usual Source of Care

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



Usual Source of Care by Setting

Percentage of MA residents who reported they had a usual source of care, by type of care setting.



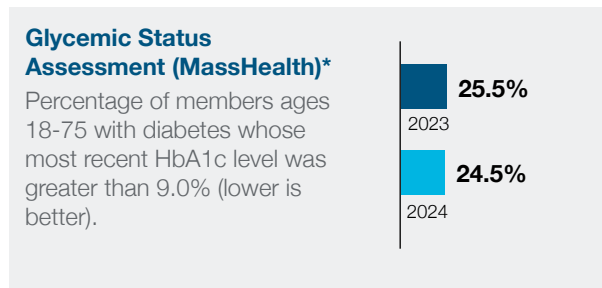
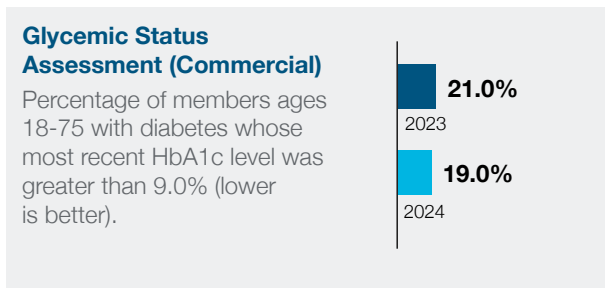
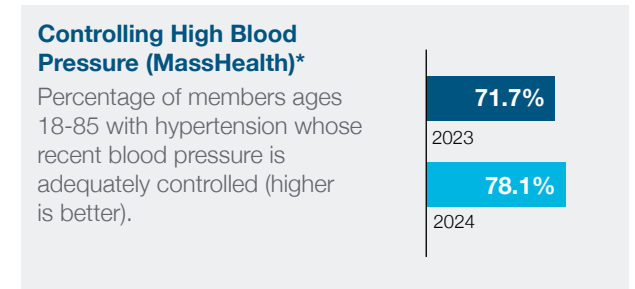
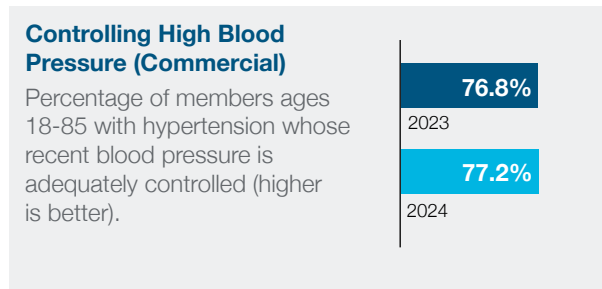
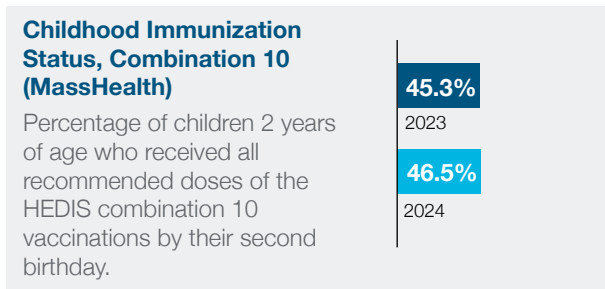
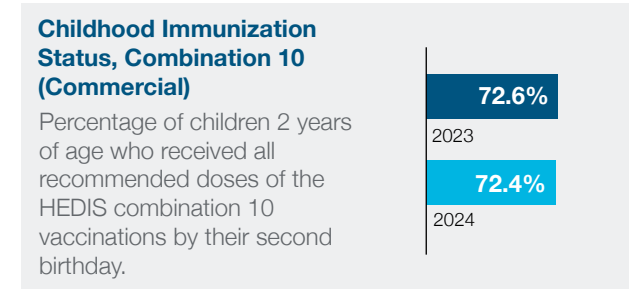
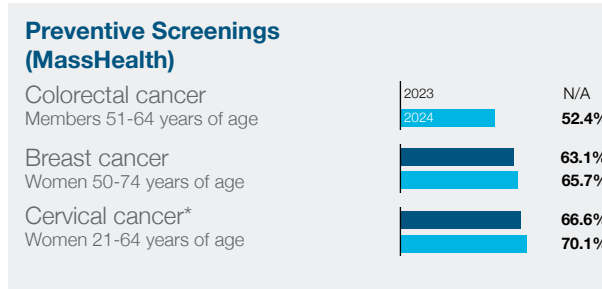
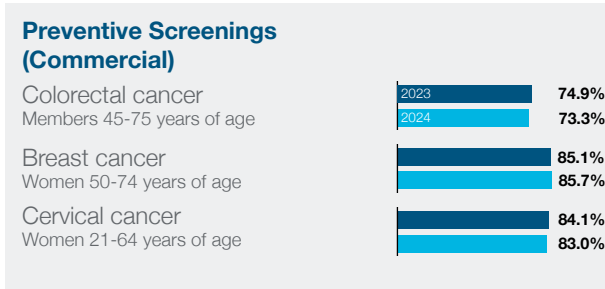
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Notes: "Difficulty Accessing Primary Care" was a new question added to the Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey as of 2025.



