



# City of Cambridge

## Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG  
City Manager

# Standard Demographic Battery for Cambridge Surveys

This document has survey questions that can be used in any survey to gather basic demographic information about respondents.

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## General Guidance

- **Unless otherwise noted, these questions should appear at the end of your survey.**
- You should **preface the demographic questions with this statement:** "The following questions are optional. Answering them will help the City to determine whether the survey respondents are a representative sample of the Cambridge population."
- You should **provide information (like a web page link) on how people can view the results of the survey** once it is complete.
- If you are using survey software such as SurveyMonkey that allows you to **anonymize the responses** (meaning you will not see the IP address of respondents), you should select that option, and include language like this at the beginning of the survey:

*"Your responses to this survey are anonymous. No personally identifiable information is captured unless you voluntarily include personal or contact information in your responses. Your IP address may be recorded by SurveyMonkey but is not stored with or linked to the survey results made available to the City of Cambridge."*



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### Neighborhood

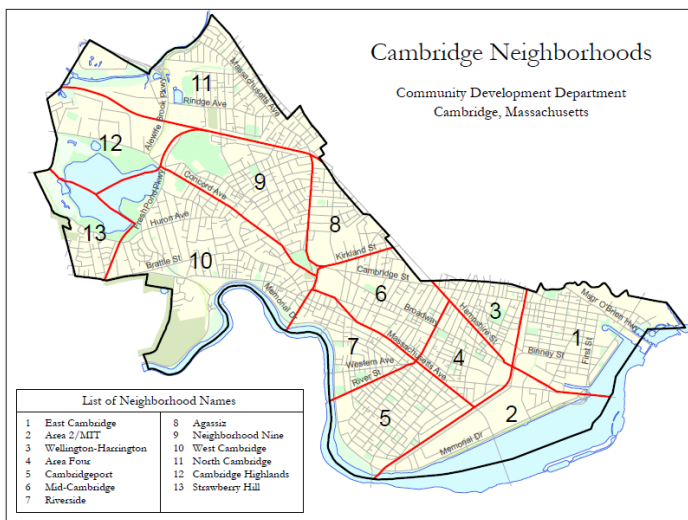
This question should include a labeled map of Cambridge neighborhoods like that included here. If your survey software allows, you can let respondents click on the map to select their neighborhood.

### Question

Which neighborhood do you live in?

### Response Choices (select one)

- East Cambridge
- Area 2/MIT
- Wellington-Harrington
- The Port
- Cambridgeport
- Mid-Cambridge
- Riverside
- Baldwin
- Neighborhood Nine
- West Cambridge
- North Cambridge
- Cambridge Highlands
- Strawberry Hill





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### Age

#### Question

What is your age?

#### Response Choices (select one)

- Under 18
- 18-34
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

### References

### Gender

#### Question

What is your gender or gender identity?

(These options were developed by the City of Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission. They welcome your questions and comments and can be reached at [lgbtqpluscommission@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lgbtqpluscommission@cambridgema.gov))

#### Response Choices (choose all that apply; do not randomize order)

- Female/woman
- Male/man
- Non-binary/gender non-conforming (Gender is not exclusively female or male and/or does not fit into one gender category)
- Transgender (Sex assigned at birth is different than gender [Not cisgender])
- Cisgender (Sex assigned at birth is the same as gender [Not transgender])
- Self-describe [please enter]
- Choose not to answer

### References

Cambridge LGTBQ+ Commission recommendation Optionally, include this link for further information:  
<https://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/definitions/>



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### Race/Ethnicity

#### Question

What is your race/ethnicity?

#### Response Choices (select one or more, alphabetic order)

- Asian/East Indian
- Black/African American
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/Latinx
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native American/Alaskan
- White/Caucasian
- Self-describe [please enter]

#### References

Based on language from Census Bureau 2015 National Content Test

<https://www.census.gov/about/our-research/race-ethnicity.html>

<https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/meetings/2016-10/2016-nac-jones.pdf>

### Income

(optional)

#### Question

What is your household or family income?

