

MASSACHUSETTS'S CHILDREN 2005

Massachusetts's Children At a Glance

State Population (2003) ¹	6,433,422
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	1,487,118
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	9.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	12.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	11.3%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	13.4%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 62,286 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Massachusetts, a rate of 42.0 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 33,396 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Massachusetts, a rate of 22.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 1% increase from 2000. Of these children, 89.0% were neglected, 17.0% were physically abused, and 3.6% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, 17 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 12,510 children in Massachusetts lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 11,568 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 22.5% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 24.0% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 49.7% white children, 17.8% black children, 25.2% Hispanic children, 0.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 7.2% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Massachusetts.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 5,548 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 60.2% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 808 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Massachusetts, a 3.9% increase from 778 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 12,510 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 3,109 or 24.9% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 35,159 Massachusetts grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 12,510 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 16.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Massachusetts children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 52.4% were white, 15.6% were black, 24.6% were Hispanic, 0.2% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.2% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of *individuals* 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 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Massachusetts was 25% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Massachusetts spent \$696,664,172 in TANF funds, including 48.6% on cash assistance, 2.3% on child care, and 49.1% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Massachusetts collected and distributed \$402,684,665 in child support funds, an increase of 10.9% from 2001.²¹

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- 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.²²

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

- In 2001, Massachusetts served an estimated monthly average of 32,700 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 30,800 children were served, and in 1999, when 39,900 children were served.²³
- 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.²⁴
- In 2001, Massachusetts had 21,000 children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 12,981 Massachusetts children were served by Head Start, a 0.5% decrease from 2002.²⁶

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

- In 2001, 410,132 Massachusetts children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 39.4% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Massachusetts had 125,177 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.3% increase from 2002, when 116,699 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 112 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Massachusetts. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 4,643, reflecting a rate of 23.3 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 17,561 adults and adolescents, as well as 213 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts.³⁰
- In 2001, 24 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 1.47 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 56,000 children ages 12–17, and 489,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 5% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 3% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 11% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴

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 under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Massachusetts, compared with seven in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 14,694 children under age 18 were arrested in Massachusetts, a 16% decrease from 17,395 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 1,290 were for violent crimes and 136 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,324 children in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts.³⁷

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 2002, Massachusetts spent \$634,846,929 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁸ Of this amount, 39% was from federal funds, and 61% was from state funds.³⁹

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- In 2002, of the \$634,846,929 spent for child welfare, 14% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 10% was from Medicaid, 13% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 1% was from Supplemental Security Income, and 1% was from other federal sources. The remaining funds (61%) came from state and local sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 12,510 children in out-of-home care in Massachusetts on September 30, 2002, only 4,074 or 33% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

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

- 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.⁴²
- 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 those children and families.⁴³
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that 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.⁴⁴
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Massachusetts was \$36,904 ; the median income for a family of four in Massachusetts was \$78,312.⁴⁵

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