

Poverty isn't a **LINE**.  
It's a **TIGHT KNOT** of social maladies.


Matthew Desmond

## POVERTY, BY AMERICA

# MASSACHUSETTS

## RED FLAG

A nearly 4-year wait list for housing vouchers

MASSACHUSETTS		NATIONAL	
	<b>EDUCATION</b>		
Preschool enrollment:	<b>59.5 %</b>	48 %	
High school graduation gap: <i>(between high- and low-income)</i>	<b>15 %</b>	11.5 %	
Avg. student loan debt:	<b>\$34.5K</b>	\$43K	

HEALTH			
Uninsured <i>(medical)</i> :	<b>3 %</b>	9.2 %	
SNAP recipients: <i>(food stamps)</i>	<b>1 in 9</b>	1 in 9	
SNAP per household member <i>(monthly)</i> :	<b>\$134</b>	\$121	


FINANCE			
Poverty rate:	<b>9.4 %</b>	11.9 %	
Child poverty rate:	<b>10.9 %</b>	16 %	
Minimum wage:	<b>\$14.25</b>	\$7.25	
Median income:	<b>\$86.6K</b>	\$70.7K	
Prison min. wage:	<b>\$0.40–\$1</b>	\$0.14–\$1.41	
Unbanked households:	<b>3.7 %</b>	5.4 %	


HOUSING			
Student homelessness:	<b>2.6 %</b>	2.7 %	
Eviction filing rate:	<b>3.5 %</b>	7.8 %	
Avg. housing voucher wait list time:	<b>46 mos.</b>	28 mos.	
Renters paying 30%+ income on rent:	<b>49.5 %</b>	49.6 %	

### CONSIDER THESE SELECT


## ANTIPOVERTY POLICIES

### DOES YOUR STATE...

have expanded Medicaid coverage for additional populations? 

protect housing voucher holders from discrimination? 

prohibit or highly regulate payday lending? 

spend above the national average of its TANF funds on basic assistance? 

have a progressive tax rate? 

## JOIN THE FIGHT ANTIPOVERTY ORGANIZATIONS

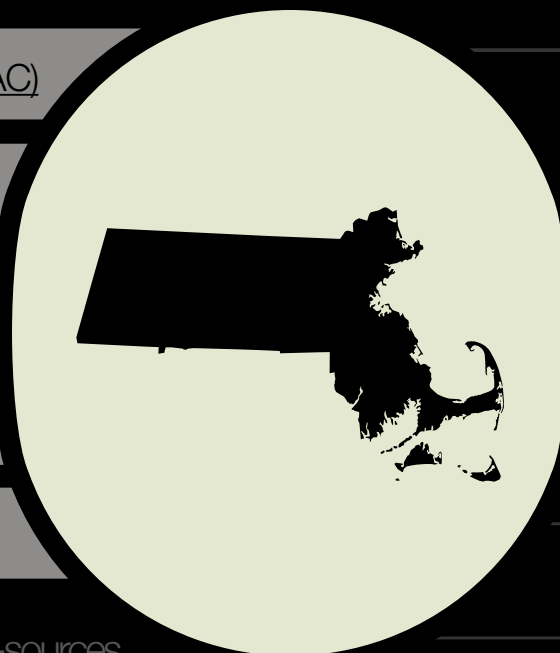
[Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation \(MLAC\)](#)

[Action for Boston Community Development](#)

[Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston](#)

[Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.](#)

[Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless](#)



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