

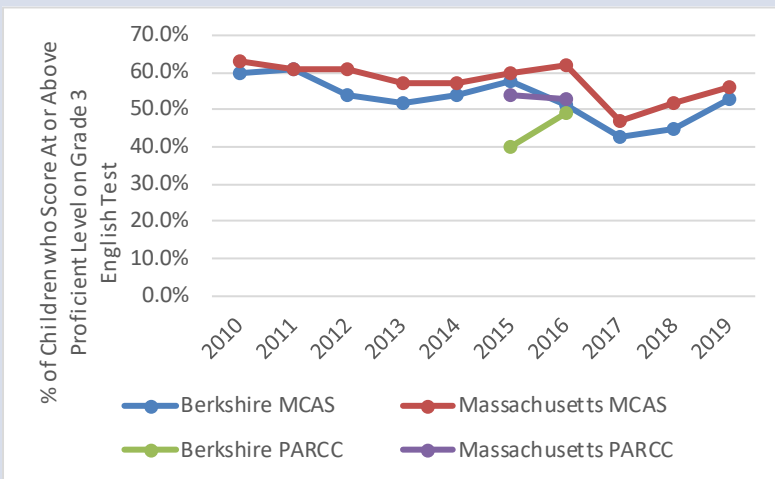
# Early Childhood Development



## Berkshire County

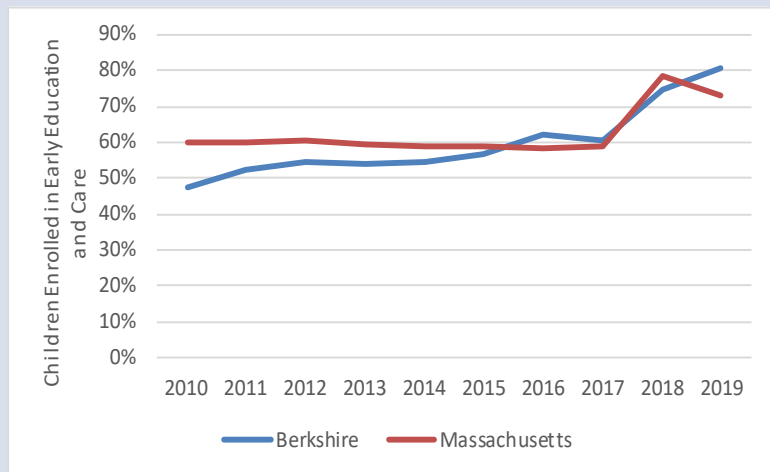
- The percent of children who score at or above proficient on Grade 3 MCAS English tests saw a slight rise in 2019, but overall is down from the last 10 years and is lower than the state. No testing occurred in 2020.
- Economically disadvantaged 3rd graders is significantly higher than the state percentage, but is declining slightly.
- The percentage of children enrolled in early care and education has increased significantly in 2018 for both Berkshire County and Massachusetts, which would indicate a change in methodology.
- There is a continued decline in the % of children under 5 who were in poverty and has now dropped to the same level as the state.

**% of children who score at or above proficient level on Grade 3 English tests**



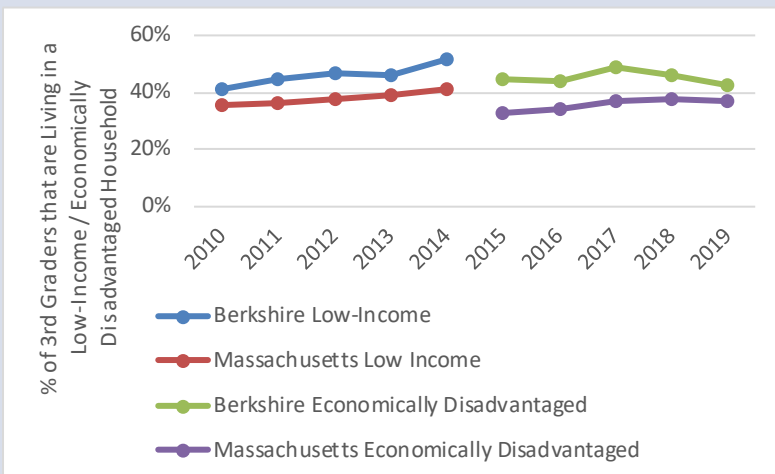
Source: MA Department of Education

**% of children enrolled in early education and care**



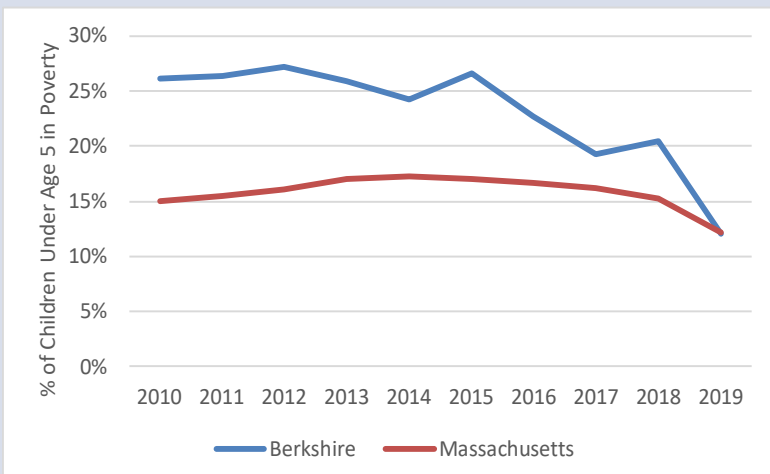
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year average

