

AAMC Consumer Survey of Health Care Access Topic Areas

The Topic Areas summary categorizes the AAMC Consumer Survey of Health Care Access questions into 13 main topic areas. The thematic categories include many of the key variables and questions which are related to a particular topic. Applicants may use the abbreviated table to identify and search for variables within the data dictionary (available separately) based on specific areas of interest. The larger data dictionary includes the full question text, as well as information about the question type and when (which survey wave or iteration) each question was asked.

Topic area	Variables	Abbreviated Question/Indicator
Demographics	SEX	Male/Female? OR What sex assigned at birth?
	GENDER_IDENT1	Current gender identity? – <i>Male</i>
	GENDER_IDENT2	Current gender identity? – <i>Female</i>
	GENDER_IDENT3	Current gender identity? – <i>Trans male/man</i>
	GENDER_IDENT4	Current gender identity? – <i>Trans female/woman</i>
	GENDER_IDENT5	Current gender identity? – <i>Genderqueer/gender non-conforming</i>
	GENDER_IDENT_OTH	Current gender identity? – <i>Different</i>
	GENDER_IDENT_SPEC	Current gender identity? – <i>Specify</i>
	HHSIZE	How many people in household, with children and yourself?
	MARITAL_W1	Marital Status
	MARITAL	Marital Status (with new response categories)
	NUM_CHILD	How many children (under 18 years) live in house?
	AGE_CHILD1	Age of your child?
	AGE_CHILD2	Same as above
	AGE_CHILD3	
	AGE_CHILD4	
	AGE_CHILD5	
	AGE_CHILD6	
	EMPLOY1	
	EMPLOY2	Current employment status? (new resp categories)
	EDUCATION_W1	Last grade of school completed?
	EDUCATION	Last grade of school completed? (new resp categories)
	INCOME	Which range is closest to your yearly household income?
	STATE	Which state do you live?
ZIPCODE	Zip code of primary residence?	

	RESIDE	Characteristics of where you live?
	RACE_ETHNICITY	Which best describes your race/ethnicity?
	RACE_NAT_AMER	American Indian/Alaska Native
	RACE_ASIAN	Asian
	RACE_BLACK	Black/African American
	RACE_HISPAN	Hispanic
	RACE_PAC_IS	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander
	RACE_WHITE	White/Caucasian
	RACE_OTHER	Other
	RACE_REFUSE	Prefer not to say
	LANG_PREF	Preferred Language? English or Spanish
	LANG_PREF_OTH	Specify if not English or Spanish
	AGE_GROUP	What is your age?
	SEX_ORIENT	Do you consider yourself to be— <i>Heterosexual or straight, gay or lesbian, bisexual?</i> OR How do you self-identify? – <i>Heterosexual or straight, gay or lesbian, bisexual</i>
	SEX_ORIENT_OTH	Specify other
	HEALTH_INS	Type of insurance you had most recent time you needed health care?
	UNINS_EVER	Uninsured at any time during past year?
Military service	EVER_MILITARY	Ever served on active duty?
	EVER_MILITARY2	Ever served on active duty? (new resp categories)
	EVER_COMBAT	Ever serve in a combat or war zone?
	EVER_ASK_MIL	Ever been asked by health provider if you have served in the military?
	EVER_ASK_MIL2	Ever been asked by a health provider if you or someone close to you has served in the military?
	YEARS_MIL	Total years of active duty military service?
	MIL_START	When did you begin serving? (<i>From-</i>)
	MIL_END	When did you stop serving? (<i>To-</i>)
	PTSD	Ever been told by health professional that you have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)?
	TBI	Ever been told by health professional that you have suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI)?
Affordable Care Act	ACA_HI_REQUIRE	Were you aware of requirement to purchase insurance or pay fine under ACA?

