

[MASSACHUSETTS](#)

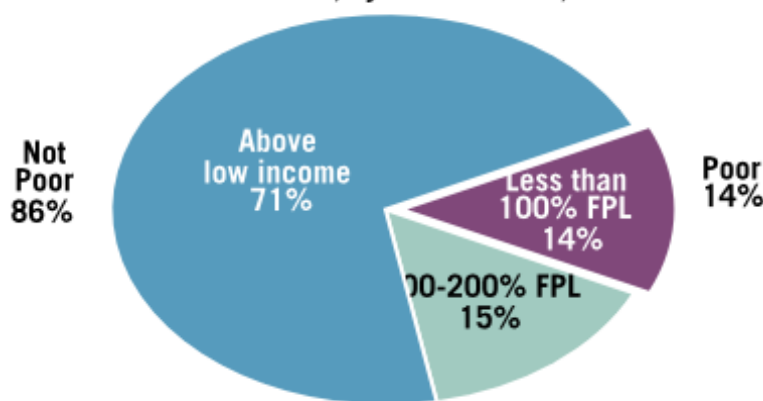
For 2008, the federal poverty level is \$21,200 for a family of four. Children living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level are referred to as poor. But research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty level to meet their basic needs. The United States [measures poverty](#) by an outdated standard developed in the 1960s.

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Demographics of Poor Children

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Children in Massachusetts, by Income Level, 2007



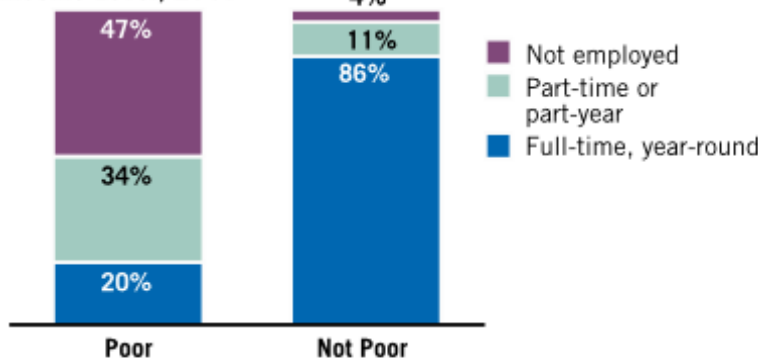
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 Massachusetts Demographic Profiles

In Massachusetts, there are 845,969 families, with 1,450,743 children.

Poor Children: 14% (202,322) of children live in poor families (National: 18%), defined as income below 100% of the federal poverty level.

Parental Employment

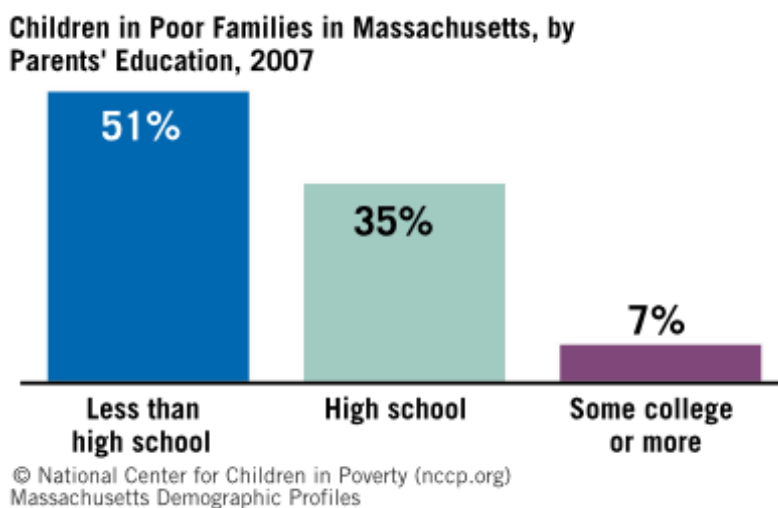
Parents' Employment Status in Massachusetts, by Income Level, 2007



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 Massachusetts Demographic Profiles

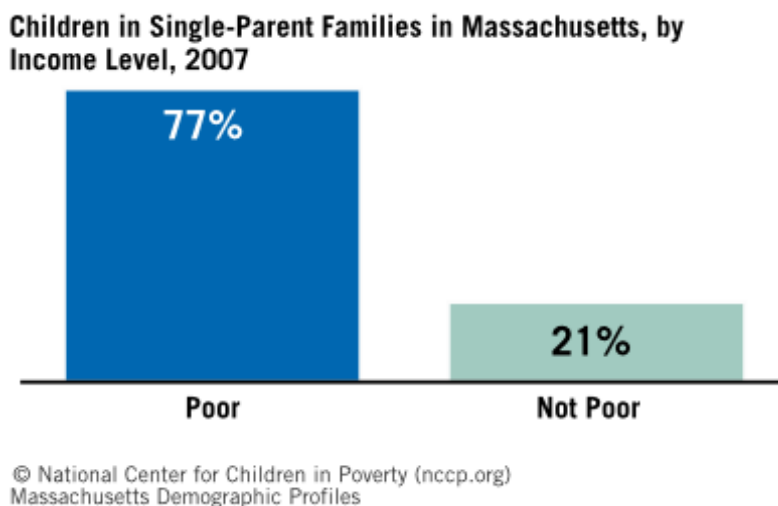
- 20% (39,505) of children in poor families have at least one parent who is employed full-time, year-round.
- 34% (68,699) of children in poor families have at least one parent who is employed either part-year or part-time.
- 47% (94,119) of children in poor families do not have an employed parent.

