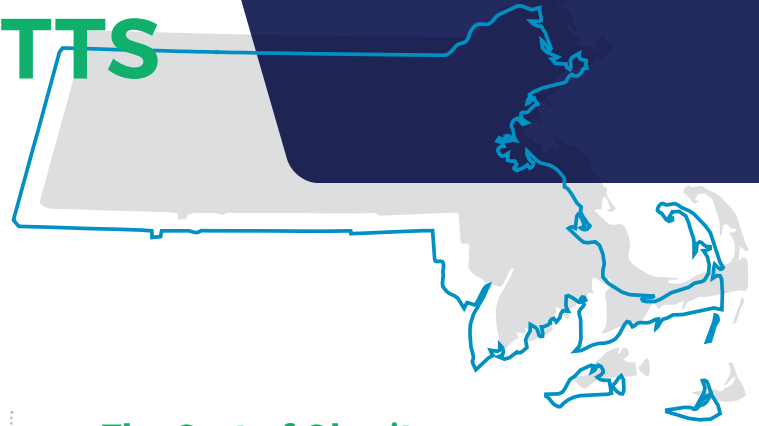


OBESITY IN MASSACHUSETTS

Obesity is a serious disease that affects more than 2.4 million people in the state of Massachusetts. That's about 35% of the state's population.¹



The Impact of Health Disparities

Obesity disproportionately affects people of color Massachusetts.²



42.7%
of Black
Adults



42%
of Latino
Adults



35%
of White
Adults

Higher rates of obesity mean these adults face an increased risk for chronic illnesses. Often, they are left without substantial health insurance coverage to get the care they need.

Comorbidities

Obesity increases the risk of several diseases, including:

- Cancer
- Depression
- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Pregnancy complications
- Sleep apnea
- Type 2 diabetes

The Cost of Obesity

The cost of obesity is staggering.

- In the United States, obesity accounts for \$260 billion of aggregated annual medical costs.³
- In Massachusetts, over \$3.5 billion of medical expenses are due to obesity and related conditions.⁴

Policy Can Help

The Massachusetts legislature is taking steps to increase access to obesity treatment by:

- Passing H.1243, which would require MassHealth to provide comprehensive coverage for the treatment of obesity, including:
 - Nutrition counseling
 - Bariatric surgery
 - Anti-obesity medication

**Addressing obesity starts
with patient-centered policy.**

1-2. *Obesity Prevalence & Comorbidity Map*

3. *Direct medical costs of obesity in the United States and the most populous states*

4. *Massachusetts obesity statistics*