CARE (page 1 of 2)

Assessing primary care quality and effectiveness in Massachusetts includes measures such as chronic condition management, preventive care and recommended screenings, and patient experience ratings. Monitoring these trends supports quality improvement and consistent use of evidence-based practices across the primary care system.

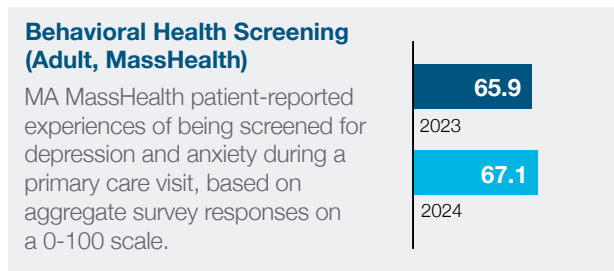
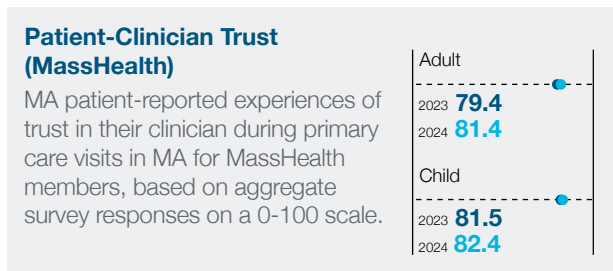
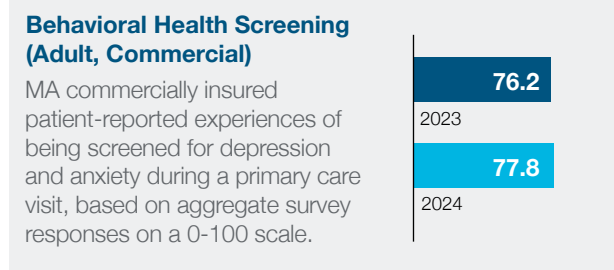


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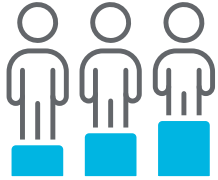


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EQUITY (page 1 of 3)

The Equity domain highlights inequities in the Massachusetts primary system. Measures in this domain help assess differences in residents' ability to access primary care services, informing efforts to promote equitable care delivery.

