

- 1 Brookline
- 2 Wayland
- 3 Cambridge
- 4 Lexington
- 5 Cochituate
- 6 Newton
- 7 Belmont
- 8 Wellesley
- 9 Acton
- 10 Pelham
- 11 Hopkinton
- 12 Arlington
- 13 Boxborough
- 14 Westford
- 15 Sudbury
- 16 Carlisle
- 17 Dover
- 18 Sharon
- 19 Longmeadow
- 20 Andover
- 21 Needham
- 22 Harvard
- 23 Winchester
- 24 Somerville
- 25 Natick



## 2021 Best Suburbs to Live in Massachusetts Ranking Methodology

All of our 2020 Best Places to Live Rankings have been updated to reflect the latest data available as well as new reviews we've collected from the people living there. We've continued to refine our rankings, covering a wide range of subjects.

Our rankings and grades are calculated using a series of steps to ensure statistical rigor and useful guidance in deciding where to live. In general, the process used to calculate each ranking was as follows:

### Higher Education Rate

Percentage of residents who have received a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: U.S. Census Weight: 15.0%

### Cost of Living Grade

Based on the consumer price index and access to affordable housing.

Source: Niche Weight: 10.0%

### Housing Grade

Based on home values, property taxes, housing costs, local schools, and more.

Source: Niche Weight: 10.0%

### Public Schools Grade

Based on the average Niche K-12 Overall Grade for every public school serving the area, where each school is weighted by the number of students it serves.

Source: Niche Weight: 10.0%

### Diversity Grade

Based on ethnic, generational and economic diversity.

Source: Niche Weight: 7.5%

### Shortest Commute Grade

Based on typical commute times and methods.

Source: Niche Weight: 7.5%

### Composite Overall Score

Niche survey responses scored on a 1-5 scale regarding the overall experience of the place.

Source: Self-reported by Niche users Weight: 5.0%

### Crime & Safety Grade

Based on violent and property crime rates.

Source: Niche Weight: 5.0%

### Family Grade

Based on school quality, safety, and family-friendly living.

Source: Niche Weight: 5.0%

### Health & Fitness Grade

Based on community health statistics and access to healthcare.

Source: Niche Weight: 5.0%

### Jobs Grade

Based on employment rates, job and economic growth, and cost of living.

Source: Niche Weight: 5.0%

### Nightlife Grade

Based on access to bars, restaurants, theaters, and other attractions.

Source: Niche Weight: 5.0%

### Outdoor Activities Grade

Based on weather, air quality, and access to parks and other recreational opportunities.

Source: Niche Weight: 5.0%

### Weather Grade

Based on number of sunny days, precipitation, and average temperatures in an area.

Source: Niche Weight: 5.0%