	ACA_HI_AWARE	Did you know that under the ACA people who don't get employer coverage can shop for insurance and compare prices /benefits?
	ACA_MCAID_AWARE	Did you know that Medicaid is expanded in some states under ACA?
	ACA_AGE26_AWARE	Did you know that children up to 26 years old are eligible for coverage under a parent's plan?
	HI_EXCHG	Did you apply for most recently used insurance using new health insurance marketplaces or exchanges?
	HI_CHANGE	Has your insurance changed since last medical visit?
	HI_NOW	Current type of health insurance?
	HI_NOW_EXCHG	Did you apply for current insurance through marketplace or exchange?
	EVER_EXCHG	Ever tried to find insurance through marketplace?
	EXCHG_WHY	If you did not decide to get insurance through marketplace, why? <i>Select from choices provided</i>
	EXCHG_WHY_OTH	If there was another reason, specify why.
	EXCHG_HOW	If you got insurance through marketplace, how?
	EXCHG_BEFORE	Before marketplace, were you insured elsewhere or uninsured?
Care coordination	USUAL_COORD1	At your usual place of care, the providers coordinate their jobs well.
	USUAL_COORD2	At your usual place of care, the providers give you the same information and advice.
	USUAL_COORD3	At your usual place of care, the providers all know your medical history.
	USUAL_COORD4	At your usual place of care, the medical staff share an agreed upon treatment plan.
	RECENT_COORD1	For your most recent medical care visit, the providers coordinated their jobs well.
	RECENT_COORD2	For your most recent medical care visit, the providers gave you the same information and advice.
	RECENT_COORD3	For your most recent medical care visit, the providers all knew your medical history.
	RECENT_COORD4	For your most recent medical care visit, the medical staff shared an agreed upon treatment plan.
Price transparency	RECENT_KNOW_PAY	Most recent health care visit—Did you know required balance upfront?
	RECENT_REFERER	Most recent health care visit—referred to specialist?
	RECENT_PROV_COST	Did health care provider discuss cost of specialist?

	DECIDE_COST	Role of cost in making decisions about where to receive care
	LOCOST_LOQUAL	You need surgery—selected provider has least out-of-pocket expenses but below average ratings. Would you proceed? Why or why not?
	HICOST_HIQUAL	You need surgery—selected provider has most out-of-pocket expenses but highest quality ratings. Would you proceed? Why or why not?
Telemedicine	TM_LAB	Lab test results-- discuss with provider via video call or only in person?
	TM_NEW_MED	Follow up after starting new medication—discuss with provider via video or only in person?
	TM_DEPRESS	Depression— discuss with provider via video call or only in person?
	TM_DIZZY	Dizziness— discuss with provider via video call or only in person?
	TM_FEVER	Fever/cough— discuss with provider via video call or only in person?
	TM_MAKE_APPT	In past year, did you use email or a Web site to make health care appointment?
	TM_MED_QSTN	In past year, did you email provider’s office with medical question?
	TM_REVIEW_LAB	In past year, did you look at lab results on a website?
	TM_PROV_PHONE	In past year, did you talk with health provider on phone?
	TM_PROV_VIDEO	In past year, did you talk with health provider by video?
	TM_PROV_CHAT	In past year, did you live text chat with provider?
	TM_PROV_TEXT	In past year, did you text message a provider via mobile phone?
	TM_PROV_APP	In past year, did you communicate with health provider via mobile app?
	TM_VIDEO_WHAT	If you talked with a provider by video, was it for scheduled/unscheduled discussion, or other?
	TM_VIDEO_WHY	Same as above
	TM_PREF2	If you had option to talk with provider via video again, would you?
	TM_PREF2_WHY	Based on resp to TM_PREF2—why?
TM_PREF	If health outcome were same, would you prefer to interact with provider in person or electronically?	

	TM_PREF_WHY	Based on resp to TM_PREF—why?
eConsults	SCENARIO7	Referred by PCP for an appointment or eConsult. What do you prefer?
	SCENARIO7_WHY	Based on resp to SCENARIO7—why?
	SCENARIO7_WAIT	Referred by PCP for an appointment with 1-2 month wait or eConsult within 1 week. Which do you prefer?
	SCENARIO7_COST	Specialist cost—\$20 co-pay for referral or \$10 copay for eConsult. Which would you prefer?
	SCENARIO7_COST2	Referred to see specialist for first time with \$50 copay or PCP communicates with specialist on your behalf with \$10 copay. Which would you prefer?
Provider type	KNOW_PA_NP	Did you know what either a PA or NP was prior to this survey?
	RECENT_PROV_YN	Most recent medical care visit— treated by a physician assistant (PA) or nurse practitioner (NP)? (Yes, No, DK)
	RECENT_PROV_TYPE	Most recent medical care visit, were you treated by a physician, physician assistant (PA) or nurse practitioner (NP), or someone else?
	RECENT_PROV_SPEC	Refer to question above— <i>Select all that apply (options bulleted below).</i>
	PROV_TYPE_PHYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physician
	PROV_TYPE_PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physician Assistant
	PROV_TYPE_NP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurse Practitioner
	PROV_TYPE_OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other
	PROV_TYPE_DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't Know
	PROV_TYPE_SPEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Someone else—<i>specify</i>
	RECENT_TYPE_KNOW	Most recent care visit—treated by nurse practitioner or physician assistant? Which one? (Y, N, Don't Know)
	EVER_PA_NP	Ever been treated by physician assistant or nurse practitioner?
	USUAL_WHY1-	Why is provider's office one of your usual places of care?
	USUAL_WHY7	Why is "other" one of your usual places of care?
	USUAL_TREAT_PHYS	When you go to usual place of care, are you treated by physician?