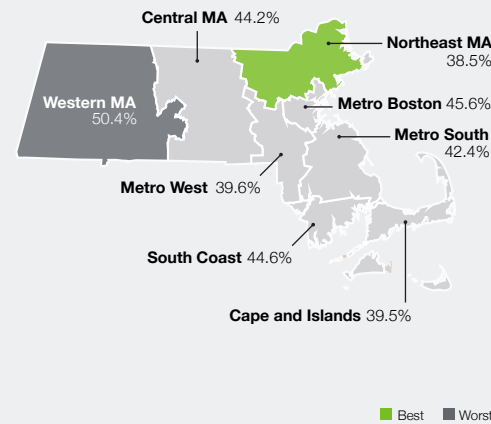
Difficulty Accessing Care

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who reported that they had difficulty obtaining necessary health care in the past 12 months (lower is better).

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	2023	2025
ALL RESIDENTS	41.2%	43.1%
ASIAN, NON-HISPANIC	36.8%	37.5%
BLACK, NON-HISPANIC	36.0%	38.0%
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC	40.4%	43.8%
ALL OTHER RACES	48.3%	42.1%
HISPANIC OF ANY RACE	46.9%	45.7%

BY REGION (2025)



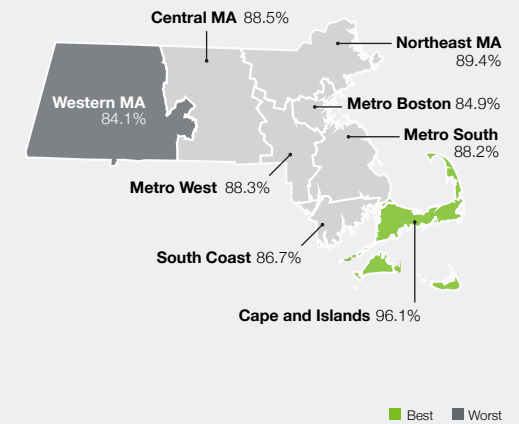
Usual Source of Care

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who reported that they have a usual source of care (higher is better).

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	2023	2025
ALL RESIDENTS	88.9%	87.5%
ASIAN, NON-HISPANIC	86.1%	84.1%
BLACK, NON-HISPANIC	87.1%	82.0%
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC	90.6%	89.6%
ALL OTHER RACES	84.3%	87.3%
HISPANIC OF ANY RACE	84.6%	81.2%

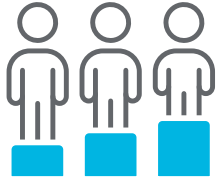
BY REGION (2025)



[EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE WORKBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

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

Notes: Red boxes identify worst-performing percentage for each metric compared with percentage for all residents (gray boxes) for each metric in 2025.



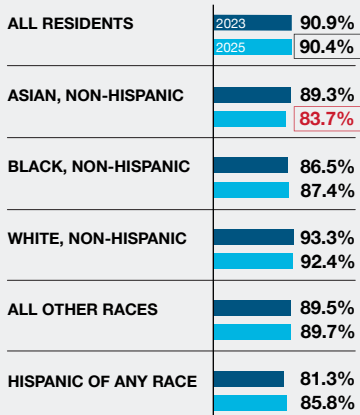
EQUITY *(page 2 of 3)*

The Equity domain highlights inequities in the Massachusetts primary system. Measures in this domain help assess differences in residents' ability to access primary care services, informing efforts to promote equitable care delivery.

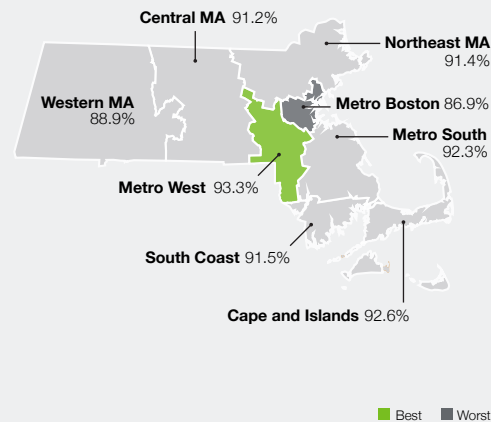
Residents With a Primary Care Provider

Percentage of Massachusetts residents who reported that they have a primary care provider (higher is better).