**% of 3rd Graders that are living in a low-income / economically disadvantaged household**



Source: MA Department of Education

**% of children under age 5 in poverty**



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

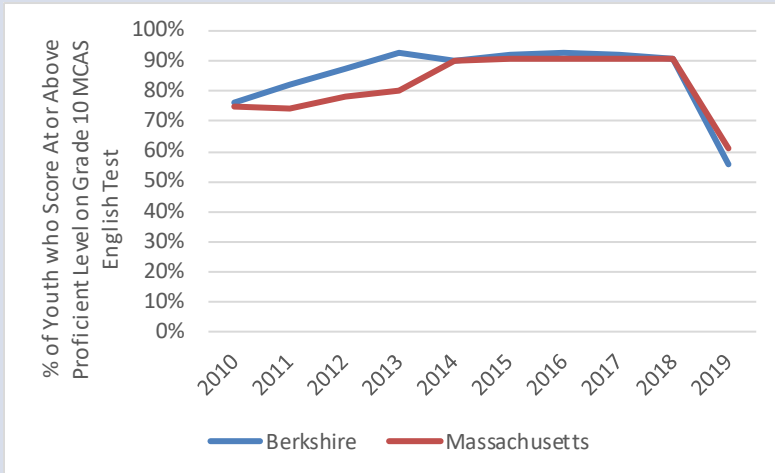
# Positive Youth Development



## Berkshire County

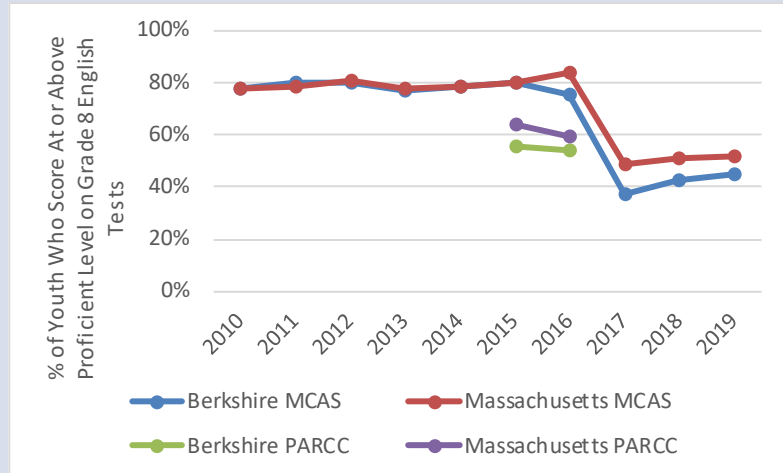
- Eighth grade MCAS English tests had a slight increase in 2019, however it is still lower than the state. No testing occurred in 2020.
- Tenth grade MCAS English had a significant drop in 2019 after several years of stability; however, there is a similar drop at the state level, so this is likely due to the transition to the NextGen MCAS. No testing occurred in 2020.
- The dropout rate has continued to go down, while the graduation rate dropped to the state level.
- The percent of youth living in poverty has been relatively stable, but is significantly higher than the state.
- The teen birth rate has seen increases the last two years and is now moving away from the state rate.
- High school graduates plans for college has seen a decline of several percent over the last two years, with a corresponding increase in planning to work. The most recent year's decline is likely due to COVID-19.

