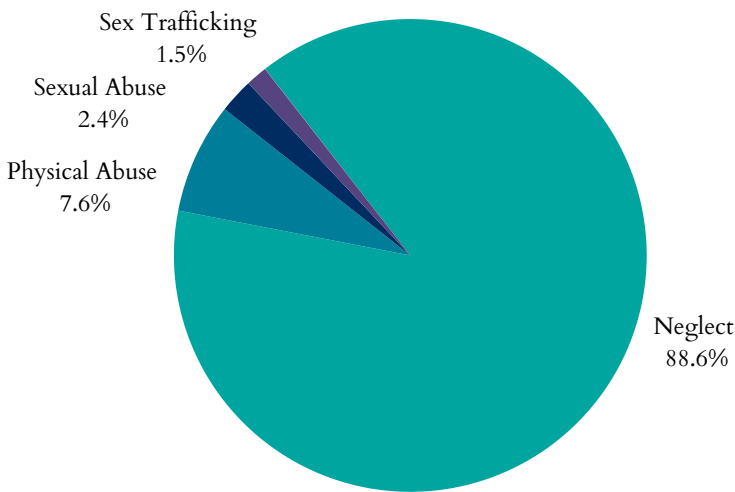


Massachusetts' Children

Child Maltreatment

- In 2024, Massachusetts had **83,132** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. **34,887** were screened in for response by CPS.
- **20,196** were child victims of abuse or neglect, at a rate of **16.0** children per 1,000 (**10.4%** decrease since 2020).
- Of the **21,710** children, **12,161** were first-time victims.
- Largest age group of victims = **<1 years**, representing **1,922** of the **20,196** cases.

Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2024



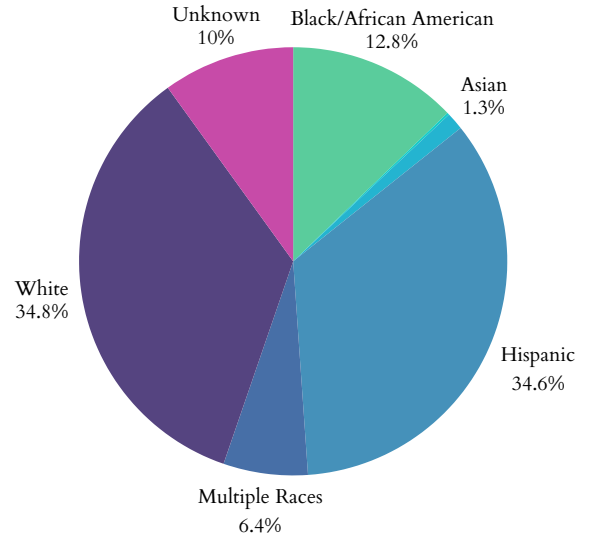
Workforce

There are **9,830** child, family, and school social workers in Massachusetts with a mean wage of **\$33.95** (compared to Massachusetts' 2024 minimum wage: **\$15.00**)



Published March 2026

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



Perpetrators of child maltreatment (2024):

- **80%** = parents of the child.
- **20%** = non-parents or unknown relationship.

Child victims (2024):

- **49.6%** = female; **47.9%** = male.

- Child fatalities decreased from **11** in 2023 to **6** in 2024.
- Massachusetts reported **349** total child victims of sex trafficking.
- Post-response services given to **19,958** victims and **27,822** non-victims.

