# MASSACHUSETTS' CHILDREN

#### Massachusetts's Children At a Glance<sup>1</sup>

Poverty Rate, Children Under 18<sup>5</sup>.....15.2% Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17<sup>6</sup>....14.1% Poverty Rate, Children Under 5<sup>7</sup>....17.4%

### **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

- In 2011, Massachusetts had 73,294 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 37,799 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2011, 20,262 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts, a rate of 14.4 per 1,000 children, representing a 31.2% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 97.5% were neglected, 15.0% were physically abused, and 3.8% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 46.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.<sup>10</sup>
- Massachusetts responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 23,004 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2011, 8,619 children in Massachusetts lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 8,958 children in 2010. In 2011, 2,533 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,349 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 17.9% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.<sup>13</sup>
- Of Massachusetts children in out-of-home care in 2011, 46.0% were white, 15.2% black, 26.1% Hispanic, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1.8% Asian or Pacific Islander and 5.0% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>14</sup>

#### ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,463 children exiting out-of-home care in Massachusetts in 2011, 58.4% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2011, 724 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Massachusetts, a 0.1% decrease from 725 in 2010.<sup>16</sup>
- Of the 8,619 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 2,620 or 30.4% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>17</sup>
- In 2011, approximately 37,827 Massachusetts grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>18</sup>
- Of the 8,619 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 1,766 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>19</sup>
- Of all Massachusetts children in kinship care in 2010, 10.8% were white, 2.6% black, 4.7% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.3% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 2.6% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>20</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Massachusetts increased from 96,886 in 2010 to 99,289 in 2011, an increase of 2.5%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 50,492, a 2.4% increase from 2010.<sup>21</sup>
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Massachusetts families living in poverty, only 45 received TANF benefits.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2011, \$1,022,055,560 was spent in Massachusetts on TANF assistance, including 33% on basic assistance, 0% on



child care, 0% on transportation, and 67% on nonassistance.<sup>23</sup>

- In 2011, 61,858,249 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Massachusetts, serving 119,099 participants.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2011, Massachusetts distributed \$593,132,960 in child support funds, a 5.2% increase from 2010.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011 in Massachusetts, 229,692 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 27% of them are families with children.<sup>26</sup>

### **CHILD CARE AND HEAD START**

- In 2010, Massachusetts had a monthly average of 25,100 children served by subsidized child care; 25,300 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 23,100 in 2008.<sup>27</sup>
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Massachusetts, a family of three could make no more than \$42,025, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.<sup>28</sup>
- As of early 2012, Massachusetts had 31,260 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2011, Head Start served 13,560 Massachusetts children, a 6.7% increase from 2010.<sup>30</sup>

#### HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 396,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Massachusetts—33% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2011, Massachusetts had 144,767 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 1.7% increase from 2010, when 142,279 children were enrolled.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2011, Massachusetts had 35,000 uninsured children, representing 3% of its child population.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2010, 5,634 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Massachusetts.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2010, 327 infants under age 1 died in Massachusetts.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Massachusetts was 9 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 27. This reflects a total rate of 17 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>36</sup>
- Cumulative through 2011, 23,392 adults and adolescents, as well as 235 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Massachusetts.<sup>37</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 42,000 children ages 12–17 and 559,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Massachusetts.<sup>38</sup>

#### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- In 2011, 947 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Massachusetts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2011, 21,000 Massachusetts teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2011, 71,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 26,000 children ages 12–17 in Massachusetts needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 25,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2010, 32 Massachusetts children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.97 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>



#### JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, 29 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Massachusetts, a 38% increase from 21 in 2009.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2011, 12,149 children younger than 18 were arrested in Massachusetts, a 17.0% decrease from 14,623 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 1,340 were for violent crimes.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2010, 663 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts.<sup>47</sup>

# CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>48</sup>

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.<sup>49</sup>
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.<sup>50</sup>
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>51</sup>

#### FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILDREN

- Out of 8,619 children in out-of-home care in Massachusetts in 2011, only 2,126, or 25%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>52</sup>
- In 2010, Massachusetts spent \$757,874,988 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$216,964,706 was from federal funds, \$540,910,282 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2010, of the \$216,964,706 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$106,472,936 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$8,018,372 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$12,862,512 was from Medicaid, \$81,347,360 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$0 was from TANF, and \$8,263,526 came from other federal sources.<sup>54</sup>
- Massachusetts received \$55,161,371 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$19,919,339 for maintenance payments, \$19,673,097 for administration and child placement, \$702,069 for the statewide automated child welfare information system, and \$78,164 for training.<sup>55</sup>
- Massachusetts received \$30,396,290 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$20,955,601 for assistance payments, \$9,319,769 for administration and child placement, and \$120,920 for staff and provider training.<sup>56</sup>



