Child Maltreatment

In 2020, Massachusetts had **71,818** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **37,505** were referred for investigation.\(^1\)

There were **22,538** child victims of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts in 2020, at a rate of **16.8** children per 1,000. This translates to a **28.7%** decrease since 2016.\(^ii\)

Of the **22,538** children, **12,466** were first time victims.\(^iii\)

The largest age group of victims was children under one, representing **2,769** of the **22,538** cases.\(^iv\)

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Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2020

- African American: 12%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 0%
- Asian: 2%
- Hispanic: 32%
- Multiple Race: 6%
- Pacific Islander: 0%
- White: 38%
- Unknown: 0%

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**Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2020**

- Medical Neglect: 7%
- Neglect: 3%
- Other: 1%
- Physical Abuse: 89%
- Psychological Maltreatment: 3%
- Sexual Abuse: 0%

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**Plans of Safe Care**

- In 2019, **1,959** infants were screened-in with prenatal substance abuse exposure.\(^ix\)
- Massachusetts reported **1,329** plans of safe care for screened-in infants.\(^x\)
Massachusetts’s Children 2022

• Massachusetts had zero reports of child fatalities in 2020.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{i}

• Massachusetts reported 273 total child victims of sex trafficking.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{ii}

• 22,853 victims received post-response services while 31,077 non-victims received post-response services as well.\textsuperscript{x}\textsuperscript{iii}

Foster Care and Adoptions

- 14,289 total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2020.
- 9,320 were in care on the day of September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020.
- 4,594 children entered care during the 2020 FY while 4,969 exited during the same year.
- 762 of Massachusetts children were adopted while 3,548 were waiting to be adopted.\textsuperscript{xv}

There was a 5.5\% decrease in the number of children in care between 2019 and 2020. Adoptions from the system also decreased 23.65\% from 2019.\textsuperscript{xvi}

793 children in Massachusetts aged out and exited foster care in 2019. This is a decrease from 813 in 2018 and represents a 2.5\% decrease.\textsuperscript{xvii}

- Children in foster care in 2020 spent an average of 25.2 months in care.\textsuperscript{xviii}
- The average length of stay in Massachusetts for children waiting to be adopted from foster care is 38.4 months.\textsuperscript{xix}
- The average age of children waiting to be adopted in 2020 was 7.1 years old.\textsuperscript{xx}
- The average age of adopted children was 5.5 years old.\textsuperscript{xxi}
Data from 2019 shows that 3,827 children in foster care within Massachusetts were living with non-relatives while 2,356 stayed with a relative (See Pie Chart).xxii

1,611 children were staying in group homes while 82 children were classified as runaways.xxxiii

3% of households in Massachusetts in 2020 had a grandparent living with a grandchild.xxiv

The average length of time a child in care spent living with their current relative foster family was 12.8 months.xxv

**Child Poverty**

Massachusetts had **334,000** children in 2019 who lived with parents who lacked secure employment, representing **25%** of all children.xxvi

31% of Massachusetts's children lived in households with a high housing cost burden.xxviii

Poverty, Children Under 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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Poverty, Children Aged 6-17

<table>
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Poverty, Children Aged 0-5

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<td>2019</td>
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The average number of individuals receiving TANF increased from **57,013** in 2019 to **67,180** in 2020. This represents a **17.8%** increase.xxix  xxx

The state spent **$46,682,463** on WIC in 2021, serving **111,300** people. This represents a **5.27%** increase in total participants and a **3.4%** decrease in spending. xxxi

**566,930** people in Massachusetts were food insecure in 2019, including **120,250** children who struggled with hunger.xxxii

30.9% of households receiving SNAP benefits in 2019 in Massachusetts had children.xxxiii
Health
Massachusetts had 5,257 low birth-weight babies born in 2019 which is constituted as babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds. This translates to 7.6% of infants born in Massachusetts in 2019. xxxiv

Massachusetts had a total of 6,196 preterm births in 2019, meaning less than 37 completed weeks of gestation. 8.18% of all white babies were born premature while 11.19% of black babies arrived prematurely in 2019. The total premature birth rate was 8.98%. xxxv

There were 1,538 births to mothers aged 15-19 in Massachusetts in 2019, representing a rate of 7 in every 1,000 teen girls. xxxvi

254 infants under one died in Massachusetts in 2019, representing an infant mortality rate of 3.7 per 1,000. xxxvii

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2019

Public Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2020

1.5% of Massachusetts’s children had no health insurance in 2019. This represented 22,000 children. Massachusetts is a Medicaid expansion state. xxxix

529,964 children in Massachusetts were enrolled in Medicaid in 2020. This represents a 1.5% decrease from 2019. xi

219,055 children in Massachusetts were in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2020. This represents a 6.1% increase from 2019. xii
Juvenile Justice System
- There were 4,141 total arrests for children under 18 in Massachusetts in 2019.
- 167 of these arrests were for Disorderly Conduct.
- 652 arrests were made for Property Crimes.
- 110 were arrested under the charge of Drug Abuse Violations.
- 288 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts in 2019. This is a decrease from 309 kids in 2017, representing a 6.8% decline.

Teens & Youth
- 15,000 (4%) of Massachusetts’s youth were both not in school and not working in 2019.
- In 2020, there were zero reports of children in Massachusetts aged 10-14 committing suicide, and 26 reports of suicide among children aged 15-19.
- 73 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Massachusetts in 2020.

Child Welfare Services Funding
- Massachusetts spent $1,220,742,341 on child welfare services in 2018. Child welfare services are all of the direct and administrative services that state agencies provide to children and families.
- $267,153,930 were allocated from the federal government and $946,788,205 came from state and local funds.

Federal Funding Sources
- Title IV-E: 55%
- Title IV-B: 30%
- Medicaid: 12%
- Social Services Block Grant: 3%
- Other: 0%

The breakdown of the $267,153,930 in federal funding received in Massachusetts in 2018:
- $101,634,176 as part of the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.
- $27,857,660 as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Massachusetts’s sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2020 was $78,591,600.


xvi Based on Calculations from the CWLA


xii Ibid.

xii Ibid.


xiv Ibid.


xv Ibid.


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**xli** Ibid.