#### Response Choices (select one)

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000-\$124,999
- \$125,000 or more
- Prefer not to answer

#### References



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### Education

#### Question

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

#### Response Choices (select one)

- Less than high school/GED
- High school/GED
- Some college, no degree
- Associate degree or technical certificate
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate, professional, or advanced studies; no degree
- Graduate, professional, or advanced degree

#### References

ACS 2019, with some categories collapsed

### Language Spoken at Home

#### Question

What is the primary language you speak at home?

#### Response Choices (select one or more; present in alphabetical order)

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Chinese
- English
- Haitian Kreyol
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Other [please enter]

#### References

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/factsandmaps/demographicfaq>

Major languages and language groups other than English reported by the 2014 - 2018 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample include Spanish (7.1%), Chinese (5.1%), Indic Languages (3.6%),



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French, including Haitian Kreyol, (3.2%), African Languages (2.2%), Korean (1.3%), Portuguese (1.2%), and German (1.2%).

The Cambridge Public School Department reports that for the 2019 - 2020 school year over 100 students speak the following foreign languages at home: Spanish (5.7%), Amharic (2.6%), Bengali (2.3%), Haitian Kreyol (2.2%), Arabic (1.9%), and Chinese (1.9%).

### Tenure Question

Do you rent or own your home?

#### Response Choices (select one)

- Rent
- Own

### References

#### Affordable/Subsidized Housing

This question should only be used for surveys that specifically require information on this topic. The language is provided to improve consistency and clarity of responses across surveys.

#### Question

Do you live in...

#### Response Choices (select one)

- Public Housing managed by the Cambridge Housing Authority;
- Inclusionary Rental Housing, which are affordable housing units located in otherwise market rate apartment buildings;
- Affordable rental housing owned or managed by an affordable housing provider such as Just-A-Start Corporation, Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., Schochet Associates, Preservation of Affordable Housing, WinnCompanies, or Maloney Properties;
- Your family uses a rental voucher to help pay for a market-rate apartment in a building not included above (e.g. "Section 8" or other housing voucher)

### References

Chris Cotter, CDD Housing Director (ccotter@cambridgema.gov)



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### Household Composition

#### Household Size

##### Question

How many people are living or staying at this address?

##### Response Choices

[enter numeric values]

##### References

[ACS 2019](#)

#### Number of children

##### Question

How many children under 18 are living or staying at this address?

##### Response Choices

[enter numeric values]

##### References

#### Elderly Household Members

##### Question

How many people 65 or older are living or staying at this address?

##### Response Choices

[enter numeric values]

##### References

#### Disability

##### Question

Do you experience any of the following difficulties?

##### Response Choices (choose all that apply; do not randomize order)

- Difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses
- Difficulty hearing, even if wearing hearing aids
- Difficulty walking or climbing steps• Transgender (Sex assigned at birth is different than gender [Not cisgender])
- Difficulty remembering or concentrating
- Difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over, or dressing
- Difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood
- None of these



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### References

ACS Questionnaire

Rachel Tanenhaus, Executive Director of Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, ADA Coordinator (rtanenhaus@cambridgema.gov)

Washington Group on Disability Statistics [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington\\_group/wg\\_questions.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group/wg_questions.htm)

### Employment

#### Employment Status

(optional)

#### Question

What best describes your current employment status?

#### Responses (select one)

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Student
- Retired
- Homemaker
- Not employed
- Other [please enter]

#### Employment Location

(optional; only ask to respondents who answer "Employed full-time" or "Employed part-time" to the Employment Status question)

#### Question

What best describes your work location?

#### Responses (select one)

- On-site (<10% of hours remote/working from home)
- Hybrid (10-80% of hours remote/working from home)
- Remote (>80% of hours remote/working from home)

#### References for Employment Questions

Ernie Paicopolos/Polity Research