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2024

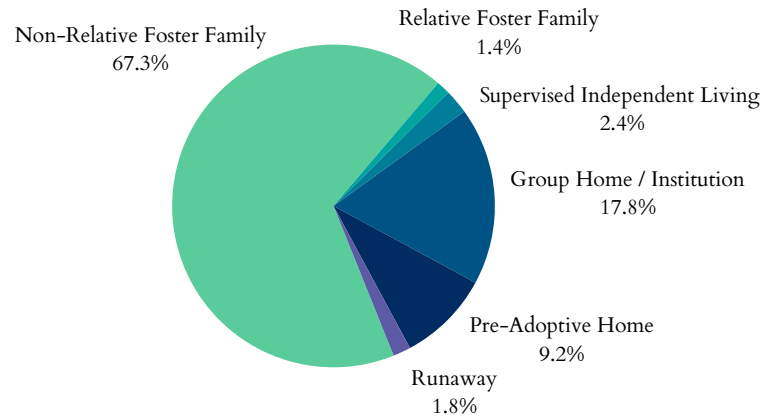


Massachusetts' Children

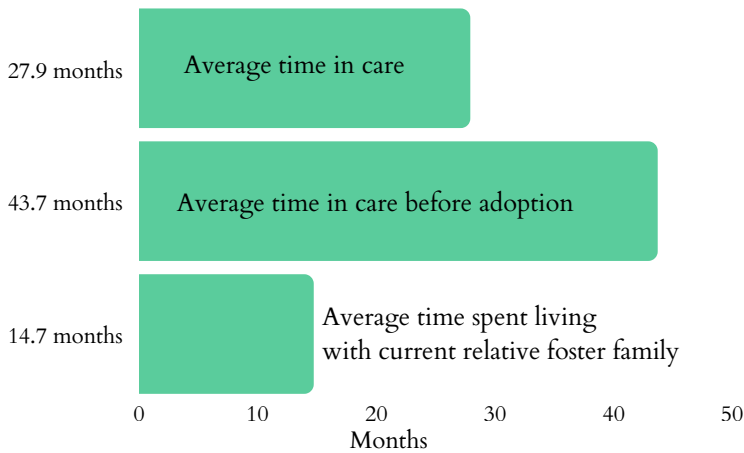
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **12,148** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2024.
- **8,574** children in care as of 09/30/2024.
- During FY 2024, **3,301** children entered care and **3,574** exited.
- **869** children were adopted; **2,836** had a permanency plan for adoption.
- **3.8%** decrease in the number of children in care and a **2.7%** increase in the number of children adopted from care from FY 2023-2024.

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2023



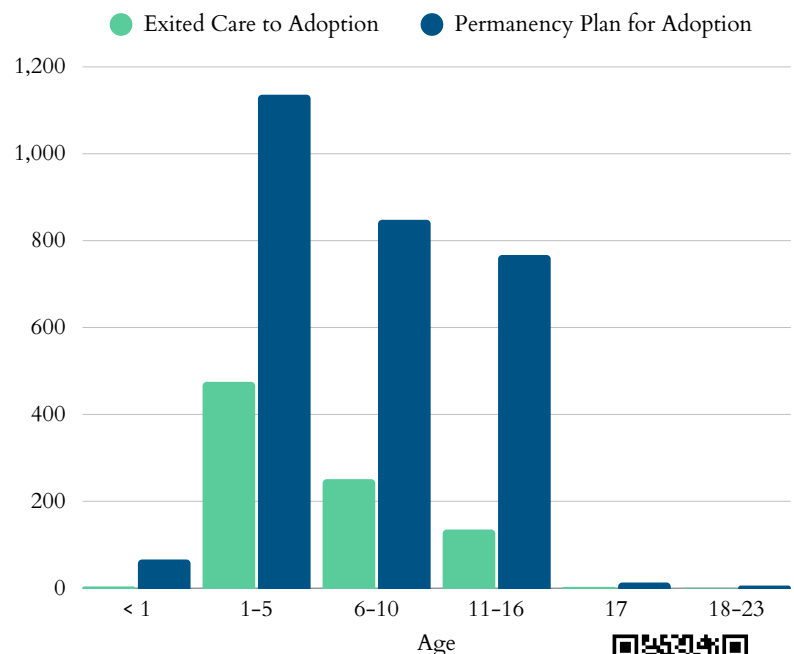
Duration in Care, 2023



- In 2023, **5,998** children were living with non-relative foster families; **122** stayed with a relative.
- **1,590** children were staying in group homes or institutions; **158** children were classified as runaways.
- There are **119,994** grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18. Of those, **22.8%** are responsible for their grandchildren.

