

MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILDREN 2004

Massachusetts Children At a Glance	
State Population (2002) ¹	6,427,801
State Population, Children	
Under 18 (2001) ²	1,501,000
State Poverty Rate (2002) ³	10.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2002) ⁴	13.0%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2002) ⁵	13.6%
Poverty Rate, Children	
Birth to Age 4 (2002) ⁶	13.3%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2001, 37,030 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in Massachusetts, a rate of 24.7 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2001, 33,218 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Massachusetts, a rate of 22.1 per 1,000 children, representing a 3% increase from 2000. Of every 1,000 children, 19.5 were neglected, 4.0 were physically abused, and 0.7 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2001, 19 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts.⁹
- On September 30, 2001, 11,568 children in Massachusetts lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,619 children on September 30, 2000. In 2001, 22.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.8% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2001, 5,640 white children, 2,004 black children, 2,212 Hispanic children, 65 American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 758 children of other races and ethnicities were in out-of-home care in the state.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,636 children leaving out-of-home care in 2001, 59% were reunited with their families.¹²
- In 2001, 778 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Massachusetts, a 33% decrease from 1,161 in 1997.¹³
- Of the 11,568 children in out-of-home care in 2001, 3,904 or 34% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- Of the 11,568 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2001, 17% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- In 2002, more than 24,487 Massachusetts grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Massachusetts increased from 107,214 in March 2002 to 108,469 in March 2003, an increase of 1.2%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2003 was 49,320, a 3.0% increase from March 2002.¹⁷
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and Food Stamp benefits in Massachusetts was 25% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2002, Massachusetts spent \$670,371,243 in TANF funds, including 41.6% on cash assistance, 2.8% on child care, 0.1% on transportation and support activities, and 55.5% on nonassistance.¹⁹
- In 2001, Massachusetts collected and distributed \$363,060,179 in child support funds, an increase of 14.0% from 2000.²⁰
- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Massachusetts was \$1,165 per month, or 108% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$6.75 per hour.²¹

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, an estimated monthly average of 32,700 of Massachusetts's children received subsidized child care, an increase from 30,800 in 2000 and 39,900 in 1999.²²
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 50% of Massachusetts's median income, or \$28,970, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²³
- In 2001, Massachusetts had 21,000 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁴
- Due to the state budget shortfall, Massachusetts cut the budget for its main child care program by \$10.6 million, its school-age program by 67%, its Head Start program by 10%, and the state prekindergarten program, which suffered earlier cuts in 2002, by \$9.07 million or 9%.²⁵
- In 2002, Head Start served 13,040 Massachusetts children, a 0.3% increase from 2001.²⁶
- In 2000, 82% of all 18- to 24-year-olds in Massachusetts had at least a high school degree or equivalent.²⁷

H E A L T H , M E N T A L H E A L T H , A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2000, 466,227 children younger than 18 were enrolled in Medicaid in Massachusetts, representing 31.2% of Massachusetts's total enrollees.²⁸
- In 2002, Massachusetts had 116,699 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, an 11.1% increase from 2001, when 105,072 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2001, 78 babies in Massachusetts were born to girls younger than 15. In 2001, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 4,984—a rate of 25 births per 1,000 girls.³⁰
- As of December 2002, 17,561 adults and adolescents, as well as 213 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts.³¹
- In 2002, 24 Massachusetts children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.47 per 100,000 children in the population.³²
- In 2001, an estimated 36,000 children ages 12–17, and 110,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³³

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, seven children younger than 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Massachusetts, compared with seven in 2000 as well.³⁴
- In 2002, 17,395 children younger than 18 were arrested in Massachusetts, a 15% decrease from 20,540 arrests in 1998. Of the arrests in 2002, 5,576 were for violent crimes and 163 were for possession of a weapon.³⁵
- A 1999 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,188 children in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts.³⁶

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R M A S S A C H U S E T T S ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2000, Massachusetts spent \$637,212,620 for child welfare services—all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁷ Of this amount, 33% came from federal funds, and 67% from state funds; none came from local funds.³⁸
- In 2000, of the \$208,361,315 in federal funds received for child welfare, 38% came from the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance program, 5% from the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs, 11% from Medicaid, 42% from the Social Services Block Grant, 3% from Supplemental Security Income, and 1% from other federal sources.³⁹

MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- The child welfare workforce is facing challenges in every state. A combination of high case-loads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinges on the delivery of services to achieve safety, permanency, and child well-being.
- In 2000, the national average starting salary for child protective service workers was \$26,900; for direct service workers, \$27,500. The yearly turnover rate for these workers was 15.6% and 19.5%, respectively.⁴⁰
- In 2000, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect in Massachusetts was \$27,473.⁴¹
- In 2002, the median income in Massachusetts for a family of four was \$78,025.⁴²

**Additional child welfare statistics, references, and pertinent notes are available on
CWLA's National Data Analysis System at <http://ndas.cwla.org>.**

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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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