

National Center for Health in Public Housing



Residents Living in Boston Public Housing and Diabetes

This is one of three fact sheets in a series on Health and Public Housing Data, Boston, 2001-2006. This information comes from the Partners in Health and Housing - Prevention Research Center, an equitable partnership of Boston University School of Public Health, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Public Health Commission, and the Community Committee for Health Promotion. This information was provided to the National Center for Health in Public Housing in order to increase awareness of the health disparities faced by public housing residents and to facilitate the process of developing solutions to eliminate these inequities.

Health and Public Housing Data, Boston, 2001-2006

Since 1999, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) has collected health data among Boston adults utilizing a broad-based random telephone survey, the Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BBRFSS). This project is based on a national model, which originated at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and has been conducted annually in every state since the 1990s. Beginning in 2001, as part of its partnership with the Partners in Health and Housing - Prevention Research Center, BPHC enhanced the BBRFSS health surveillance project by collecting information on type of residency among its respondents. This allowed for the first time the ability to assess the health of public housing residents across a range of health measures and directly compare their disease burden and behavioral health experiences with those of Boston residents who do not reside in public housing.

The data in this document are drawn from four BBRFSS data sets, collected in 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2006, from Boston residents. Data are weighted by gender and age to reflect the Boston population. Some indicators did not appear in all survey years and are noted.

The data contained in this document are derived from a telephone-based survey in which a number of Boston residents were asked to respond to a series of questions. The survey data were collected among a random sample of adults within a random sample of Boston households. The resulting data were applied to represent the entire adult population for the city of Boston and are described as percentages or point estimates. These numeric values are further described by a numeric range called a confidence interval. The confidence interval describes the likelihood that the true percentage estimate falls within the range of values given, and thus describes the error around the percentage estimate. To compare two percentage estimates and determine whether one is higher or lower than the other, one must look not only at the individual percentages but the associated confidence intervals. Comparisons described as "statistically different" have been determined to be highly likely to reflect actual differences between the groups compared. In this document, the difference between one percentage (point estimate) and another is described as "significantly higher", "significantly lower", or "statistically similar" based on statistical testing. Since point estimates are sometimes referred to as rates, similar terminology describes the statistical difference between two rates.

DIABETES

Ever Diagnosed Diabetes, Boston, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2006 Combined

	Public Housing (n=1,340)		Other Residents (n=6,888)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Overall	12.1	9.9-14.4	5.3	4.7-5.9
Sex				
Female	10.9	8.5-13.3	5.2	4.4-5.9
Male	14.8	10.0-19.6	5.3	4.4-6.3
Age				
18-34	3.3	0.3-6.3	0.8	0.3-12.6
35-49	12.2	7.8-16.5	3.7	2.6-4.8
50-64	21.0	15.8-26.2	9.9	8.2-11.6
≥65	30.3	23.4-37.2	19.2	16.3-22.1
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	13.9	9.7-18.6	9.5	7.5-11.5
Hispanic	11.9	8.0-15.9	6.6	3.9-9.3
White	10.2	7.0-13.4	4.4	3.8-5.0
Place of Birth*				
United States	14.3	9.9-18.6	5.5	4.6-6.4
Outside U.S.	11.7	7.1-16.3	5.4	3.2-7.6
Education				
<High School Grad	17.4	12.4-22.4	10.4	7.2-13.6
High School Grad	13.7	9.8-17.6	8.9	7.0-10.8
Some College	4.3	2.0-6.7	5.5	4.1-6.8
College Grad	6.8	3.2-10.4	3.3	2.7-3.9
Type of Living				
Development	12.2	9.3-15.0	---	---
Rental Assistance	12.1	8.7-15.5	---	---

*Data on place of birth were not collected in 2006. Data for this indicator are from 2001, 2003 and 2005 combined only.

- A significantly higher percentage of public housing residents reported ever having been diagnosed with diabetes than non-public housing residents overall. This finding held for gender groups as well.
- For all age groups except 18-34 years old, a significantly higher percentage of public housing residents than non-public housing residents reported ever having been diagnosed with diabetes.
- Among racial/ethnic groups, only Black public housing residents reported diabetes at a significantly higher rate than their non-public housing resident counterparts.
- Findings by educational level were mixed, with the two lower educational achievement levels of public housing reporting significantly higher percentages of diabetes compared with the similar non-public housing resident groups. However, differences by public housing status for the two higher educational level groups were not statistically significant.

Diabetics Tested for Hemoglobin A1C Two or More Times in Past Year, Boston, 2003, 2005 and 2006 Combined

	Public Housing (n=137)		Other Residents (n=381)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Overall	78.3	70.6-86.0	76.6	71.4-81.8
Sex				
Female	79.5	71.2 – 87.8	76.6	69.9 – 83.3
Male	--	--	76.6	68.6 – 84.6
Age				
18-34	--	--	--	--
35-49	--	--	--	--
50-64	75.4	62.6 – 88.2	78.2	69.3 – 87.1
≥65	87.6	78.6 – 96.5	80.2	73.6 – 86.7
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	70.0	57.0 – 83.1	72.6	62.2 – 83.0
Hispanic	--	--	--	--
White	--	--	78.8	72.7 – 84.9
Place of Birth*				
United States	--	--	79.7	72.7 – 86.6
Outside U.S.	--	--	--	--
Education				
<High School Grad	--	--	--	--
High School Grad	84.7	75.2 – 94.2	73.6	63.9 – 83.3
Some College	--	--	--	--
College Grad	--	--	--	--
Type of Living				
Development	75.1	64.1-86.1	---	---
Rental Assistance	81.7	71.4-92.0	---	---

*Data on place of birth were not collected in 2006. Data for this indicator are from 2001, 2003 and 2005 combined only.

