

The Community Study of Greater Boston

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What kind of information does this study collect?

This study collects information about you and your household such as age, race, ethnicity, and religion so that we can ensure we are representing the many voices of Greater Boston.

Your answers are completely confidential and individual contact information (name, address, phone number, or email address) will NOT be shared by the survey company with the survey sponsor or any other organizations. All your answers will be combined anonymously with the answers of other people in Greater Boston who participate.

What is the purpose of this study?

The Community Study of Greater Boston is a valuable tool for understanding Greater Boston's communities and their needs. The findings will be used by local nonprofit organizations in Greater Boston to provide programs and services to people of all backgrounds, and address the changing needs of people in Greater Boston.

We are not asking for money or selling anything. This survey is for research purposes only.

Why is my participation so important?

Your household was randomly selected to be part of a representative sample of all households in the area. Your address cannot be substituted for another, and we cannot achieve our goals without your help. Your answers will help provide reliable information on education, diversity, and other important characteristics of your community, as well as information about your views and experiences. The data will help service providers, policy makers, and community leaders understand the views and needs of people like you in Greater Boston.

Who is conducting this study?

This study is funded by CJP (www.cjp.org), which supports hundreds of nonprofit organizations serving the people of Greater Boston. CJP is Massachusetts' largest nonprofit organization, focused on investing in the care and well-being of our community and the stability and growth of our local organizations and institutions. CJP helps meet the ongoing and emergent needs of people of all backgrounds and supports and strengthens Jewish communities in Massachusetts and around the world.

The study is being conducted by SSRS (www.ssrs.com), a major national social science research firm. This team was assembled to make certain that the information collected meets the highest standards and provides the data needed for effective community planning.

Will the results be available?

Yes. The data will be made publicly accessible and survey results will be published in the fall of 2025 on CJP's website and through an interactive web tool. As a reminder, no results will be published in which individuals can be identified.

Who is participating in this study?

This study is collecting information from thousands of households in Greater Boston. Adults of all backgrounds and of all religions (including people with no religion) are participating. We hope to reach different segments of the community to get an accurate picture of the population.

I received a letter about the survey, but it was not addressed to me. Can I take the survey?

Yes. If you currently live at the address shown on the letter and you are 18 or older, you may complete the survey.

How did you get my address?

Your address was randomly selected from all residential addresses in the Greater Boston area. All addresses had a chance of being selected to ensure the survey represents all the people who live here. Addresses are available through publicly accessible data.

What if I do not want to answer a particular question?

Then it is fine to simply leave it blank. There are just a few questions at the start of the survey that need to be answered to confirm that you qualify for the study. Please be assured your answers will be kept confidential. Individual contact information (name, address, phone number, or email address) will NOT be associated with your answers.

How long will it take? Can I start the survey now and finish another time?

On average, the survey takes about 20 minutes, depending on the characteristics of your household. You may start the survey and finish it another time; the program will automatically save your work. You can even start on, say, a desktop computer and finish it on a tablet or smart phone. When you sign back on, you will need the code from the letter that invited you to participate. You will be taken right to the point where you left off.

More Information

If you have any additional questions about this study, please contact the project team at SSRS by emailing info@greaterbostonstudy.com