In FY 2024, **288** children transitioned from foster care to independence. This is a **55.7%** increase from **185** in FY 2023

Age Distribution of Adoptions, 2024



Juvenile Justice

- **5,162** total arrests for youth under 18 in 2023
- A total of **285** youth were in a correctional placement in 2023; a **39.7%** increase since 2021
 - **10.5%** of the youth are ≤ 14 years old
 - **50%** are Black youth
 - **20%** are White youth
 - **92.6%** males and **7.4%** females
- Black youth represent **43.2%** of all correctional placements; **20%** for White youth in 2023

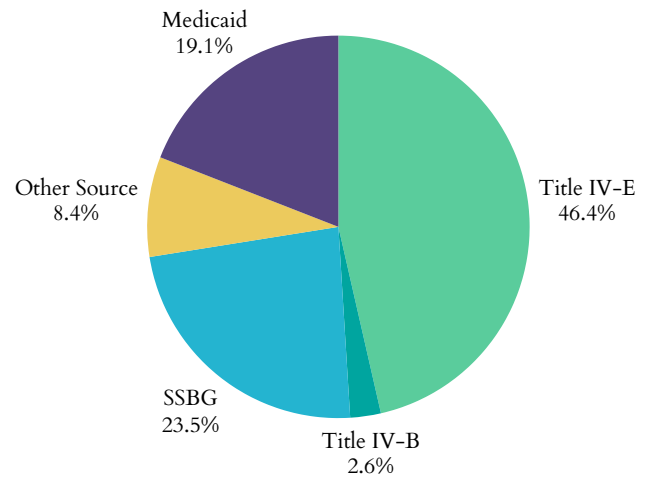


Massachusetts' Children

Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Massachusetts spent **\$1,192,678,314.59** on child welfare services in 2022.
 - Child welfare services = direct and administrative services
- **\$336,563,749.63** = from the federal government
- **\$850,670,947** = from state and local funds.

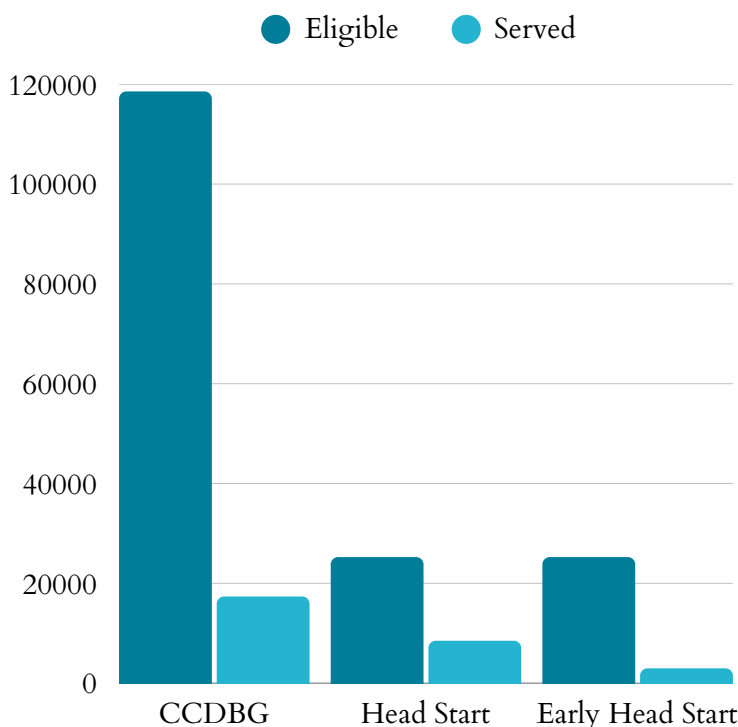
Federal Funding Sources, 2022



The significant funding sectors of the **\$336,563,749.63** in federal funding received in Massachusetts in 2022:

