

Children growing up in neighborhoods with a lot of poverty face many obstacles—public programs create opportunity.

- About 90,000 children in Massachusetts live in high-poverty neighborhoods—that is, in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty where 30% or more of the residents have incomes below the poverty level (about \$25,750 for a family of four).
- There are neighborhoods in Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Lowell, and Holyoke where well more than half of the families live with incomes below the poverty line.
- High-poverty neighborhoods are often the legacy of long-standing patterns of housing discrimination against people of color, under-funded schools, and poor public transportation.
- Children in these communities are at risk for poorer health and other life outcomes, simply because of the obstacles created by living in these under-resourced communities.
- Investments in affordable housing, education, and public transit are among the policies that can help create affordable and healthy neighborhoods with opportunity for everyone.

Children Living in High-Poverty Neighborhoods and Number of Neighborhoods with Concentrated Poverty For Selected Counties

	<i>Estimated Number of Children</i>	<i>Number of Neighborhoods</i>
Suffolk County	24,600	35
Hampden County	22,300	22
Worcester County	13,200	15
Bristol County	12,000	16
Essex County	6,500	8
Middlesex County	6,300	6
Plymouth County	2,000	2
Hampshire County	1,300	2

Calculations on this page based on 2013-2017 data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Tables S1701 and B17012. The 2019 federal poverty level is about \$25,750 for a family of 4. See also discussion in Annie E. Casey Foundation, “[Children Living in High-Poverty, Low-Opportunity Neighborhoods](#),” September 24, 2019. “Concentrated poverty” here is 30% or more of residents in a neighborhood (census tract) under poverty. Census tracts typically are about 4,300 people.