Parental Education



- 51% (32,559) of children whose parents do not have a high school degree live in poor families.
- 35% (95,897) of children whose parents have a high school degree, but no college education live in poor families.
- 7% (73,866) of children whose parents have some college or more live in poor families.

Parental Marital Status

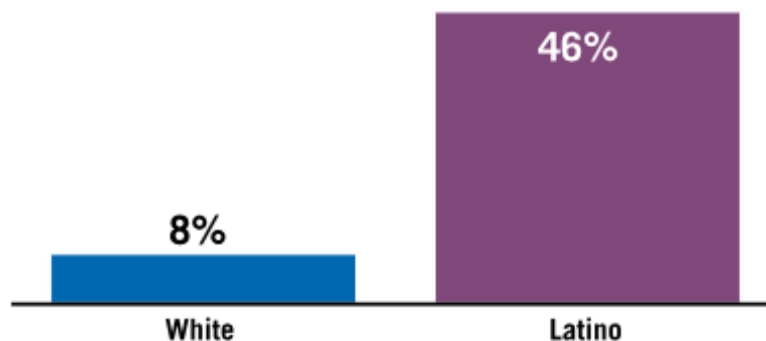


■ 77% (156,776) of children in poor families live with a single parent.

■ 21% (261,977) of children in not poor families live with a single parent.

Child's Race/Ethnicity

Children in Poor Families in Massachusetts, by Race, 2007



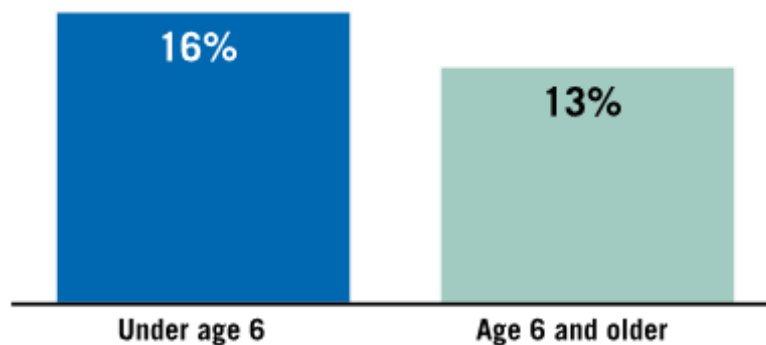
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■ 8% (88,262) of white children live in poor families.

■ 46% (71,214) of Latino children live in poor families.

Child's Age

Children in Poor Families in Massachusetts, by Age, 2007



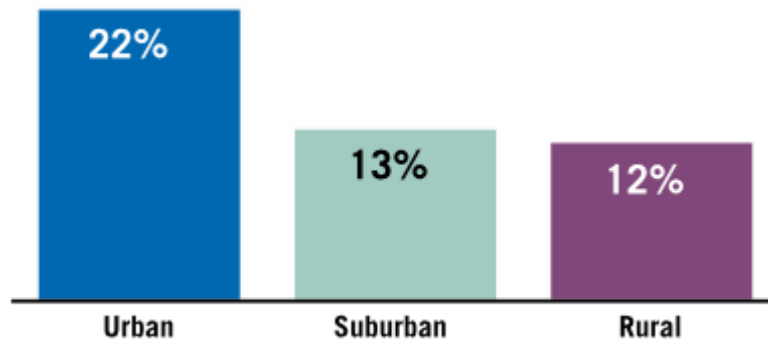
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■ 16% (73,239) of children, under age 6, live in poor families.

■ 13% (129,083) of children, age 6 or older, live in poor families.

Type of Residential Area

Children in Poor Families in Massachusetts, by Residence, 2007

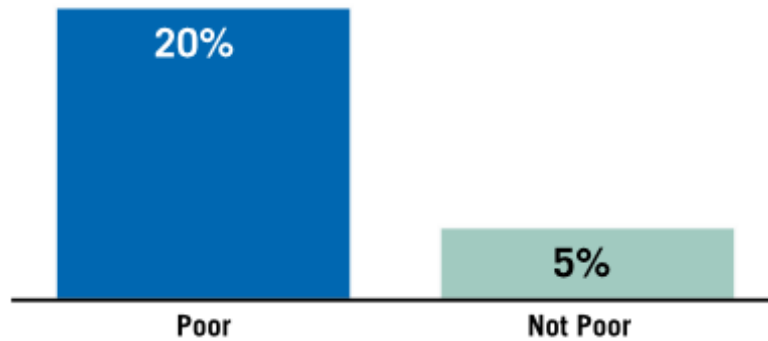


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- 22% (54,176) of children in urban areas live in poor families.
- 13% (124,627) of children in suburban areas live in poor families.
- 12% (3,665)* of children in rural areas live in poor families.