- **\$99,407,593.12** as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- **\$39,565,295.08** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Massachusetts' sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2022 was **\$78,965,341**

Child Care & Early Learning



- **34%** of Head Start eligible children are served
- **12%** of Early Head Start eligible children are served
- **15%** of Child Care & Development Block Grant eligible children 5 and under are served

- **\$26,343** annual cost of center-based infant care
- **\$17,510** annual cost of home-based infant care

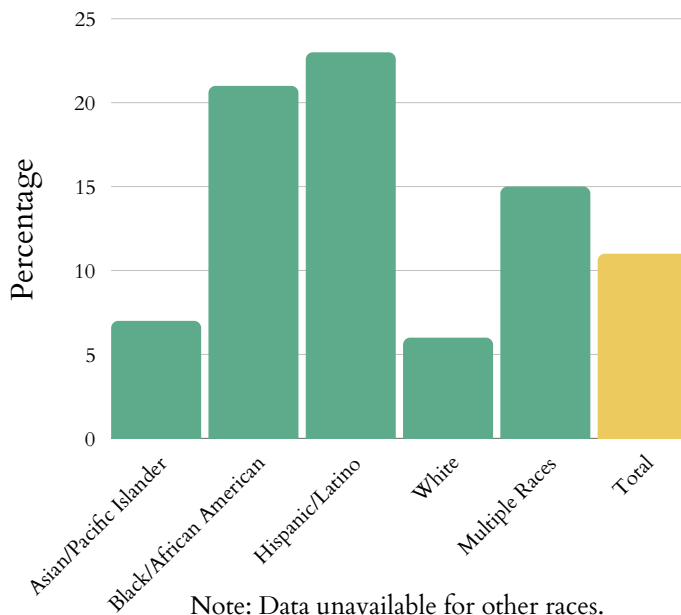


Massachusetts' Children

Child Poverty

- **330,000** children lived with parents who lacked secure employment in 2023 (25% of all children).
- Average number of TANF recipients rose from **86,266** in 2024 to **88,036** in 2025 (2.1% increase).

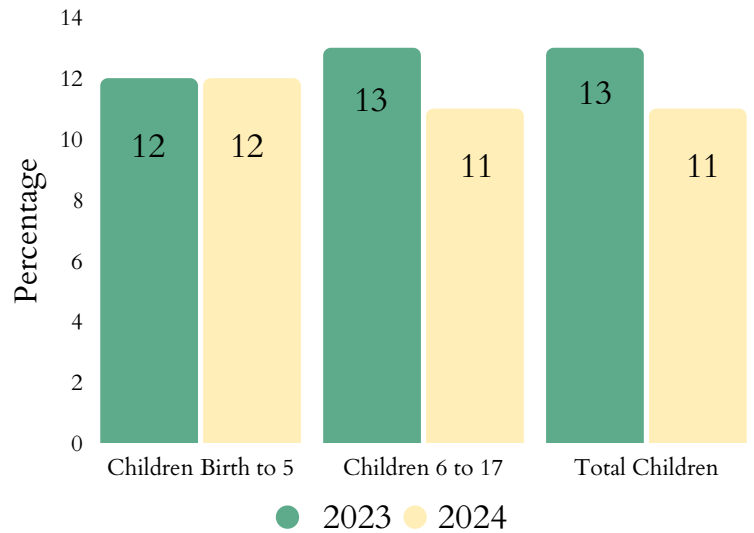
Child Poverty by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



