

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.



Scan QR code to read 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).