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Poverty in Massachusetts by Race

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Poverty in Massachusetts by Race

**Massachusetts Distribution of Total Population by Race**

Blacks are 6.1% of the total population, but make up 13% of the total poor. Conversely whites are close 83% of the total population, but only 64% of the poor.

**Massachusetts Distribution of Total Poor Population by Race**

**Poverty Rates by Race 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>10.1%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poverty rates by race differ considerably across Massachusetts’ ten largest cities. For Blacks, the highest poverty rates are in Fall River (41.7%), for Asians it is Boston (30.2%) and for Whites is it s New Bedford (19.4%). Quincy’s poverty rates are the lowest for Whites (8.0%) and other racial groups (11.2%), while Cambridge has the lowest poverty rates for Blacks at 15.2% and Brockton for Asians at 4.5%.

NOTE: All data are 5-year estimates, 2005-2009. “Other” includes American Indian, Pacific Islanders, people who designated more than one race, or other race besides white, Asian or black.

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.