

# Children's Defense Fund

## *Children in Massachusetts*



November 2008

1,432,856 children live in Massachusetts:  
 3,151 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic  
 30,936 are two or more races, non-Hispanic  
 74,270 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic  
 108,709 are Black, non-Hispanic  
 173,458 are Hispanic  
 1,042,332 are White, non-Hispanic

### **In Massachusetts:**

A child is born into poverty every 53 minutes.  
 A child is abused or neglected every 15 minutes.  
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 22 hours.  
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 2 weeks.

### **Massachusetts Ranks:\***

4<sup>th</sup> among states in its infant mortality rate.  
 Best state is Utah; 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  
 20<sup>th</sup> among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.  
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; 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)	182,159 (12.9%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	86,554 (6.1%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	90,531
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$618

### **Child Health in Massachusetts**

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	73,000 (4.8%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	184,483
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four); state-funded expansion to 400 percent of federal poverty (\$88,200 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	412,012
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	36.7%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	19.0%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	22.1%

### **Child Hunger in Massachusetts**

Number of children who receive food stamps	191,733
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	54%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program	560,930
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	44,362
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	118,112

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

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	64.8%
Number of children served by Head Start	12,807
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	32,100
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$10,787
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	20.2%
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	25.3%

### **Education in Massachusetts**

Amount spent per pupil in the public schools	\$11,642
Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level	51%
Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math	42%

### **Child Welfare in Massachusetts**

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	36,151
Number of children in foster care	11,499
Number of children adopted from foster care	874
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	28,911

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

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates	5.5%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	79.5%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	12.7%
Number of juvenile arrests	17,862
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	1,164
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	5:1
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 26 homicides; 0 suicides; 1 accidents; and 0 undetermined	27

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2008.

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

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