

MASSACHUSETTS' S CHILDREN 2006

Massachusetts's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	. 6,416,505
Population, Children	
Under 18 (2004) ² 1,464,189
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³ 9.2
Poverty Rate, Children	
Under 18 (2004) ⁴ 10.1
Poverty Rate, Children	
Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵ 8.1

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 63,035 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 39,691 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 36,558 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Massachusetts, a rate of 24.6 per 1,000 children, representing a 9.5% increase from 2002. Of these children, 89.8% were neglected, 16.2% were physically abused, and 3.1% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 14 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 12,608 children in Massachusetts lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 12,510 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 21.9% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 25.2% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all Massachusetts children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 49.4% were white, 18% were black, 24.7% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.9% were of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 6,139 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 65.1% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 733 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Massachusetts, a 9.3% decrease from 808 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 12,608 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 3,061 or 24.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 26,669 Massachusetts grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 12,608 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 16.7% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Massachusetts children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 52.3% were white, 15.1% were black, 24.4% were Hispanic, 0.1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.1% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Massachusetts decreased from 106,421 in March 2004 to 103,921 in March 2005, a decrease of 2.3%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 48,837, a 0.3% decrease from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Massachusetts was at 55.2% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Massachusetts spent \$681,213,995 in TANF funds, including 50% on basic assistance, 2.9% on child care, and 47.1% on nonassistance.¹⁹

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- In 2004, Massachusetts collected and distributed \$439,874,829 in child support funds, an increase of 3.5% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Massachusetts was \$1,088 per month, or 100.7% 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 2004, an estimated monthly average of 35,300 of Massachusetts's children received subsidized child care; 32,200 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 32,500 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Massachusetts, a family of three could make no more than \$28,968, which is equivalent to 44% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, Massachusetts had 13,563 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 13,011 Massachusetts children, a 0.2% increase from 2003.²⁵

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, 454,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 40.3% of the total number of enrollees in Massachusetts.²⁶
- In 2004, Massachusetts had 166,508 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 29.3% increase from 2003, when 128,790 children were enrolled.²⁷
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Massachusetts was 12.0 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 39.9 births. This reflects a total rate of 23.0 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.²⁸
- As of December 2003, 18,311 adults and adolescents, as well as 214 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts.²⁹
- In 2003, an estimated 55,000 children ages 12–17, and 521,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³⁰

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

- In 2004, 8% of Massachusetts teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, the same as in 2000.³¹
- In 2004, 9% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³²
- In 2003, an estimated 31,000 children ages 12–17 in Massachusetts needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³³
- In 2003, an estimated 36,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁴
- In 2002, 15 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 0.91 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁵

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 2002, 7 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Massachusetts, the same as in 2001.³⁶
- In 2004, 14,460 children younger than 18 were arrested in Massachusetts, a 1.6% decrease from 14,694 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 1,314 were for a violent crime and 193 were for possession of a weapon.³⁷

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- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,324 children in juvenile correction facilities in Massachusetts.³⁸

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR MASSACHUSETTS' S CHILDREN

- 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. Of this number, 39.3% was from federal funds, and 60.7% was from state funds.³⁹
- In 2002, of the \$249,648,754 in federal funds received for child welfare, 36% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 2.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 24.3% was from Medicaid, 33.5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 1.8% came from Supplemental Security Income, and 1.6% came from other federal sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 12,608 children in out-of-home care in Massachusetts on September 30, 2003, only 3,272 children, or 26%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

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.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 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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