

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN ANDOVER

In 2022, the Town of Andover conducted a Community Health Assessment to identify and prioritize the concerns of residents. Issues related to affordable housing emerged across data collection activities as a top concern.

The scarcity of affordable housing combined with rising housing costs (e.g., rent, utilities) can impact a person's financial stability and their ability to access health care and social services.

**3.5%**

of residents live below  
100% FPL

**8.5%**

of residents live below  
200% FPL

**\$122,689**



Median household income  
in Andover

**12.3%**

of Andover students were  
considered economically  
disadvantaged

**24.3%**

of Andover households  
received social security income

**60.6%**

of survey respondents  
identified the cost of renting  
as a moderate to high concern

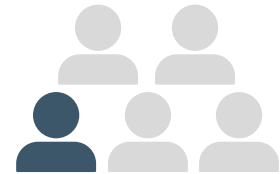
**83.0%**

of survey respondents  
identified the cost of home  
ownership as a moderate to  
high concern

*"Housing is an issue. Affordable housing. We don't have the housing stock that will work for young families. For older people that want to stay here, we don't have the housing stock that will allow them to stay." - Interview Participant*



One in three (33.5%) renters are  
housing cost burdened ( $\geq 35\%$   
of income spent on housing)



One in five (19.6%) owners are  
housing cost burdened



**86.0%**

of survey respondents identified the

**cost of utilities**

as a moderate to high concern  
impacting Andover



**\$1,771**

Average monthly rent in  
Andover compared to  
\$1,429 in MA

**\$3,419**

Average monthly housing  
cost in Andover compared  
to \$2,365 in MA

*"You have to go to other towns if you want to find more affordable homes." - Focus Group Participant*

For more information, contact:

Andover Health Division

Email: [health@andoverma.gov](mailto:health@andoverma.gov)

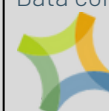
Phone: 976-623-8640



For the complete assessment and  
data sources, please visit:

<https://andoverma.gov/162/Health>

Data compiled and analyzed by:



**Health Resources in Action**

Advancing Public Health and Medical Research

# MENTAL HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN IN ANDOVER

In 2022, the Town of Andover conducted a Community Health Assessment to identify and prioritize the concerns of residents. Issues related to mental health across the lifespan emerged across data collection activities as a top concern.

The impacts of behavioral health challenges can be felt at the individual, family, and community levels. Behavioral health conditions can impact physical health and well-being, safety, and social connectivity, as well as have impacts on employment, education, housing, and other upstream factors

## 24.9%

of Andover residents experienced 15 or more poor mental health days in the prior 30 days

*"A lot of attention on depression and anxiety, there's been a gradual increase in internalized mental health that's been growing for years way before the pandemic. The pandemic only exacerbated trends that were already happening." - Interview Participant*

## 14.3%

of high school students in Andover seriously considered suicide

## 30.3%

of high school students in Andover felt sad/hopeless

## 1 in 5

survey respondents indicated that "mental health care services" are missing in Andover

*" There's one clinic that has a 4-6 month wait right now. Some of them have 16-18-month waitlists... And then if they are found eligible for inpatient psychiatric help, they could wait weeks until they can get admitted. - Interview Participant "*

*"There's also still judgement around getting help. Sometimes when I say, 'I'm going to talk to my social worker,' people think something's wrong." - Focus Group Participant*

## 52.4%

of survey respondents said that the stigma of accessing mental health care services was a moderate to high concern

## 8.5%

of Andover residents 65 and older lived alone

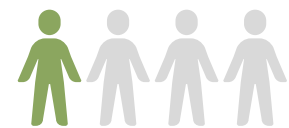
Mental health and stress among older adults was a moderate to high concern amongst

## 69.8%

of survey respondents

*" There's been a rise in mental health issues... There's a need but people don't reach out. - Focus Group Participant*

*" There's a lot of undiagnosed mental health issues in the senior population. - Interview Participant "*



26.9% (1 in 4) of Andover residents 65 and older have depression



21.7% (1 in 5) of Andover residents 65 and older have anxiety disorders

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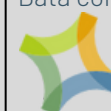
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# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN ANDOVER

In 2022, the Town of Andover conducted a Community Health Assessment to identify and prioritize the concerns of residents. Issues related to diversity, equity, and sense of community emerged across data collection activities as a top concern.

Barriers to opportunities to live a healthy life may be disproportionately concentrated among certain populations, such as communities of color, low-income populations, homeless persons, persons with disabilities, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) community.

*"It's not the most politically correct of towns. Everyone is caring and they mean well, but there's a lack of knowledge around disabilities, religion...even genders. People don't know how to navigate talking about or dealing with different things." - Focus Group Participant*

52.3%

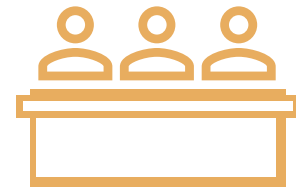
of survey respondents said that the safety of different identities was a moderate to high concern

*"Even at the high school, there are racist acts. I feel like you really have to watch what you say and do." - Focus Group Participant*

56.4%

of survey respondents indicated that **participation in civic activities**, such as voting in local elections and participating in town meetings, was a moderate to high concern

*"I am hopeful [about] the work we're engaged in to diversify our workforce, to make Andover a more equitable place to live, to see people of color on boards, as elected officials, just working for the town." - Interview Participant*



Representation of different identities in leadership was a moderate to high concern amongst

52.4%

of survey respondents



*"Finding the LGBT family would be great - so my community, I don't feel like I have a strong community here in Andover, it's elsewhere. There isn't a unit I kind of connect with -no judgement, I think some people just don't understand our family. - Focus Group Participant*

52.1%

of survey respondents said that the **inclusion of new residents** was a moderate to high concern



51.7%

of survey respondents said the **acceptance of different identities** was a moderate to high concern