The percent of children who score at or above proficient on Grade 3 MCAS English tests has seen a decrease over the last 10 years and is lower than the state.

Economically disadvantaged 3rd Graders is significantly higher than the state percentage and continues to go up.

The percentage of children enrolled in early care and education has increased and is at the highest rate in the last eight years and is now above the state percentage.

The childcare capacity has continued to drop over the last six years.

The birth rate to teens has continued to drop and is at its lowest point in 20 years, but is still slightly above the state rate.

There was a decline in the % of children under 5 who were in poverty, resulting in the lowest rate in the last 8 years, however it is still higher than the state.

Source: MA Department of Education

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year average
Positive Youth Development

Berkshire County

- Eighth grade MCAS English tests had a precipitous drop last year with those at or above proficient half of what it was previously, while 10th grade results was stable.
- The dropout rate saw a slight increase to its highest point in 5 years, while the graduation rate has been stable the last few years.
- The percent of youth living in poverty has gone down to its lowest level in 5 years, but is still higher than the state.
- The county has seen a relatively stable to declining rate of alcohol usage, especially among 8th and 10th graders which have seen a decline. Marijuana usage has gone up across 10th and 12th grades, but has declined for 8th graders. Narcotic usage seems to have gone down among all grades.
- The number of CHINS Interventions has gone down after several years of increase.
- The percentage of high school graduates planning to attend college is slowly declining and is at it's lowest rate in 10 years.

% of youth who score at or above proficient level on Grade 10 MCAS English tests

% of youth who score at or above proficient level on Grade 8 English tests

Graduation Rate

Births rate to teens (less than 20) (rate/1,000)
Economic Prosperity

Berkshire County

- The unemployment rate is the same as the previous year and is the lowest rate in 10 years, however it is above the state rate.
- The percent of families in poverty has been declining for a few years, but is higher than it was four years ago and is higher than the state.
- The percent of families that are low income saw a significant increase after being stable for the previous 6 years.
- EITC tax returns saw a slight decrease, while the percent of tax returns receiving EITC has declined to the lowest rate in 7 years.
- The percent of households that are paying over 30% of their income towards housing has stayed stable the last three years and are the lowest rates in 8 years.
- All educational attainment measures have been stable to slightly increasing.
Additional Data

Berkshire County

- The percent of families receiving food stamps has been relatively stable the last four years, but remains higher than the state.
- There have been a decline in smokers, continuing a long trend of decrease. Excessing drinking saw a slight increase, but is lower than most previous years. STD's saw a huge drop of 79% over the last year and 70% in the last 8 years.
- Median Household Income and Per Capita Income both increased, however they remain far below state levels.
- Median Rent increased substantially, but remains below the state level.
- Total Population continued to decline, led by the population age 18 to 64.
- The number of households with incomes below $50,000 saw a decline, while those making over $50,000 saw an increase.

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year average

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