



# M A S S A C H U S E T T S ' S C H I L D R E N 2 0 1 0

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### Massachusetts's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	6,497,967
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,428,726
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	11.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	17.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> .....	18.1%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	13.6%

*\*All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, Massachusetts had 67,793 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 39,801 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2007, 37,690 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Massachusetts, a rate of 26.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 4.3% increase from 2006. Of these children, 32,131 were neglected, 2,394 were physically abused, and 545 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- Massachusetts did not have a final tally of the number of children who died as a result of abuse or neglect in 2007.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2007, 10,497 children in Massachusetts lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 12,081 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,830 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 2,436 were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Massachusetts children in out-of-home care in 2007, 48.2% were white, 16.0% black, 26.0% Hispanic, 0.1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 9.5% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,202 children exiting out-of-home care in Massachusetts in 2007, 54.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2007, 814 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Massachusetts, a 6.9% decrease from 874 in 2006.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 10,497 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 2,868 or 27.3% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2008, approximately 31,195 Massachusetts grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 10,497 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 18.4% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Massachusetts children in kinship care in 2007, 55.7% were white, 12.4% were black, 20.4% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 11.3% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Massachusetts increased from 90,531 in March 2008 to 92,913 in March 2009, an increase of 2.6%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 47,184, a 4.0% increase from March 2008.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Massachusetts was at 54.2% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2007, Massachusetts spent \$868,582,472 in TANF funds, including 34% on basic assistance, <1% on child care, 0.0% on transportation, and 66% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2008, Massachusetts spent \$61,766,095 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 123,938 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2008, Massachusetts collected and distributed \$538,629,838 in child support funds, an increase of 6.9% from 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Massachusetts was \$1,194 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$22.97 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Massachusetts had a monthly average of 28,600 children served by subsidized child care; 32,100 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 34,900 in 2005.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Massachusetts, a family of three could make no more than \$37,526, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2009, Massachusetts had 20,694 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 12,807 Massachusetts children, a 1.5% decrease from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 451,400 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Massachusetts—36.9% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2007, 544 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Massachusetts on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2007, of the 544 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 11 received Targeted Case Management services, and 44 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2008, Massachusetts had 110,349 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 19.3% increase from 2007, when 92,506 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2008, Massachusetts had 49,000 uninsured children, representing 3.4% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2006, 6,138 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Massachusetts a rank of 19 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2006, 370 infants under age 1 died in Massachusetts, giving it a rank of 2 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in Massachusetts was 11 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 36. This reflects a total rate of 21 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2007, 19,819 adults and adolescents, as well as 218 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2007, an estimated 46,000 children ages 12–17, and 352,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Massachusetts.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 1,150 children aged out of out-of-home care in Massachusetts.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2008, 17,000 Massachusetts teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2008, 20,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2007, 64,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 24,000 children ages 12–17 in Massachusetts needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 30,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2006, 21 Massachusetts children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.21 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 13 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Massachusetts, a 18.8% decrease from 16 in 2005.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2008, 17,974 children younger than 18 were arrested in Massachusetts, a 2.4% decrease from 18,407 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 1,964 were for violent crimes and 265 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>

- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,164 children in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts.<sup>47</sup>

### **FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILDREN**

- In 2006, Massachusetts spent \$719,765,059 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 36% was from federal funds, 64% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$257,013,278 in federal funds received for child welfare, 38% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 23% was from Medicaid, 32% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 0% was from TANF, and 3% came from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 10,497 children in out-of-home care in Massachusetts in 2007, only 3,474, or 33.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>

### **MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE**

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well-being for children.<sup>51</sup>
  - 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 that child and family.<sup>52</sup>
  - According to the 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.<sup>53</sup>
  - In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Massachusetts was \$38,000; the median income for a family of four in Massachusetts was \$80,247.<sup>54</sup>
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