BY RACE/ETHNICITY



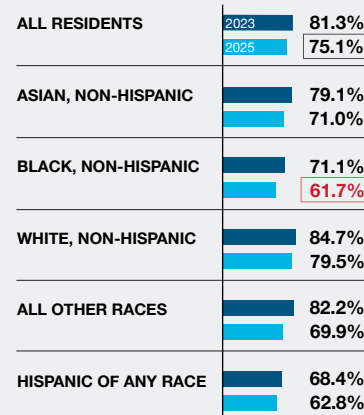
BY REGION (2025)



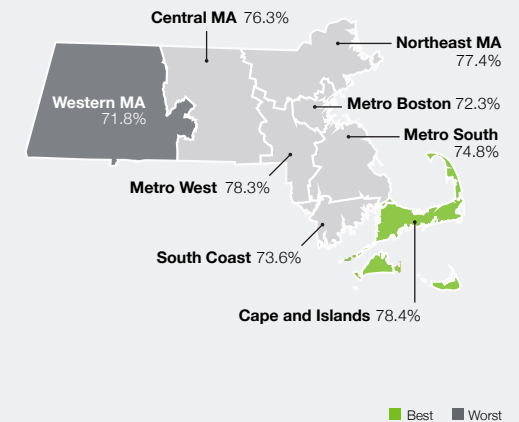
Preventive Care Visit

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 the past 12 months (higher is better).

BY RACE/ETHNICITY



BY REGION (2025)



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Notes: Red boxes identify worst-performing percentage for each metric compared with percentage for all residents (gray boxes) for each metric in 2025.



FINANCE

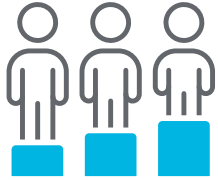
CAPACITY

UTILIZATION

ACCESS

CARE

EQUITY



EQUITY *(page 3 of 3)*

The Equity domain highlights inequities in the Massachusetts primary system. Measures in this domain help assess differences in residents' ability to access primary care services, informing efforts to promote equitable care delivery.

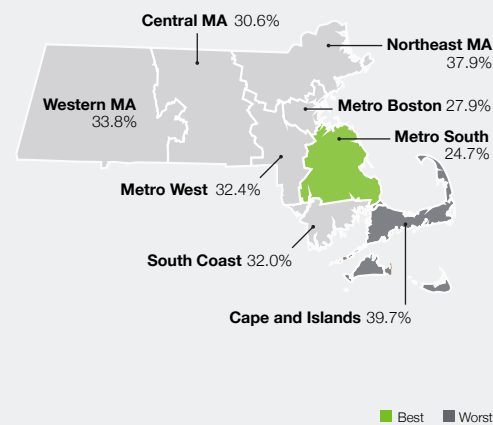
Avoidable Emergency Department (ED) Use

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

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

ALL RESIDENTS	2023	36.2%
	2025	31.8%
ASIAN, NON-HISPANIC	N/A	
	N/A	
BLACK, NON-HISPANIC	2023	47.9%
	2025	63.6%
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC	2023	26.5%
	2025	25.9%
ALL OTHER RACES	N/A	
	N/A	
HISPANIC OF ANY RACE	2023	51.3%
	2025	36.5%

BY REGION (2025)



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Notes: Red boxes identify worst-performing percentage for each metric compared with percentage for all residents (gray boxes) for each metric in 2025. N/A = Suppressed due to cell size.



FINANCE



CAPACITY



UTILIZATION



ACCESS



CARE



EQUITY

NOTES

1. General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, “An Act Enhancing the Market Review Process,” last accessed March 18, 2025, <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2024/Chapter343>.

