

Massachusetts

Overall State Rank

8

America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness

STATE RANKS (1-50, 1 = best)

For the complete Report Card (including sources), please visit:
www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org

Number of homeless children (17,505): **30th**

1.21% homeless out of all children

9% homeless among children living in poverty



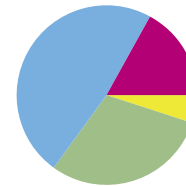
Who are Massachusetts' homeless children?

Age:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Under 6 years | 7,352 |
| Grades K-8 (enrolled) | 7,642 |
| Grades 9-12 (enrolled) | 2,511 |
| TOTAL | 17,505 |

Race/Ethnicity

*Among children living in poverty. Not available for homeless children.



- White (48%)
- Black (17%)
- Asian (5%)
- Native American (0%)
- Hispanic (30%)



Housing and Income

Minimum wage:\$8.00
 Average wage for renters:\$17.30
 Hourly wage needed to afford 2-BR apartment:\$22.94



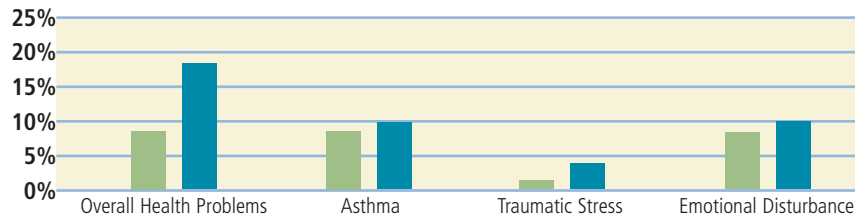
Food Security

1 in 33 children in Massachusetts do not know where they will get their next meal.



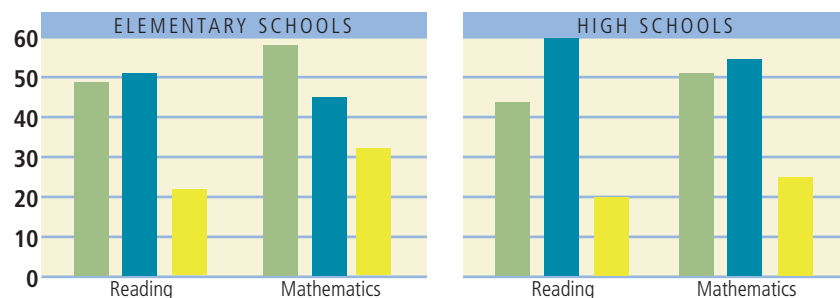
Homelessness and Children's Health Studies comparing homeless children to those of middle-income families

- Middle-income children in state
- Homeless children



Educational Achievement Reading and math proficiency using the Federal NAEP standard

- All students NAEP scores
- Homeless children NAEP scores
- School lunch children NAEP scores



HS Graduation Rate for Homeless Children: <25%

Long-Term Economic Consequences of Not Graduating From High School

In lifetime earnings and contributions to society

Difference in lifetime earnings: HS degree vs. without\$200,000
 Net lifetime increased contributions to society with HS degree ... (per student) \$127,000
 Number of homeless HS students in Massachusetts2,511
 High school graduation rate for homeless children< 25%



MA loss in lifetime earnings\$380 million
MA loss in contributions to society\$240 million



Policy & Planning: MASSACHUSETTS



Housing Policies

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Emergency shelter units for homeless families | 1,762 |
| Transitional housing units for homeless families | 937 |
| Permanent supportive housing units | 841 |
| Total capacity | 3,540 |

Does Massachusetts have a State Housing Trust Fund? **YES**

Wait List Priorities:

| | Section 8 | Public Housing |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Domestic violence | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | YES <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Homelessness | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | YES <input type="checkbox"/> |

Section 8 wait list: **86%** are extremely low income families
Public Housing wait list: **82%** are extremely low income families



Income/Wages

At minimum wage a full-time worker earns **35%** of what is needed to afford a 2-BR at FMR.

Per month, **188%** of TANF benefit would need to be spent on rent to afford a 2-BR at FMR.

Does MA have a State Earned Income Tax Credit? **YES**

Is it refundable? **YES**

Child Care

Average annual cost for child care (4-year old) ... \$9,628

Families use child care vouchers for:

- Employment: 77%
- Training and education: 10%
- Employment AND training/education: 0%

Does MA prioritize children who are homeless when distributing child care vouchers? **YES**



Health Policies

| | |
|--|------|
| % uninsured children | 5.1% |
| % total Medicaid expenditures spent on children | 17% |
| Medicaid eligibility by % of Federal Poverty Level | |
| Infants | 200% |
| Children ages 1-5 | 150% |
| Children ages 6-19 | 150% |



Food Security Policies

| | |
|--|-------|
| % eligible children enrolled in food stamps | 49% |
| % schools with school breakfast program (among schools who provide school lunch) | 68.1% |



State Planning

Does Massachusetts have an interagency council on homelessness? **YES**

What 10-year Planning Efforts Have Taken Place?

In 2007, the Massachusetts Commission to End Homelessness created a *Five-Year Plan to End Homelessness*. This plan contains an extensive focus on children and families experiencing homelessness, as well as goals to increase access to housing, increase access to mainstream services, and development of programs that help identify families who are at risk of becoming homeless.

State Planning Ranking for Massachusetts

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| EARLY STAGES OF PLANNING | INADEQUATE PLANNING | MODERATE PLANNING | EXTENSIVE PLANNING |



Education

Barriers reported by McKinney-Vento subgrantees:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Eligibility | 25% | School Selection | 25% |
| Immunizations | 20% | School Records | 15% |
| Other Med. Records | 5% | Transportation | 40% |
| Other Barriers | 40% | | |

Additional funding allocated to schools for education of homeless children (per child): \$57

Dedicated state funding for homeless education? **NO**

* MASSACHUSETTS'S RANKS

| | RANK |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Extent of child homelessness | 27 |
| Child well-being | 18 |
| Risk for child homelessness | 18 |
| State policy and planning | Extensive |
| Overall Rank | 8 |

*States ranked 1-50 with 1 being best and 50 worst.

