Postsecondary Achievement of Deaf People in Massachusetts: 2018-2022

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Jeffrey Levi Palmer
Jonah Winninghoff
INTRODUCTION
This report uses the American Community Survey (ACS), a national survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, to provide an overview of employment and educational outcomes for deaf people in your state. Over 204,000 deaf people participate in the survey every year, making it a premier source for identifying improvement opportunities in your state. Due to smaller sample sizes or unstable estimates, some data may not be available for your state. We recommend combining these data with community conversations and local data sources to gain a deeper understanding of what resources deaf people need in your area.

STATE RANKING AMONG DEAF PEOPLE
Bachelor's degree completion
#4 out of 50

Employment
#17 out of 50

KEY FINDINGS: MASSACHUSETTS
• 56.5% of deaf people complete at least some college.
• 21.8% fewer deaf people complete bachelor’s degrees than hearing people.
• Bachelor’s completion among deaf people differs by race (white 30.5%; BIPOC 17.4%).
• Fewer deaf people with additional disabilities have completed a bachelor’s degree.
• 56.7% of deaf people were employed in 2018 - 2022.
• The employment rate for deaf people with additional disabilities is 30.4%.

In this report, we use the term deaf in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired. NDC recognizes that for many people, identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting.
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

On the national level, fewer deaf people completed high school or a college degree compared to their hearing peers. The data shown below (Figure 1) shows how your state compares to national averages for educational attainment. More detailed national statistics are available on the NDC Data Dashboard.

Figure 1
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Massachusetts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME COLLEGE</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEAF | HEARING

Figure 2
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS BY GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DEAF</th>
<th>HEARING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME COLLEGE</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEAF MEN | HEARING MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DEAF</th>
<th>HEARING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOME COLLEGE</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; BACHELOR'S</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEAF WOMEN | HEARING WOMEN

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### Figure 3
**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIGH SCHOOL</th>
<th>SOME COLLEGE</th>
<th>BACHELOR'S</th>
<th>&gt; BACHELOR'S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASIAN DEAF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASIAN HEARING</strong></td>
<td>89.9%</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK DEAF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK HEARING</strong></td>
<td>90.8%</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LATINX DEAF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LATINX HEARING</strong></td>
<td>76.4%</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MULTIRACIAL DEAF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MULTIRACIAL HEARING</strong></td>
<td>87.7%</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIVE AMERICAN DEAF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIVE AMERICAN HEARING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE DEAF</strong></td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE HEARING</strong></td>
<td>96.2%</td>
<td>75.8%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIPOC DEAF</strong></td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIPOC HEARING</strong></td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many deaf people have additional disabilities of varying types which contribute to their unique strengths and needs. National data shows that 46.1% of deaf people have any type of additional disability. Across the nation, deaf people with additional disabilities experience more barriers in educational systems, which result in lower educational attainment rates. Educational attainment varies by type of disability.

**Figure 4**

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS BY DISABILITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Bachelor’s</th>
<th>&gt; Bachelor’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deafblind</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf Disabled</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaf Without Additional Disability</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME**

Deaf people receive supplemental security income (SSI) benefits at different rates across the nation. Among the deaf population ages 16-64, 10.8% are recipients of SSI benefits, while in Massachusetts, 11.8% of deaf people receive SSI benefits.
EMPLOYMENT RATES

On the national level, fewer deaf people have jobs compared to their hearing peers. Almost half of deaf people are not in the labor force. The data shown below shows how your state compares to national employment rates. Employment also varies across gender, race, ethnicity, and disability. More detailed statistics are on the NDC Data Dashboard.

Figure 5

EMPLOYMENT RATES

NATIONAL

MASSACHUSETTS
Figure 6
EMPLOYMENT RATES IN MASSACHUSETTS BY GENDER

WOMEN

DEAF

5.2% UNEMPLOYED
41.1% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
53.7% EMPLOYED

HEARING

3.8% UNEMPLOYED
23.7% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
72.5% EMPLOYED

MEN

DEAF

4.3% UNEMPLOYED
36.6% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
59.1% EMPLOYED

HEARING

4.6% UNEMPLOYED
18.8% NOT IN LABOR FORCE
76.6% EMPLOYED

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**Figure 7**
EMPLOYMENT RATES IN MASSACHUSETTS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

- ASIAN
- BLACK
- LATINX
- NATIVE AMERICAN
- MULTIRACIAL
- WHITE
- BIPOC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>DEAF</th>
<th>HEARING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIPOC</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 8**
EMPLOYMENT RATES IN MASSACHUSETTS BY DISABILITY

- DEAFBLIND: 34%
- DEAFDISABLED: 30%
- DEAF WITH NO ADDITIONAL DISABILITY: 74%

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EARNINGS

National data show lower median earnings among deaf people who were employed full time. Earnings also vary across gender, race, ethnicity, and disability status.

*Figure 9*

**MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DEAF</th>
<th>HEARING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATIONAL</td>
<td>$50K</td>
<td>$50K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASSACHUSETTS</td>
<td>$65K</td>
<td>$68K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 10*

**MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS BY GENDER**
Figure 11
MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

ASIAN - $80K
BLACK - $50K
LATINX - $46K
NATIVE AMERICAN -
MULTIRACIAL - $57K
WHITE - $74K
BIPOC - $55K

Figure 12
MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS BY DISABILITY

BLIND
DISABLED
NO ADDITIONAL DISABILITY
ADDITIONAL DISABILITIES

$53K
$50K
$65K
$69K
$51K

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METHOD

Where does this data come from?

The data for this report comes from the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual, nationwide survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau. Unlike the Census, which is filled out by everyone, the ACS is filled out by just a sample of people in each community, and their answers are used to generate estimates. More information may be found at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html.

What does the word deaf mean in this report?

The ACS gathers information about functional limitations rather than disability or identity labels. In this report, anyone who answers yes to question 18a “Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?” is considered deaf. Unfortunately, this dataset has no information about sign language use, or type of school attended (e.g., mainstream vs. deaf school).

Why is some data not available in this report?

When examining subgroups within the deaf community, such as deafblind people, there are instances where the sample size is too small or the standard error is too large to reliably present these estimates. In such cases, the data points are excluded from the report. Please feel free to contact us for more information or if you have any specific requests.

For more Frequently Asked Question, visit our website: www.nationaldeafcenter.org/datafaqs

Technical Information

- Dataset: Public Microdata Sample (PUMS), 5-year Estimates (2018-2022)
- Age Range: 16-64 for employment data, 25-64 for educational data
- Weighting: Person Weight (PWGT)
- Sample Size: 3,312 (Massachusetts), 204,120 (United States)
- Minimum sample size to report: 351
- Maximum relative standard error to report: 30%

THIS REPORT MAY BE CITED AS:
