

Massachusetts's Children 2020

Child Maltreatment

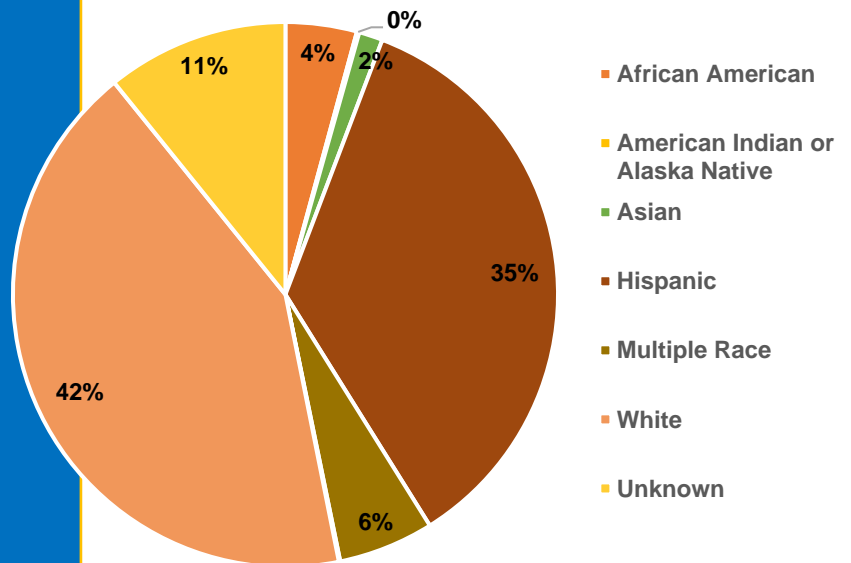
In 2018, Massachusetts had **85,794** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **45,686** were referred for investigation.ⁱ

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.ⁱⁱ

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

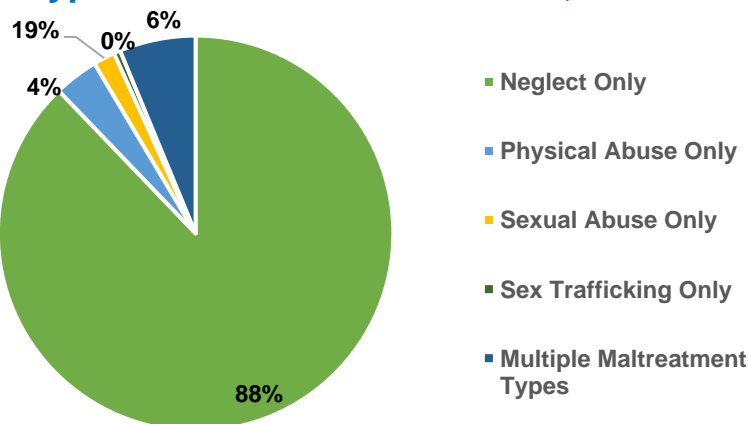
The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **3,298** of the **25,812** cases.^{iv}

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2018



v

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2018



- **80%** of child maltreatment perpetrators in 2017 were parents of the child. **20%** were non-parents or had an unknown relationship.^{vi}

- **51%** of Massachusetts's child victims in 2017 were female while **49%** were male.^{vii}

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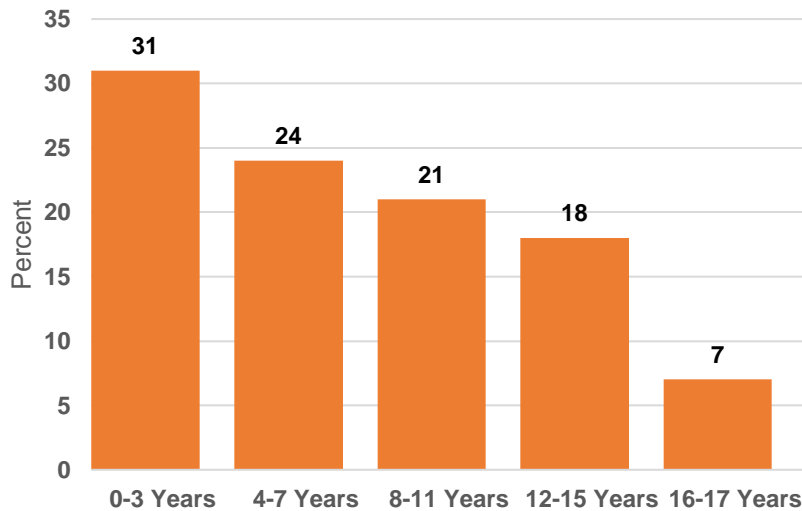
Plans of Safe Care

- In 2018, **2,276** infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.^{ix}
- Massachusetts reported no plans of safe care for screened-in infants.^x



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Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2017



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- Massachusetts had no reports of child fatalities in 2017 and 2018.^{xi}

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

- **26,292** victims received post-response services while **39,850** non-victims received post-response services as well.^{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 30th, 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.^{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.^{xvi}

2.7%
Decrease since
2016 in children
aging out of
foster care

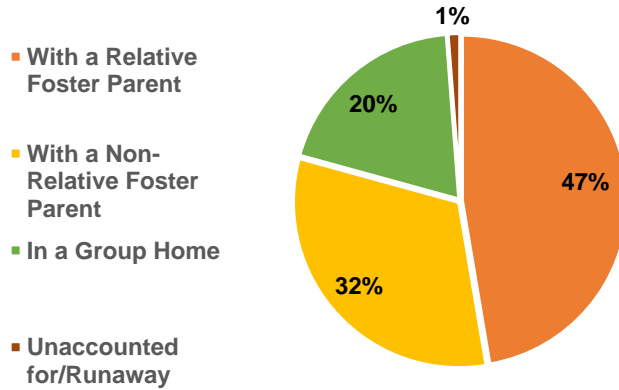
846 children in Massachusetts aged out and exited foster care in 2017. This is a decrease from **870** in 2016 and represents a **2.7%** decrease.^{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2017 spent an average of **22.2** months in care. ^{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Massachusetts for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is **39.2** months.^{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2017 was **6.4** years old.^{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was **5.2** years old.^{xxi}



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Where are Children in Foster Care Staying?



- 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.^{xxii}

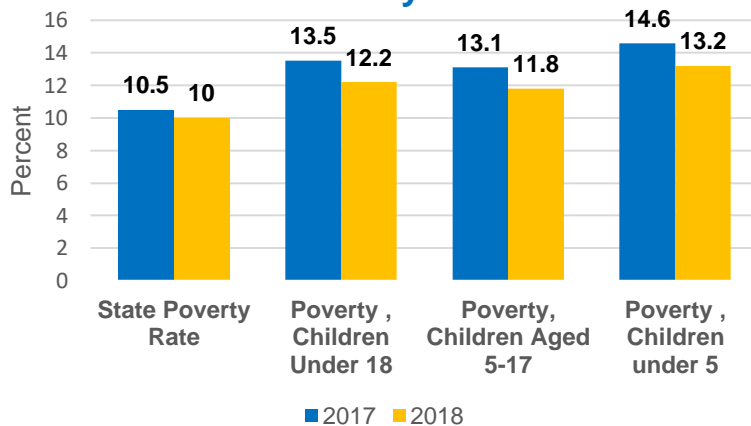
- 3%** of households in Massachusetts in 2017 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.^{xxiii}

- The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was **13.9** months.^{xxiv}

Child Poverty

Massachusetts had **365,000** children in 2017 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **27%** of all children.^{xxv}

Child Poverty Over Time



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

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

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. ^{xxviii}

616,090 people in Massachusetts were food insecure in 2017, including **159,950 children** who struggled with hunger.^{xxix}

31.3% of households receiving SNAP benefits in 2017 in Massachusetts had children.^{xxx}