	USUAL_TREAT_PA	When you go to usual place of care, are you treated by physician assistant?
	USUAL_TREAT_NP	When you go to usual place of care, are you treated by nurse practitioner?
	USUAL_TREAT_OTH	When you go to usual place of care, are you treated by—another person?
	USUAL_TREAT_DK	When you go to usual place of care, are you treated by—don't know?
	USUAL_TREAT_SPECIFY	Specify—If you are you treated by another person?
Provider preference	SCENARIO1	Which type of provider do you prefer? (physician, NP, PA)
	SCENARIO1_WHY	Response to SCENARIO1—Why?
	SCENARIO1_WHY_NO	If no preference, why?
	SCENARIO1_WILL	If prefer to see physician—would you be willing to see PA or NP for routine care, if still able to see physician for health concerns?
	SCENARIO2	See PA or NP in 1 day OR physician in 3 days— which do you prefer?
	SCENARIO3	Worsening cough—see PA or NP on same day, or physician next day?
	SCENARIO4	Severe headache—PA or NP in 1 day, or physician in 3 days?
	SCENARIO5	Worsening cough—PA or NP for \$10, or physician for \$20? (see either today)
	SCENARIO6	Worsening cough—PA or NP for \$10, or physician for \$10? (see either today)
Provider interactions	PROV_EXPLAIN	Most recent medical care visit—did provider explain things in a way that was easy to grasp?
	PROV_ANS	Did your provider answer all your questions to your satisfaction?
	PROV_TIME	Did the health provider who treated you spend enough time with you?
	UNFAIR_HI	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your health insurance influenced unfair provider treatment?
	UNFAIR_SEX	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your sex influenced unfair provider treatment?
	UNFAIR_AGE	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your age influenced unfair provider treatment?
	UNFAIR_RACE	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your race influenced unfair provider treatment?

	UNFAIR_LANG	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your language influenced unfair provider treatment?
	UNFAIR_CULTURE	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your culture influenced unfair provider treatment?
	UNFAIR_RELIG	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your religion influenced unfair provider treatment?
	UNFAIR_SEX_ORIENT	During most recent medical care visit, do you think your sexual orientation influenced unfair provider treatment?
	PROV_SAME	During most recent medical care visit, was your health care provider same race or ethnicity as you?
	RESPECT	During your most recent medical care visit, do you think you were treated with respect by your health provider?
	RESPECT_WHYNOT	Based on response to RESPECT—If not, why?
Chronic conditions	CHRONIC_ARTHRITIS	Arthritis - chronic condition
	CHRONIC_CANCER	Cancer or a malignancy of any kind
	CHRONIC_CHOLEST	Cholesterol disorder, such as high cholesterol
	CHRONIC_DEPRESS	Depression
	CHRONIC_DIABETES	Diabetes, or sugar diabetes
	CHRONIC_HEART	Heart disease, heart attack, angina, coronary artery disease
	CHRONIC_OBESITY	Obesity
	CHRONIC_HTN	Hypertension, also called high blood pressure
	CHRONIC_ORTHO	Orthopedic, such as an ongoing back, knee, hip, or major joint problem
	CHRONIC_RESP	Respiratory or chronic lung disease, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, or COPD
	CHRONIC_PREF	(for chronic conditions selected) Would you prefer a physician, PA or NP?
	HEART_PCP	You have been told by PCP that you have heart disease, angina, or coronary artery disease.
	HEART_CARD	You have been told by Cardiologist that you have heart disease, angina, or coronary artery disease.
	HEART_NUTR	You have been told by nutritionist/RD that you have heart disease, angina, or coronary artery disease.

