



Six facts about child well-being in Massachusetts



As of 2018, 25% of Massachusetts children lived in families lacking secure parental **employment**.



In 2017, 22% of Massachusetts children were diagnosed with one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions.



167,000 Massachusetts children lived in households that were **food insecure** at some point in 2018.



In 2018, 40% of Massachusetts children ages 3 to 4 were not enrolled in **prekindergarten programs**.



55% of Massachusetts children scored below proficient at **fourth grade reading achievement** in 2019.



Overall, though, Massachusetts is doing relatively well. Massachusetts ranks 15th in the nation in the children's **economic well-being** domain.

In the US today, 52.1% of children (38.5 million children) are poor or low-income.¹ When more than half of our children do not know if they will have a place to sleep, nutritious meals, or safe communities, we are failing our families and compromising the future of this country.



More than 1.5 million public school students experienced homelessness² during the 2017-2018 school year. LGBTQ+ youth are at a much higher risk of homelessness than their peers.³



In 2016, there was a resurgence in school re-segregation. Predominantly white school districts received \$2,200 more per student in funding.⁴ Funding for tribals schools has fallen from \$400 million to \$133 million over the past 10 years.⁵



A child or teen is killed with a gun every 2 hours and 34 minutes.⁶ African American and Native children and teens are more likely to be killed by law enforcement than any other ethnic groups.



Due to consistent underfunding, Early Head Start served only 5% of eligible infants and toddlers in 2016.⁷



SNAP benefits 17.5 million children,⁸ but current attacks on SNAP will mean that 1 million children will no longer receive school meals.⁹



In 2019, student debt totaled more than \$1.5 trillion¹⁰ and affected about 44 million Americans.¹¹

It does not need to be this way. Investing in our children's education could grow the economy by \$32 trillion over the long-term.¹² A Wall Street tax of 0.1% in trading could raise \$70 billion to provide free public college for all.¹³ A cut of just 1% to the military budget would cover nearly 8 million additional Head Start spots.¹⁴

Sources: 1. [Kairos Center](#) 2. [Department of Education](#) 3. [National LGBTQ Task Force](#) 4. [The New York Times](#) 5. [Center for Budget and Policy Priorities](#) 6. [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) 7. [Children's Defense Fund](#) 8. [Department of Agriculture](#) 9. [Food Research and Action Center](#) 10. [New York Fed](#) 11. [National Student Loan Data Center](#) 12. [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) 13. [Office of Senator Bernie Sanders](#) 14. [National Priorities Project](#)
[The Souls of Poor Folk Audit](#), [PPC Moral Budget](#), [KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)



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