

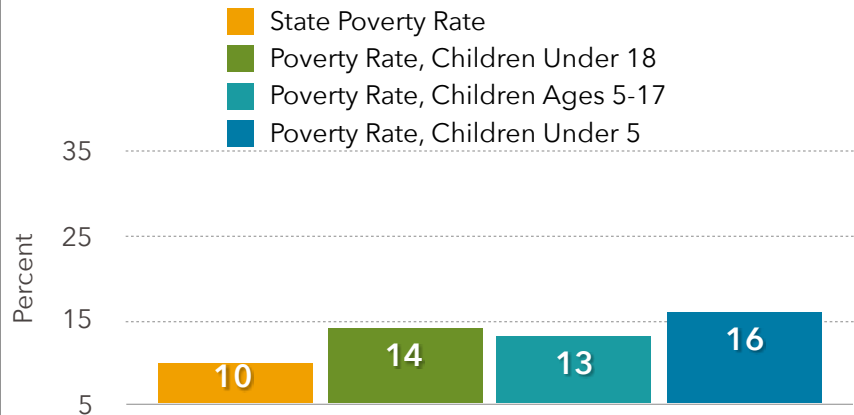
MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILDREN 2018

State Population: 6,742,143 | Population of Children Under 18: 1,357,280

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the **5,769** children exiting out-of-home care in 2016 in Massachusetts, 64% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- **669** children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Massachusetts in 2016, an increase of 7.4% from **623** in 2015.¹⁶
- Of the **10,910** children in out-of-home care in 2016, there were **3,481** or 31.91% waiting to be adopted.¹⁷
- In 2016, approximately **31,973** grandparents in Massachusetts had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.¹⁸
- **2,649** of the children in out-of-home care in 2015 were living with relatives while in care.¹⁹

Poverty Rates



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2016, Massachusetts had 82,851 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 48,126 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2016, there were 32,093 victims of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts, a rate of 23.3 per 1,000 children, an increase of 3.2% from 2015. Of these children, 94.9% were neglected, 8.9% were physically abused, and 2.4% were sexually abused.⁹
- The number of child victims has increased 3.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2015.¹⁰

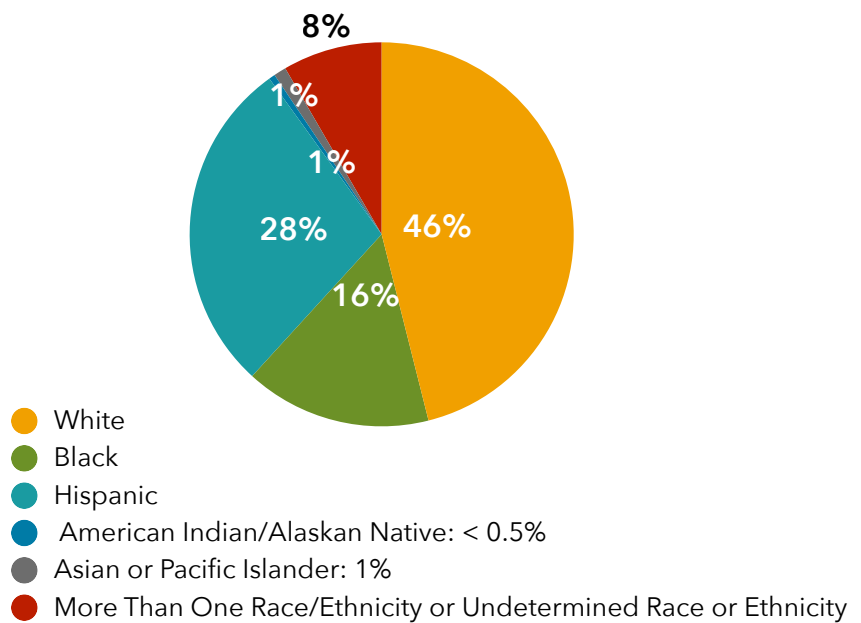


CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2015, Massachusetts had a monthly average of 29,500 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 28,300 children received subsidized child care per month in 2014 and 28,000 were recipients in 2013.²⁸
- In 2016, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Massachusetts, a family of three could make no more than \$44,593 at application, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2016, Massachusetts had 24,243 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2016, Head Start served 12,284 children in Massachusetts, a decrease of 2.7% from 2015.³¹
- Through federal grants from the Home Visiting Program, in fiscal year 2015, home visitors in Massachusetts made 32,459 home visits to 7,043 parents and children in 3,724 families, as well as enrolled 3,972 new parents and children to the program.⁶⁴

- In 2016, there were child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Massachusetts.¹¹
- 10,910 children in Massachusetts lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2016, compared with 10,278 children in 2015.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 6.2% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2015.¹³

Children in Out-of-Home Care 2015



CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The monthly average number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Massachusetts decreased from 67,345 in 2015 to 58,912 in 2016, a 14.3% change. There was a 31,893 monthly average of families received TANF in 2016, a decrease of 13.7% from 2015.²⁰
- In 2016, for every 100 poor families with children, only 38 received

TANF cash assistance.²¹

- \$945,128,210 was spent in 2016 on TANF assistance in Massachusetts, including 1.1% on basic assistance and 16.5% on child care.²²
- \$24,881,063 was spent in 2016 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Massachusetts, serving 114,419 participants.²³
- 13.5% of households in Massachusetts were food insecure in 2015, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 584,863 children in Massachusetts were enrolled in Medicaid in 2016, an increase of 3.0% from 2015.³²
- In 2016, Massachusetts had 185,578 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an increase of 7.8% from 2015, when 172,190 children were enrolled.³³
- In 2016, Massachusetts had 18,192 uninsured children.³⁴
- 5,330 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Massachusetts in 2016.³⁵
- 279 infants under age 1 died in Massachusetts in 2016.³⁶
- In 2015, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Massachusetts was 4.4 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 15.3 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 9 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2016, there were 24,441 adults and adolescents and 232 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts.³⁸
- In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in Massachusetts reached \$584,278,745.³⁹

YOUTH WHO ARE VULNERABLE

- 882 children in Massachusetts aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2015.⁴²

- 15,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Massachusetts were not enrolled in school and not working in 2016.⁴⁴
- 54,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2016.⁴⁵
- In 2016, there were less than 10 reports of children in Massachusetts aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 27 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 17 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Massachusetts in 2016, compared to 15 in 2015.⁴⁸
- 6,939 children younger than 18 were arrested in Massachusetts in 2016. Violent crimes were the reason for 849 of the arrests in 2016.⁴⁹
- 426 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts in 2015.⁵⁰

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

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.⁵²

- According to a 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.⁵³
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.⁵⁴ Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.⁵⁵

Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.⁵⁶

- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁵⁷
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree.⁵⁸

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

- In 2014, Massachusetts's sum of expenditures for services totaled \$23,037,421. The most utilized service in Massachusetts was Protective Services for Children totaling \$8,873,178.⁶⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILDREN

- In 2014, Massachusetts spent \$822,945,421 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$203,616,340 was from federal funds and \$147,350,866 was from state and local funds.⁶¹
- In 2014, of the \$134,535,982 in federal funds received for child welfare, 29.8% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 8.2% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 34.4% was from Medicaid, 14.3% came from Social Services Block Grant, 11.2% was from TANF, and 2.0% came from other federal sources.⁶²
- Massachusetts received \$52,695,234 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2014, including \$19,530,846 for maintenance payments and \$33,164,388 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶³

1 Population and Child Abuse and Neglect statistics are from 2016.

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3 Ibid.

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Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

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- Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.
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- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2016. Retrieved January 22, 2018 from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_DP02&prodType=table.
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