HEART_EX	You have been told by exercise therapist that you have heart disease, angina, or coronary artery disease.
HEART_OTH	You have been told by another health care professional that you have heart disease, angina, or coronary artery disease.
HEART_SPEC	Specify—In response to HEART_OTH
HEART_MORE1	Would you like to see PCP more or less for your heart disease care?
HEART_MORE2	Would you like to see Cardiologist more or less for your heart disease care?
HEART_MORE3	Would you like to see nutritionist/RD more or less for your heart disease care?
HEART_MORE4	Would you like to see Exercise therapist more or less for your heart disease care?
HEART_MORE5	Would you like to see another health care professional more or less for your heart disease care?
HEART_MORE6	Specify—In response to HEART_MORE5
DIAB_PCP	You have been told by a PCP that you have diabetes, or sugar diabetes.
DIAB_ENDO	You have been told by an Endocrinologist that you have diabetes, or sugar diabetes.
DIAB_NUTR	You have been told by a nutritionist/RD that you have diabetes, or sugar diabetes.
DIAB_ED	You have been told by a Certified Diabetes Educator that you have diabetes, or sugar diabetes.
DIAB_OTH	You have been told by another health care professional that you have diabetes, or sugar diabetes.
DIAB_SPEC	Specify—In response to DIAB_OTH
DIAB_MORE1	Would you like to see PCP more or less for your diabetes care?
DIAB_MORE2	Would you like to see Endocrinologist more or less for your diabetes care?
DIAB_MORE3	Would you like to see Nutritionist/RD more or less for your diabetes care?
DIAB_MORE4	Would you like to see Certified Diabetes Educator more or less for your diabetes care?
DIAB_MORE5	Would you like to see another health care professional more or less for your diabetes care?
DIAB_MORE6	Specify—In response to DIAB_MORE5

Other potential access barriers	ABLE_GET_CARE	When you needed medical care in the last 12 months, how often were you able to get it?
	UNABLE_WHY	Most recent time unable to obtain medical care—why?
	UNABLE_OTH	Most recent time unable to obtain medical care—why? <i>Specify other</i>
	UNABLE_DO	When you were unable to get care, what did you do?
	UNABLE_AFFECT	When you were unable to get care, how did this affect you?
	UNABLE_CARETYPE	When you were unable to get care, what care did you need?
	DELAY_CARE	In past year, were you ever delayed in getting medical care you or a health care professional believed necessary?
	NO_PRESCRIP	In past year, did you not fill a prescription for medicine due to out-of-pocket cost?
	SKIP_TEST	In past year, did you skip medical test, treatment or follow-up due to out-of-pocket cost?
	UNABLE_PAY	In past year, problems paying or unable to pay for medical bills?
	NOW_SEEK	Previous uninsured— Now that you have health insurance, are you seeking treatment for conditions left untreated when uninsured?
	UNINS_TIME	In past year, uninsured at least once—time without health insurance?
	UNINS_REASON	In past year, main reason without health insurance?
	UNINS_OTH	In past year, main reason without health insurance? <i>Other specify</i>
	HI_AFFORDABLE	Is your health insurance affordable?
	LANG_BARRIER	In past year, how often did you have language barriers when trying to get routine or ongoing care?
	LANG_BARRIER_FEEL	When you experienced language barriers, did you feel that:
	LANG_HEALTH	Language most comfortable using when talking with your health providers? <i>English or Spanish</i>
	LANG_HEALTH_OTH	Language most comfortable using when talking with your health providers? <i>Specify other</i>
	TRAVEL_TIME	Time it took to travel to your health care provider? (Most recent medical appointment)
TRAVEL_FROM	Was travel to your health care provider made from your home, your place of work, or some other place?	
TRAVEL_FROM_OTH	Same as above	

