



Research Summary: Addressing COVID-19 Testing Inequities Among Underserved Populations in Massachusetts (MA)

- **Community health centers (CHC)** have played a critical role in addressing the COVID-19 testing needs of historically disadvantaged communities.
- We **explored the views of COVID-19 testing barriers** in six MA communities that are predominately low-income.
- Our findings were used to **build community-specific strategies** to address testing inequities.



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the full article!

WHO PARTICIPATED



**107 CHC staff,
community partners
and residents**

We did **qualitative interviews**
over Zoom and phone. Resident
interviews were conducted in
English, Vietnamese, Arabic and
Spanish.

WHAT WE DID



WHAT WE FOUND



Barriers to testing included:
**access to state-run testing sites,
weak social safety nets, and lack
of testing suppliers and staffing
that made wait time longer.**

**This increased
fears around
testing and
limited
knowledge on
testing
availability.**

**Partnering CHCs were
able to use these data to
help the local needs of
each community.**

This study shows **the structural
disparities of people's experience
of COVID-19** and how we can
translate data for action in real time
(especially for a rapidly evolving
pandemic).