Health



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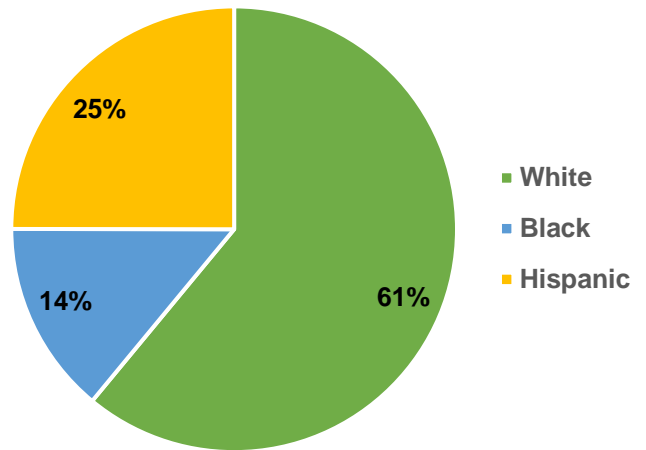
Massachusetts had **6,172** low birth-weight babies born in 2017 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to **7.5%** of infants born in Massachusetts in 2017. ^{.xxxvi}

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%**. ^{.xxxvii}

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. ^{.xxxviii}

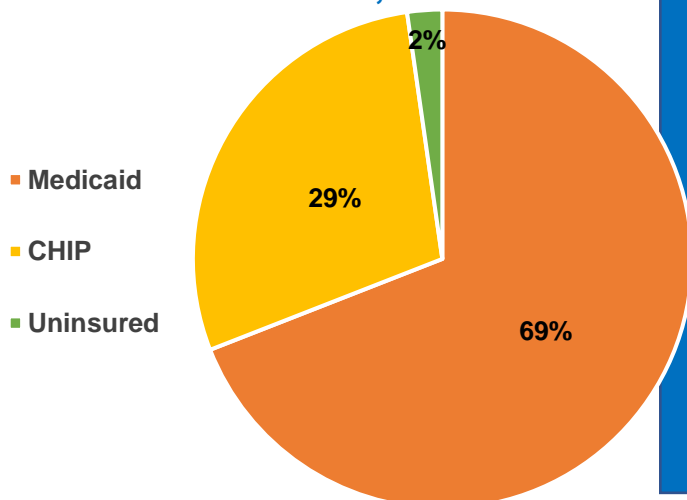
262 infants under 1 died in Massachusetts in 2017, representing an infant mortality rate of **3.7** per 1,000. ^{.xxxix}

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2018



xxxv

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2018



- **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}



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28.4%
decline since
2015 of children
living in juvenile
correction
facilities

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.^{xxxix}
- **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.^{xi}

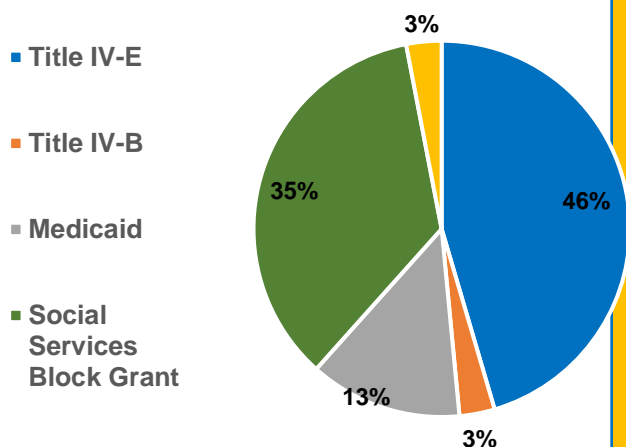
Teens & Youth

- **16,000** (4%) of Massachusetts's youth were both not in school and not working in 2017.^{xli}
- 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.^{xlii}
- **29** children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Massachusetts in 2017.^{xliii}

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.^{xliv}

Federal Funding Sources



- The breakdown of the **\$893,749,028** in federal funding received in Massachusetts in 2016: ^{xlv}
- **\$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 ^{xlvi}
- Massachusetts's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2017 was **\$32,619,103** ^{xlvii}



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^{xxiii} Ibid.



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