Housing

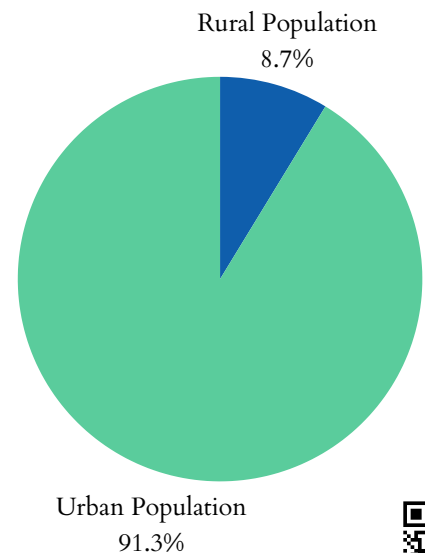
- **7,962** children, from birth to three-years-old, experienced homelessness in 2023 (2.9%).
- **28.7%** of households receiving the Low Income Housing Tax Credit report having at least one member under 18 in 2023.
- **34%** of children lived in households with a high housing cost burden in 2023.
- **50,153** total Massachusetts residents living in public housing in 2025.

Child Poverty Over Time by Age



- The state spent **\$32,986,062** on WIC in 2025, serving **122,152** people: a 8.1% decrease in total participants and 2.2% increase in spending since 2024.
- **804,180** people were food insecure in 2023, including **177,040** children.
- **30.9%** of households receiving SNAP benefits had children.

Total Urban vs. Rural Population of Massachusetts, 2020

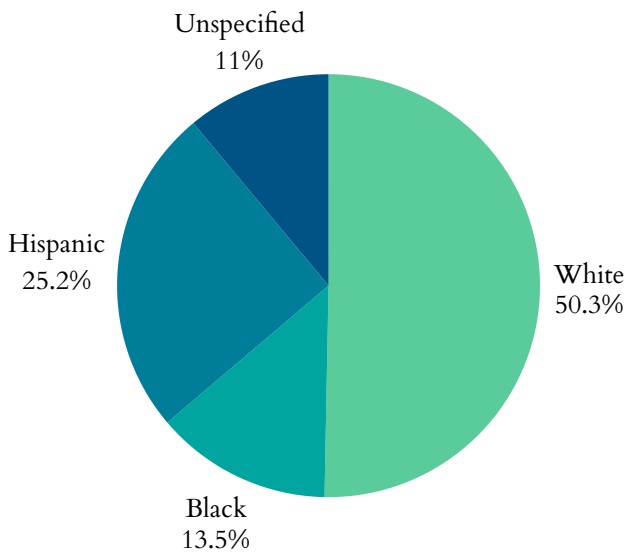


Massachusetts' Children

Health

- **5,081** low birth-weight babies (<5.5lbs) born in 2023 (7.6% of births).
- **6,057** preterm births (<37wks) in 2023 (9.06% of births).
 - 8.46% of all White babies
 - 11.2% of all Black babies
- **1,311** births to mothers aged 15–19 in 2023—a rate of 6 in every 1,000 teen girls.
- **213** infants aged <1yr died in 2023—a rate of 3.2 per 1,000.

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2023



Medicaid Expansion

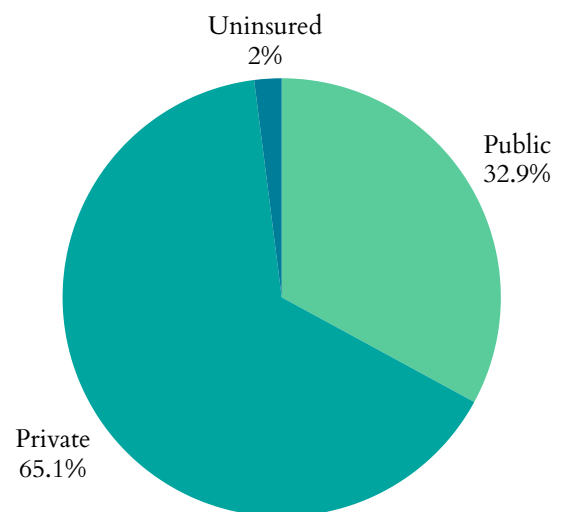
Massachusetts has been a **Medicaid expansion** state since 01/01/2014.

