Child Maltreatment

In 2018, Massachusetts had 85,794 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 45,686 were referred for investigation.

There were 25,812 child victims of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts in 2018, at a rate of 18.9 children per 1,000. This translates to a 19% decrease since 2014.

Of the 25,812 children, 13,474 were first time victims.

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing 3,298 of the 25,812 cases.

- 80% of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. 20% were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.
- 51% of Massachusetts’s child victims in 2017 were female while 49% were male.

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018

- Neglect Only: 88%
- Physical Abuse Only: 4%
- Sexual Abuse Only: 0%
- Sex Trafficking Only: 6%
- Multiple Maltreatment Types: 19%

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018

- African American: 35%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 4%
- Asian: 11%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Multiple Race: 2%
- White: 42%
- Unknown: 0%

Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, 2,276 infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.
- Massachusetts reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.
**Massachusetts’s Children 2020**

- Massachueetsy had no reports of child fatalities in 2017 and 2018.\textsuperscript{xi}

- Massachusetts reported 219 total child victims of sex trafficking with 196 females, 19 males and 4 unknown sexes.\textsuperscript{xii}

- 26,292 victims received post-response services while 39,850 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{xiii}

### Foster Care and Adoptions

- 16,456 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2018.
- 10,612 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2018.
- 5,789 children entered care during the 2018 FY while 5,844 exited during the same year.
- 826 of Massachusetts children were adopted while 3,381 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 1.7% increase in the number of children in care between 2017 and 2018. Adoptions from the system also decreased 1.8% from 2017.\textsuperscript{xvi}

846 children in Massachusetts aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from 870 in 2016 and represents a 2.7% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of 22.2 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Massachusetts for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 39.2 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was 6.4 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.2 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2017 shows that 4,316 children in foster care within Massachusetts were living with non-relatives while 2,910 stayed with a relative.

- 1,779 children were staying in group homes while 111 children were classified as runaways.
- 3% of households in Massachusetts in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.
- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 13.9 months.

**Child Poverty**
Massachusetts had 365,000 children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing 27% of all children.

32% of Massachusetts's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.

The average number of individuals receiving TANF fell from 53,757 in 2017 to 52,667 in 2018. This represents a 2% decrease.

The state spent $49,229,968 on WIC in 2019, serving 103,315 people. This represents a 4.9% decrease in total participants and a 1% decrease in spending.

616,090 people in Massachusetts were food insecure in 2017, including 159,950 children who struggled with hunger.

31.3% of households receiving SNAP benefits in 2017 in Massachusetts had children.

**Health**
Massachusetts had **6,172** low birthweight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **7.5%** of infants born in Massachusetts in 2017.\(^{xxxi}\)

Massachusetts had a total of **6,171** preterm births in 2018, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. **8.3%** of all white babies were born premature while **11.2%** of black babies arrived prematurely in 2018. The total premature birth rate was **8.9%**.\(^{xxxii}\)

There were **1,827** births to mothers aged 15-19 in Massachusetts in 2017, representing a rate of **13** in every 1,000 teen girls. \(^{xxxiii}\)

**262** infants under 1 died in Massachusetts in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **3.7** per 1,000. \(^{xxxiv}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **3%** of Massachusetts’s children had no health insurance in 2018. This represents **18,000** children.\(^{xxxvi}\)
- **548,765** children in Massachusetts were enrolled in Medicaid in 2018. This represents a **1.1%** decrease from 2017. \(^{xxxvii}\)
- **227,819** children in Massachusetts were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2018. This represents a **3.5%** increase from 2017. \(^{xxxviii}\)
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 4,508 total arrests for children under 18 in Massachusetts in 2018.
- 227 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 615 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 132 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 309 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts in 2017. This is a decrease from 426 kids in 2015, representing a 28.4% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 16,000 (4%) of Massachusetts’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.
- In 2017, there were no reports of children in Massachusetts aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 31 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 29 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Massachusetts in 2017.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Massachusetts spent $893,749,028 on child welfare services in 2016. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $893,749,028 were allocated from the federal government and $670,925,980 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- The breakdown of the $893,749,028 in federal funding received in Massachusetts in 2016:
  - $53,824,997 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
  - $27,813,240 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
  - Massachusetts’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was $32,619,103.


Ibid.


Ibid.