<b>Governor: Deval Patrick (D)</b> www.mass.gov Massachusetts State House, Office of Governor, Room 360, Boston MA 02133 Next Election: 2014 Tel: 617-725-4005					
	Office	Phone	Fax	Website	Next Election
Senate:					
Willliam Cowan (D)	218 Russell	224-2742	224-8525		2013
Elizabeth Warren (D) <i>H.E.L.P.</i>	C-2 Russell	224-4543	224-2417	Warren.senate.gov	2018
House:					
Richard E. Neal (D-1 <sup>st</sup> ) <i>Ways &amp; Means</i>	2208 Rayburn	225-5601	225-8112	Neal.house.gov	2014
Jim McGovern (D-2 <sup>nd</sup> )	438 Cannon	225-6101	225-5759	Mcgovern.house.gov	2014
Joseph P. Kennedy, III (D-3 <sup>rd</sup> )	1218 Longworth	225-5931	225-0182	Kennedy.house.gov	2014
Niki Tsongas (D-4 <sup>th</sup> )	1607 Longworth	225-3411	226-0771	Tsongas.house.gov	2014
John F. Tierney (D-5 <sup>th</sup> ) <i>Education &amp; Workforce</i>	2238 Rayburn	225-8020	225-5915	Tierney.house.gov	2014
Edward J. Markey (D-6 <sup>th</sup> ) Energy & Commerce	2108 Rayburn	225-2836	226-0092	Markey.house.gov	2014
Michael E. Capuano (D-7 <sup>th</sup> )	1414 Longworth	225-5111	225-9322	House.gov/capuano	2014
Stephen F. Lynch (D-8 <sup>th</sup> )	2133 Rayburn	225-8273	225-3984	Lynch.house.gov	2014
William R. "Bill" Keating (D-9 <sup>th</sup> )	315 Cannon	225-3111	225-5658	Keating.house.gov	2014
<b>Key Committee Jurisdictions</b> Senate <b>H.E.L.P.:</b> CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA <b>Senate Judiciary:</b> Juvenile Justice <b>Senate Finance:</b> Child Welfare Reform: Medicaid & Mental Health: SSBG. Child Welfare Services & Promoting					

Senate Judiciary: Juvenile Justice Senate Finance: Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF House Education & the Workforce: CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA House Judiciary: Juvenile Justice House Ways & Means: Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF House Energy & Commerce: Medicaid & Mental Health



#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>14</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>15</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>16</sup> Administration for Children and Families. (2012). Adoptions of children with public child welfare agency involvement by state. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/adoptchild11.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/adoptchild11.pdf</a>.

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<sup>18</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2011.* Retrieved February 11, 2013 from http://www.census.gov/acs/www/.

<sup>19</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA calculation.

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U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2011). TANF: Total Number of Recipients. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/2010-recipients-tanf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/2010-recipients-tanf</a>.

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<sup>25</sup> Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2012). Preliminary Report FY 2011: State Boxscores for FY 2011.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.* Retrieved on January 18, 2013 from <u>http://www.census.gov/acs/www/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *Selected Economic Characteristics, 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.* Retrieved January 18, 2013 from http://www.census.gov/acs/www/.

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<sup>26</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2011). National and State Housing Data Factsheet, Spreadsheet with State-by-State Rental Assistance Data: Federal Rental Assistance in the United States and U.S. Territories. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from

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<sup>48</sup> Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

49 U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff. Retrieved January 19, 2012 from www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (2012). Foster Care FY2003–FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entryexit2011.pdf.

Note: The penetration rate is a CWLA calculation of special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care expenditures.

53 DeVooght, K., Fletcher, M, Vaughn, B., & Cooper, H. (2012). Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFYs 2008 and 2010. Washington, DC: Child Trends. Retrieved March 18, 2013 from http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child Trends-2012\_06\_20\_FR\_CaseyCWFinancing.pdf. 54 Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state. 56 Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.