	PROV_CLOSE	Provider closer to your home or to your place of work?
	CARE_CHOICE	Have enough options about where you can go to get care?
	HEALTH_STATUS	In general, would you say your health is:
	LIMIT_ALL	Limited because of physical, mental or emotional problems?
	LIMIT_PHYS	Limited because of physical problems?
	LIMIT_EMOT	Limited because of mental or emotional problems?
	USUALCARE1	Is there a particular health care provider's office, clinic, health center, or other place that you usually go if you are sick or need advice about your health? (Yes, no, more than one, DK).
	USUALCARE2	Particular health care provider's office, clinic, health center, or other place that you usually go if you are sick or need advice about your health? (Yes, no, DK). If yes-- <i>Select all that apply</i>
	USUAL_TYPE	Respondents to USUAL_CARE1 are asked to pick 1 type of place from bullet list below
	USUAL_TYPE_OTH	Respondents to USUAL_CARE1 where type place= other; asked to specify
	USUAL_OFFICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office
	USUAL_CHC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Health Center
	USUAL_RETAIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail clinic
	USUAL_URGENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent care center
	USUAL_ED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital emergency room
	USUAL_HOPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital outpatient clinic
	USUAL_OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other kind of place
	USUAL_SPECIFY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If other, please specify
	USUAL_DK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't Know
	USUAL_WHY	Why is this your usual place of care?
Mental and behavioral health care	NEED_MBH_CARE	In past year, did you or a health care professional believe you needed behavioral or mental health care?

MBH_TIMES	In the last 12 months, how many times did you or a health care professional believe you needed behavioral or mental health care?
MBH_ABLE	How often were you able to get care needed?
MBH_HI	Do you know if your insurance covers behavioral/mental health care?
MBH_HI2	Does your insurance covers behavioral/mental health care?
MBH_PREF	You want to talk to someone about your behavioral or mental health concerns. Who would you talk to first?
MBH_PREF_OTH	Based on response to question above: If “Other”, please specify.
MBH_EVER_ASK	Ever been asked by a health provider about your behavioral or mental health?
MBH_STATUS	In general, would you say your mental health is:
MBH_UNABLE_TYPE	Unable to get care within past year...was it for treatment, therapy, medication management, or some other reason?
MBH_UNABLE_TYPE2	Based on response to question above: If “Other”, please specify.
MBH_UNABLE_WHY	Unable to get care within past year: which of the following statements best describes why you were unable to obtain care?
MBH_UNABLE_WHY2	Based on response to question above: If “Other”, please specify.
MBH_UNABLE_AFF	When you were unable to get behavioral or mental health care, how did this affect you?
MBH_LOC	Most recent visit— did you see provider at an office, outpatient mental health clinic, day treatment program, or some other place?
MBH_LOC_OTH	Based on response to question above: If “Other”, please specify.
MBH_PROV	Most recent behavioral or mental health care visit, what type of provider did you see?
MBH_PROV_OTH	Based on response to question above: If “Other”, please specify.
MBH_REASON	Most recent behavioral or mental health care visit—treatment, therapy, medication management, or some other reason?
MBH_OTH	Based on response to question above: If “Other”, please specify.
MBH_SATIS	How satisfied are you with health care received during most recent visit?

MBH_RECC	Would you recommend provider who treated you during your most recent behavioral or mental health care visit?
MBH_WAIT	Most recent visit—how long did you have to wait between making the appointment and the day you actually saw the provider?
MBH_WAIT_DAYS	Most recent visit—how long did you have to wait between making the appointment and the day you actually saw the provider? (n days)
MBH_WAIT_OTH	If other, specify (For question above)
MBH_NEED	On day you made appointment, how quickly did you think you needed to be treated?
MBH_NEED_DAYS	On day you made appointment, how quickly did you think you needed to be treated? (n days)
MBH_TRAVEL	Time it took to travel to your behavioral or mental health care provider?
MBH_TRAVEL_NA	If N/A to question above, why did you not travel?
MBH_PROV_EXP	During most recent visit, did provider who treated you explain things in a way that was easy to understand?
MBH_PROV_QSTNS	During most recent visit, did provider who treated you answer all questions to your satisfaction?
MBH_PROV_TIME	During most recent visit, did provider who treated you spend enough time with you?
MBH_UNFAIR_HI	During your most recent visit, do you think health insurance influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_UNFAIR_SEX	During your most recent visit, do you think sex influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_UNFAIR_AGE	During your most recent visit, do you think age influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_UNFAIR_RACE	During your most recent visit, do you think race influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_UNFAIR_LANG	During your most recent visit, do you think language influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_UNFAIR_CULT	During your most recent visit, do you think culture influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_UNFAIR_RELIG	During your most recent visit, do you think religion influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_UNFAIR_SEXORIENT	During your most recent visit, do you think sex orientation influenced unfair provider treatment?
MBH_MAT	Do you know anyone, including yourself, who is currently seeking or receiving medication-assisted therapy for substance abuse problems?

	MBH_MAT_PROV	Know someone with difficulty finding provider for medication-assisted therapy for substance abuse problems?
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