Maternal Mortality

- From 2018 to 2022, **56** Massachusetts women died while pregnant, or within 42 days post pregnancy from any cause relating to or aggravated by said pregnancy, excluding accidents and incidents
- For every 100,000 live births in Massachusetts, there is **16** maternal deaths

- **31,000** children had no health insurance in 2024 (47.6% increase from 2023).
- **505,000** children were enrolled in Medicaid in 2024 (no change from 2023).
- **222,537** children in Massachusetts were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2021 (1.59% increase from 2020).

Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2024

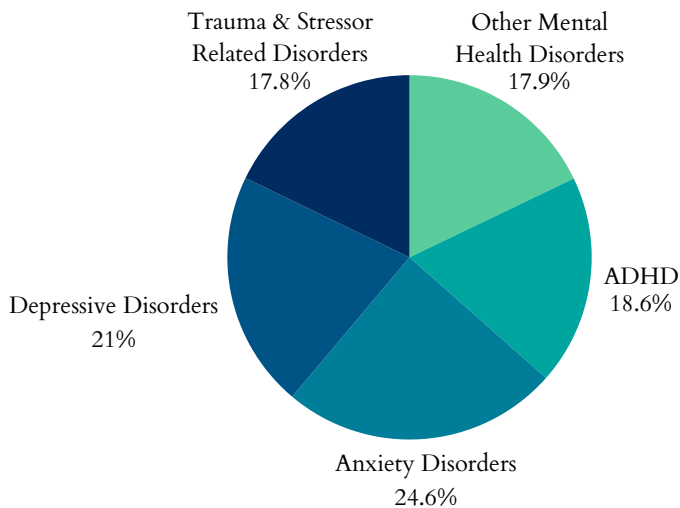


Massachusetts' Children

Zero to Three

- 74.5% of babies live above low-income
- 12.8% of babies live at low income
- 12.7% of babies live in poverty
- 7.3% of babies live in deep poverty
- 72.2% of new parents have at least one parent working full time

Top 5 Mental Health Diagnoses Among Children, 2023



Prenatal Substance Exposure

- In 2024, Massachusetts reported 917 infants screened in with prenatal substance exposure.
- Massachusetts reported 581 plans of safe care for screened-in infants.

Family First

Massachusetts has a Family First plan approved by the administration.

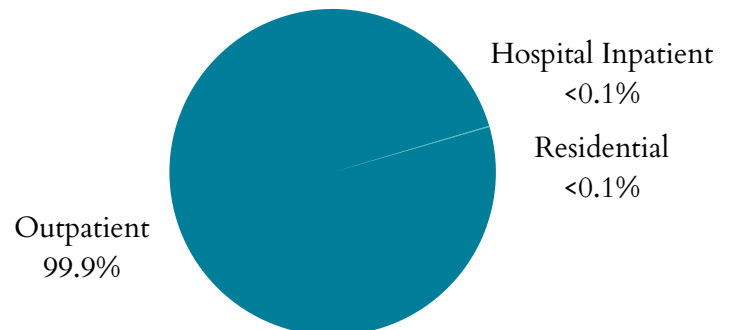
Teens & Youth

- 13,000 youth (16-19yrs) were not in school nor working in 2024 (3%).
- 17 children <19yrs were killed by a firearm in Massachusetts in 2024.

Mental Health

- 2,649 children received mental health treatment in Massachusetts in 2023 (0.1%).
- From 2021 to 2023, there were 5.3 deaths from suicide per 100,000 adolescents aged 15-19 in Massachusetts.

Treatment Type for Youth with Substance Use Disorder, 2024



Substance Use

- From 2015 to 2019, an average of 29,350 children in Massachusetts (1.5% of the state's child population) lived with parents having a substance use disorder.
- On March 29, 2024, 5,248 clients 18 and under were in treatment for SUD.

