

Children's Defense Fund

Children in Massachusetts

January 2012



1,423,716 children live in Massachusetts:
970,926 are White, non-Hispanic
121,800 are Black
205,567 are Hispanic
78,659 are Asian/Pacific Islander
2,897 are American Indian/Alaska Native
69,261 are two or more races

In Massachusetts:

A child is abused or neglected every 22 minutes.
A child dies before his or her first birthday every 22 hours.

Massachusetts Ranks:*

19th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
Best state is South Dakota; worst state is Mississippi
4th among states in its infant mortality rate.
Best state is New Hampshire; worst is the District of Columbia
9th among states in per pupil expenditures.
The District of Columbia is best; Utah is the worst state

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in Massachusetts

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	200,817 (14.3%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	92,332 (6.6%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	98,659
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$618

Child Health in Massachusetts

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	54,437 (3.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	142,279
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$69,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	488,191
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	30.5%
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	96.0%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	20.2%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.8%

Child Hunger in Massachusetts

Number of children who receive SNAP (food stamps)	292,000
Percent of eligible persons who receive SNAP (food stamps)	70%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	536,655
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	53,239
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	119,108

Early Childhood Development in Massachusetts

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	69.1%
Number of children served by Head Start	16,278
Average monthly 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	\$12,200
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	13.6%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	25.9%

Education in Massachusetts

Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$14,540
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	49.6%
unable to do math at grade level	41.6%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	53.9%
unable to do math at grade level	48.8%
Number of 16- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled in school and have not graduated from high school	13,924

Child Welfare in Massachusetts

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	24,428
Number of children in foster care	8,958
Number of children adopted from foster care	726
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	31,663

Youth at Risk in Massachusetts

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	3.7%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	83.3%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	21.4%
Number of juvenile arrests	14,623
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	961
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	6.11
Number of children and teens killed by firearms in homicides	18

This fact sheet contains the most recent data as of January 26, 2012.
For data sources and methodological notes, please visit: www.childrendefense.org/cits.

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

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