Residential Move

Children Who Have Recently Moved in Massachusetts, by Income Level, 2007

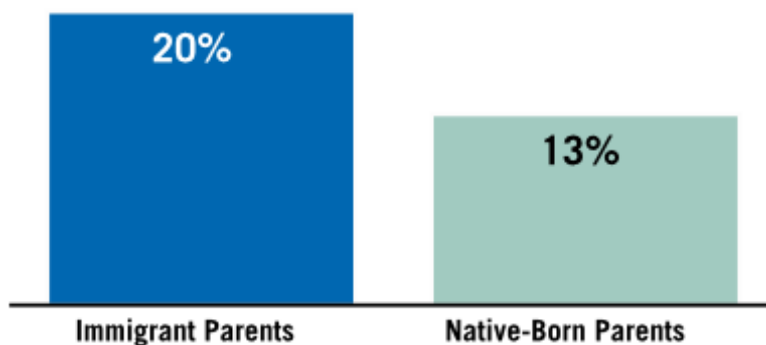


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- 20% (39,954) of children in poor families moved last year.
- 5% (62,937) of children in families that are not poor moved last year.

Parental Nativity

Children in Poor Families in Massachusetts, by Parents' Nativity, 2007



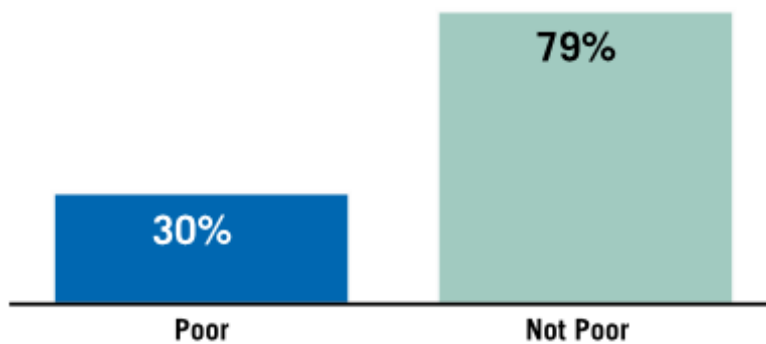
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■ 20% (45,684) of children of immigrant parents live in poor families.

■ 13% (152,616) of children of native-born parents live in poor families.

Home Ownership

Children in Owner-Occupied Housing in Massachusetts, by Income Level, 2007



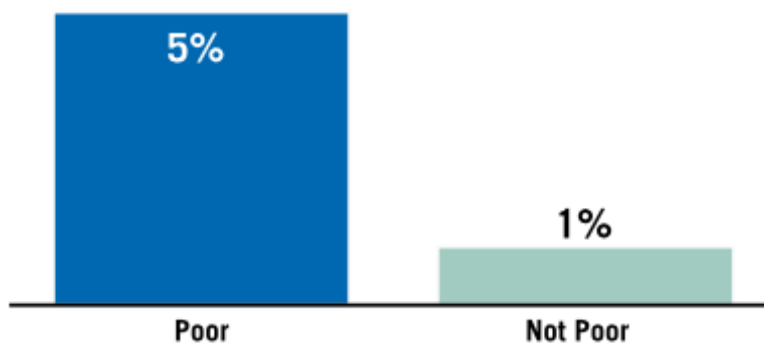
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■ 30% (59,789) of children in poor families live in owner-occupied housing.

■ 79% (988,246) of children in not poor families live in owner-occupied housing.

Parental Presence

Children Living in Families with No Parent Present, in Massachusetts, by Income Level, 2007



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■ 5% (10,241)* of poor children live in families with no parent present.

■ 1% (14,351)* of not poor children live in families with no parent present.

Data Notes and Sources

Last Updated: September 3, 2008

* This estimate should be used with caution. It may be unreliable due to a small sample size.

Some graphs may not be shown because of extremely small sample sizes.

Because of rounding, not all figures will add up to 100%.

State data were calculated from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (the March supplement) of the Current Population Survey from 2006, 2007, and 2008, representing information from calendar years 2005, 2006, and 2007. NCCP averaged three years of data because of small sample sizes in less populated states. The national data were calculated from the 2008 data, representing information from the previous calendar year.

Definitions

The federal poverty guidelines are issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The demographic findings on this page were calculated using a more complex version of the federal poverty measure—the thresholds issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. For more information about federal poverty measures, see [The 2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#).

Child

A child is defined as an individual under the age of 18. Children living independently, living with a spouse, living in group quarters, and children ages 14 and under living with only unrelated adults are excluded from these data.

Low Income

Families and children are defined as low-income if the family income is less than twice the federal poverty threshold (see Poor).

Parent

Among children who do not live with at least one parent, parental characteristics are those of the

householder and/or the householder's spouse.

Poor

Families and children are defined as poor if family income is below the federal poverty threshold. The federal poverty level for a family of four with two children was \$21,200 in 2008, \$20,650 in 2007, and \$20,000 in 2006.

For definitions of other terms, please refer to [Explanations of Terms and Data Sources](#).