

Snapshot of health system climate  
vulnerability and performance in...

# Massachusetts

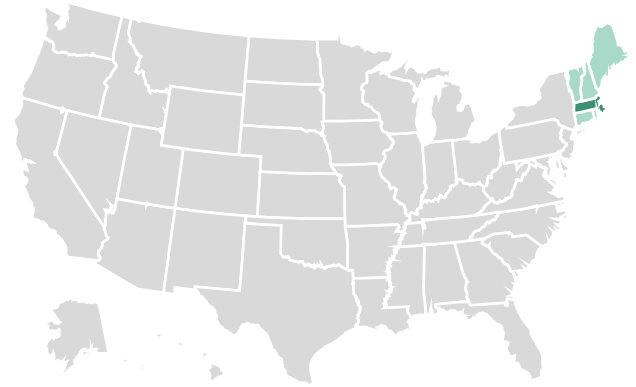


The  
Commonwealth  
Fund

Massachusetts ranks #8 overall.

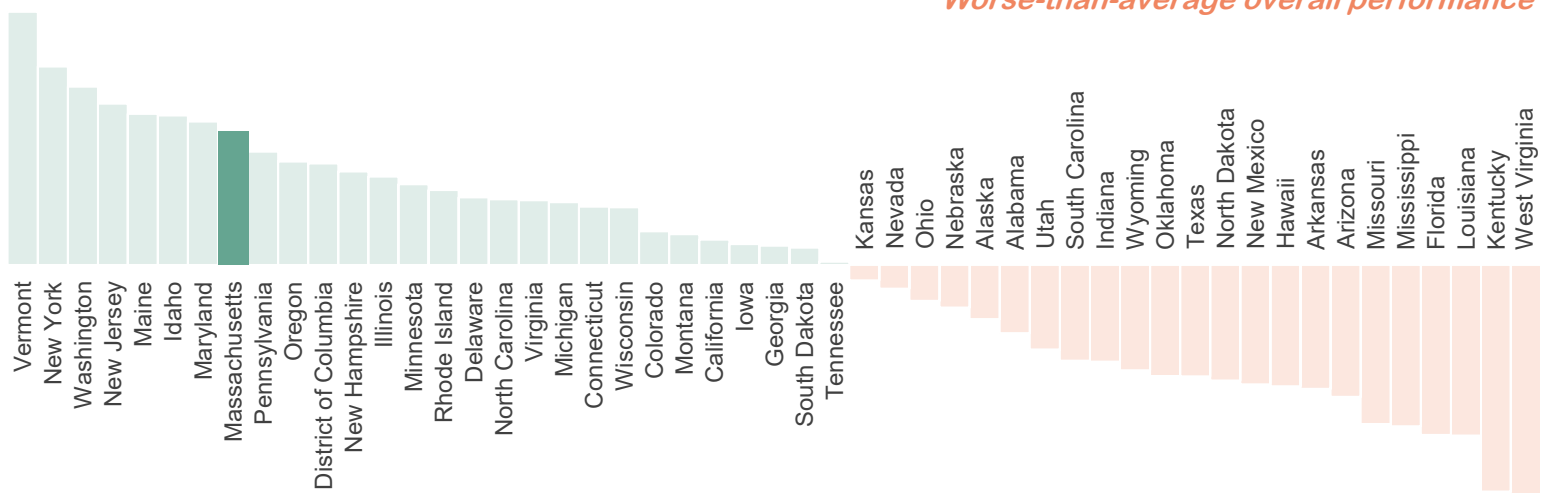
	National Rank	Rank Among New England States*
Average Annual Air Quality Index	12 of 51	4 of 6
Health Risk from Extreme Heat	13	3
Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards	13	4
Health Care Facility Flood Risk	28	3
State Energy Efficiency Policy	2	1
State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact	32	6
Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	42	6
Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions	16	1

Massachusetts ranks #3 in the New England region.



\*Note: New England region includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT.

## How Massachusetts Compares to All States



*Better-than-average overall performance*

**Table 1. Indicators of State Health System Climate Vulnerability and Performance**

Indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	State rank
<b>Average Annual Air Quality Index</b> Scale of 0–500, with values below 100 generally considered good/moderate air quality	2022	38	42	12
<b>Health Risk from Extreme Heat</b> CDC/ATSDR <sup>a</sup> Heat and Health Index (0–1), with 1 indicating greatest risk	2024	0.46	0.51	13
<b>Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards</b> FEMA <sup>b</sup> National Risk Index (0–100), with 100 indicating greatest risk	2023	40	54	13
<b>Health Care Facility Flood Risk</b> Percent of inpatient facility beds in high-hazard flood zones	2023	1.5%	2.5%	28
<b>State Energy Efficiency Policy</b> ACEEE <sup>c</sup> Energy Efficiency Scorecard (0–50), with 50 indicating best performance	2022	44.5	17	2
<b>State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact</b> Health impact per unit of electricity generated, <sup>d</sup> where lower values indicate less health impact from emissions	2021	0.433	0.464	32
<b>Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</b> Kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e) <sup>e</sup>	2020	1,733	1,362	42
<b>Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions</b> Transportation-related GHG emissions from health care facility employee commuting (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per employee)	2022	1,934	2,169	16



**Massachusetts ranked best on:**

**State Energy Efficiency Policy**

Compared to other states, Massachusetts has stronger policies and programs in place to equitably save energy and pursue efficiency as a cost-effective tool for reducing emissions and meeting clean energy goals.



**Massachusetts ranked worst on:**

**Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions**

The Massachusetts health sector produces more greenhouse gas emissions per capita than in other states. This indicator helps gauge the sector's role in driving climate change at the state level.

**Notes:** (–) Indicates missing data. (a) Centers for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR). (b) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (c) American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). (d) Measured in Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) per gigawatt-hour (GWh) of electricity generated; DALYs are a common measure of the burden of disease, representing years of healthy life lost. (e) Kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>e stands for “carbon dioxide equivalent,” a standard measure of the warming effect of greenhouse gases.