Girls’ Well-Being: Massachusetts vs. the United States

The State of Girls 2017

The State of Girls is the first research report to focus on the health and well-being of the 26 million girls living in the United States. The third edition of this report by the Girl Scout Research Institute focuses on changing demographics; economic, physical, and emotional health; education; and extracurricular/out-of-school time activities.

This profile summarizes recent trends in the well-being of girls living in Massachusetts, compared with girls living in the U.S.

**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Massachusetts</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls ages 16-19 who are high school dropouts</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls ages 3-4 who are not enrolled in preschool</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth-grade girls who are not proficient in reading</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth-grade girls who are not proficient in math</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Massachusetts State Ranking**

6th

The state ranking is based on 13 national measures of girls’ well-being.*

**Extracurricular and Out-of-School Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Massachusetts</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls ages 12-17 not involved in any community service or volunteer work</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls ages 6-17 who do not participate in any organized activities</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls ages 6-17 who watch TV or play video games 3+ hours per day</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top ranked states for girls’ well-being:**

1. New Hampshire
2. Utah
3. Minnesota
4. Vermont
5. South Dakota
6. Massachusetts
7. Nebraska
8. Connecticut
9. Maine
10. North Dakota
Physical and Emotional Health

- **Girls ages 6-17 with any emotional behavioral or developmental issues**
  - Massachusetts: 12%
  - United States: 9%

- **Girls ages 6-17 who do not feel safe at school**
  - Massachusetts: 3%
  - United States: 7%

- **Girls ages 10-17 who are overweight or obese**
  - Massachusetts: 25%
  - United States: 28%

- **Girls ages 6-17 who exercise less than four days per week**
  - Massachusetts: 43%
  - United States: 38%

Economic Well-Being

- **Girls ages 5-17 living in poverty**
  - Massachusetts: 16%
  - United States: 19%

- **Girls ages 5-17 in single-parent families**
  - Massachusetts: 33%
  - United States: 34%

Girls’ Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Massachusetts</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Girls’ Immigrant Status

- **Girls ages 5-17 living in immigrant families**
  - Massachusetts: 26%
  - United States: 26%

Data is not destiny! As the premier leadership organization for girls, Girl Scouts is committed to ensuring that all girls develop to their full potential. To learn more, visit [www.girlscouts.org/research](http://www.girlscouts.org/research).

Source: PRB analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH), and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). ACS, NSCH, and NAEP estimates are based on surveys of the population and are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. These measures represent the most recent data gathered from national and government sources for the period 2012-2015.

*The state ranking for girls’ well-being is a composite measure designed to summarize the well-being of girls in each of the 50 states across the 13 measures of well-being summarized in this fact sheet in education, economic well-being, extracurricular and out-of-school activities, and physical and emotional health.*

The State of Girls 2017 Massachusetts vs. the U.S.
Girls’ Well-Being in Massachusetts: 2007 – Present

The State of Girls 2017

The State of Girls is the first research report to focus on the health and well-being of the 26 million girls living in the United States. The third edition of this report by the Girl Scout Research Institute focuses on changing demographics; economic, physical, and emotional health; education; and extracurricular/out-of-school time activities.

This profile summarizes recent trends in the well-being of the 501,300 girls ages 5 to 17 living in Massachusetts across two time points: before and after the Great Recession, which took place from 2007 to 2009.

Education

The population of girls living in Massachusetts dropped to 501,300 in 2014 from 522,435 in 2007.

Extracurricular and Out-of-School Activities

Top ranked states for girls’ well-being:

2007
1. Vermont
2. Minnesota
3. New Jersey
4. Utah
5. New Hampshire
6. Connecticut
7. Massachusetts
8. North Dakota
9. Wyoming
10. Wisconsin

2016
1. New Hampshire
2. Utah
3. Minnesota
4. Vermont
5. South Dakota
6. Massachusetts
7. Nebraska
8. Connecticut
9. Maine
10. North Dakota

The state ranking is based on 13 national measures of girls’ well-being.*
Physical and Emotional Health

- Girls ages 6-17 with any emotional, behavioral or developmental issues: 2007 10% | 2012 12%
- Girls ages 6-17 who do not feel safe at school: 2007 3% | 2012 3%
- Girls ages 10-17 who are overweight or obese: 2007 26% | 2012 25%
- Girls ages 6-17 who exercise less than four days per week: 2007 42% | 2012 43%

Economic Well-Being

- Girls ages 5-17 living in poverty: 2007 13% | 2014 16%
- Girls ages 5-17 in single-parent families: 2007 30% | 2014 33%

Girls’ Race/Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Girls’ Immigrant Status

- Girls ages 5-17 living in immigrant families: 2007 22% | 2014 26%

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Source: PRB analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH), and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). ACS, NSCH, and NAEP estimates are based on surveys of the population and are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. Data sources range from 2012-2015.

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