

# Children's Defense Fund

## Children in Massachusetts



January 2011

1,433,002 children live in Massachusetts:  
 5,471 are American Indian/Alaska Native  
 44,633 are two or more races  
 83,834 are Asian/Pacific Islander  
 138,706 are Black  
 194,727 are Hispanic  
 1,008,858 are White, non-Hispanic

### In Massachusetts:

A child is abused or neglected every 13 minutes.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 1 day.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 12 days.

### Massachusetts Ranks:\*

2<sup>nd</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

7<sup>th</sup> among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

19<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

[\*1<sup>st</sup> represents the best state for children and 51<sup>st</sup> represents the worst state for children in the country]

### Child Poverty in Massachusetts

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	185,613 (13.1%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	87,851 (6.2%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	130,072
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$618

### Child Health in Massachusetts

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	49,000 (3.2%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	143,044**
CHIP eligibility: 400 percent of federal poverty (\$88,200 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	453,740**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	95.2%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	30.5%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	20.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	18.9%

\*States may have a different name for CHIP

\*\*The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day

### **Child Hunger in Massachusetts**

Number of children who receive food stamps	207,960
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	65%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	249,036
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	50,274
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	123,938

### **Early Childhood Development in Massachusetts**

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	68.5%
Number of children served by Head Start	15,739
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	24,800
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$11,678
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.8%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	25.7%

### **Education in Massachusetts**

Annual expenditure per prisoner	\$59,594
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$12,564
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	53%
unable to do math at grade level	43%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	57%
unable to do math at grade level	48%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	15,991

### **Child Welfare in Massachusetts**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	38,958
Number of children in foster care	9,650
Number of children adopted from foster care	790
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	30,182

### **Youth at Risk in Massachusetts**

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	4.2%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	81.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	16.2%
Number of juvenile arrests	16,079
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	969
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	4.7
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 31 26 homicides; 4 suicides; 1 accident; and 0 undetermined	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of January 2011. For data sources, please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/cits](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)

**For more information on the state of America's children contact:**

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