Poverty in Massachusetts by Education Status: Population 25 Years and Older

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Recommended Citation
Albelda, Randy; Cadet, Ferry; and Mei, Dinghong, "Poverty in Massachusetts by Education Status: Population 25 Years and Older" (2011). Center for Social Policy Publications. 51.
https://scholarworks.umb.edu/csp_pubs/51

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Poverty in Massachusetts by Education Status
Population 25 Years and Older

Massachusetts has lower poverty rates compared to the US average. But, like the US, the poverty rate for the people with less than high school graduate far exceed those of higher education level.

People with less than high school graduate are 11.3% of the total population 25 years and older, but are 30.1% of the poor. Conversely, those with a bachelor's degree or higher education are 38.2% of those 25 years and older.

### Poverty Rates by Education Status (Age 25 Years and Older) in Massachusetts’ 10 largest cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Massachusetts</th>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>Brockton</th>
<th>Cambridge</th>
<th>Fall River</th>
<th>Lowell</th>
<th>Lynn</th>
<th>New Bedford</th>
<th>Quincy</th>
<th>Springfield</th>
<th>Worcester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school graduate</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, associate's degree</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty rates differ considerably across Massachusetts’ ten largest cities, ranging from 18.2% in Quincy to 39.6% in Springfield for those with the lowest educational attainment. Cambridge, one of the best-known academic center in the nation, has the highest poverty rate among those with a bachelor's degree or higher educational level.

NOTE: All data are 5-year estimates, 2005-2009.

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five Year Estimates, Subject Table S1701. Developed by Randy Albelda, Ferry Cadet and Dinghong Mei for the Center for Social Policy, 2011.