NOTE: Data are not shown when the sample size was insufficient. Where data for public housing residents was not shown, data for other residents was also not shown.

- Among those ever diagnosed with diabetes, the percentage having been tested for Hemoglobin A1C two or more times in the past year was statistically similar by public housing residency status. Overall, and for all demographic groups where data were available there were no statistical differences between public housing residents and the respective non-resident group for this measure.

Diabetics Who Visited the Doctor One or More Times in the Past Year, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2006 Combined

	Public Housing (n=193)		Other Residents (n=473)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Overall	93.1	89.4-96.8	90.8	87.6-94.1
Sex				
Female	91.3	86.4 – 96.2	91.6	87.7 – 95.4
Male	96.0	90.4 – 100.0	90.1	84.8 – 95.4
Age				
18-34	--	--	--	--
35-49	--	--	--	--
50-64	96.1	91.3 – 100.0	92.6	87.4 – 97.9
≥65	92.9	87.6 – 98.2	87.2	81.6 – 92.9
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	92.5	86.2 – 98.9	94.2	89.8 – 98.6
Hispanic	93.2	86.5 – 100.0	--	--
White	--	--	--	--
Place of Birth*				
United States	94.8	90.6 – 98.9	89.0	84.1 – 94.0
Outside U.S.	--	--	--	--
Education				
<High School Grad	95.4	89.6 – 100.0	90.7	81.5 – 100.0
High School Grad	93.0	87.6 – 98.3	91.4	85.2 – 97.5
Some College	--	--	--	--
College Grad	--	--	--	--
Type of Living				
Development	90.1	83.8-96.4	---	---
Rental Assistance	96.0	92.3-99.7	---	---

*Data on place of birth were not collected in 2006. Data for this indicator are from 2001, 2003 and 2005 combined only.

NOTE: Data are not shown when the sample size was insufficient. Where data for public housing residents was not shown, data for other residents was also not shown.

- Among those ever diagnosed with diabetes, the percentage having visited a doctor one or more times in the past year was statistically similar by public housing residency status. Overall, and for all demographic groups where data were available, there were no statistical differences between public housing residents and the respective non-resident group for this measure.

Diabetics Who Had Foot Exam by Health Professional One or More Times in Past Year, 2003, 2005 and 2006 Combined

	Public Housing (n=169)		Other Residents (n=433)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Overall	82.5	76.4-88.6	81.8	76.1-86.1
Sex				
Female	78.7	70.7 – 86.6	78.9	72.8 – 85.1
Male	88.7	79.6 – 97.8	83.3	75.3 – 91.4
Age				
18-34	--	--	--	--
35-49	--	--	--	--
50-64	84.9	75.4 – 94.5	80.9	73.2 – 88.5
≥65	83.5	74.9 – 92.2	86.4	81.0 – 91.8
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	74.9	63.2 – 86.6	87.2	80.8 – 93.6
Hispanic	--	--	--	--
White	--	--	--	--
Place of Birth*				
United States	87.4	78.6 – 96.1	80.1	72.1 – 88.1
Outside U.S.	--	--	--	--
Education				
<High School Grad	87.2	77.7 – 96.8	--	--
High School Grad	83.9	75.1 – 92.7	76.3	64.7 – 87.8
Some College	--	--	--	--
College Grad	--	--	--	--
Type of Living				
Development	82.7	74.3-91.1	---	---
Rental Assistance	82.3	73.3-91.3	---	---

*Data on place of birth were not collected in 2006. Data for this indicator are from 2001, 2003 and 2005 combined only.

NOTE: Data are not shown when the sample size was insufficient. Where data for public housing residents was not shown, data for other residents was also not shown.

- Among those ever diagnosed with diabetes, the percentage having had at least one foot exam by a health professional in the past year was statistically similar by public housing residency status. Overall, and for all demographic groups where data were available there were no statistical differences between public housing residents and the respective non-resident group for this measure.

Diabetics Who Had Eye Exam in which Pupils were Dilated in Past Year, Boston, 2003, 2005 and 2006 Combined

	Public Housing (n=180)		Other Residents (n=445)	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Overall	80.2	72.9-87.5	81.8	77.1-86.6
Sex				
Female	80.8	73.6 – 88.1	88.7	83.9 – 93.5
Male	79.3	64.8 – 93.7	74.7	66.6 – 82.7
Age				
18-34	--	--	--	--
35-49	--	--	--	--
50-64	79.7	68.9 – 90.6	83.6	74.7 – 92.5
≥65	86.1	78.2 – 94.0	88.4	83.8 – 93.0
Race/Ethnicity				
Black	76.1	65.4 – 86.8	84.7	76.9 – 92.4
Hispanic	90.7	82.7 – 98.7	--	--
White	--	--	--	--
Place of Birth*				
United States	71.5	55.9 – 87.1	82.7	76.1 – 89.4
Outside U.S.	--	--	--	--
Education				
<High School Grad	88.5	80.0 – 97.1	--	--
High School Grad	75.7	62.9 – 88.5	86.7	79.7 – 93.6
Some College	--	--	--	--
College Grad	--	--	--	--
Type of Living				
Development	77.0	68.0-86.0	---	---
Rental Assistance	83.7	72.1-95.4	---	---

*Data on place of birth were not collected in 2006. Data for this indicator are from 2001, 2003 and 2005 combined only.

NOTE: Data are not shown when the sample size was insufficient. Where data for public housing residents was not shown, data for other residents was also not shown.

- Among those ever diagnosed with diabetes, the percentage having had an eye exam in which the pupils were dilated in the past year was statistically similar by public housing residency status. Overall, and for all demographic groups where data were available there were no statistical differences between public housing residents and the respective non-resident group for this measure.

DATA SOURCE: Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Boston Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BBRFSS), Boston Public Health Commission

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office