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



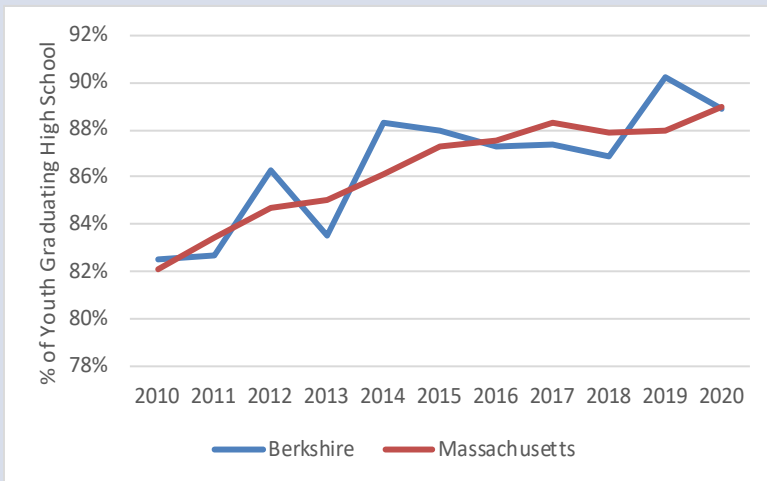
Source: MA Department of Education

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



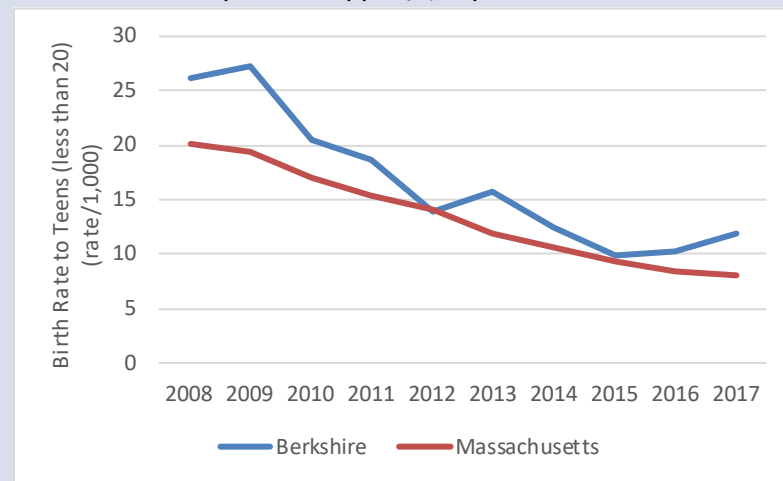
Source: MA Department of Education

**Graduation Rate**



Source: MA Department of Education

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



Source: MA Department of Public Health, Berkshire Health Systems

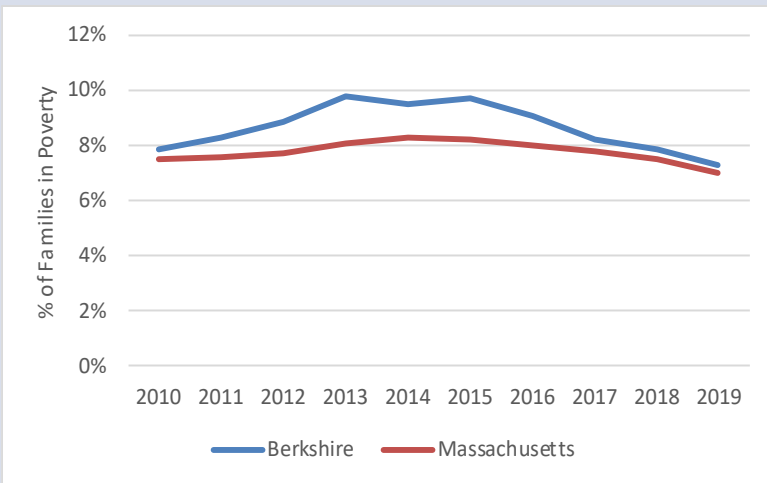
# Economic Prosperity



## Berkshire County

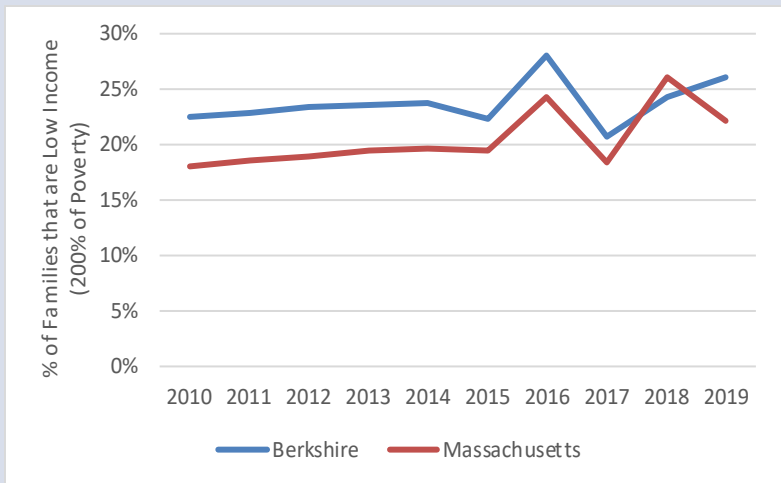
- The percent of families in poverty has been declining for several years and is now lower than in 2010, and is tracking with the state poverty rate.
- The percent of families that are low income saw an increase after a one-year decrease. Accounting for the wide variations, the percentage appears to be increasing slightly.
- All educational attainment measures have been stable to slightly increasing.
- Median household income saw an increase, but is still significantly lower than the state and the gap continues to grow.
- The number of households making >\$75,000/year has been increasing, but is still below the state rate.

Percent of families in poverty



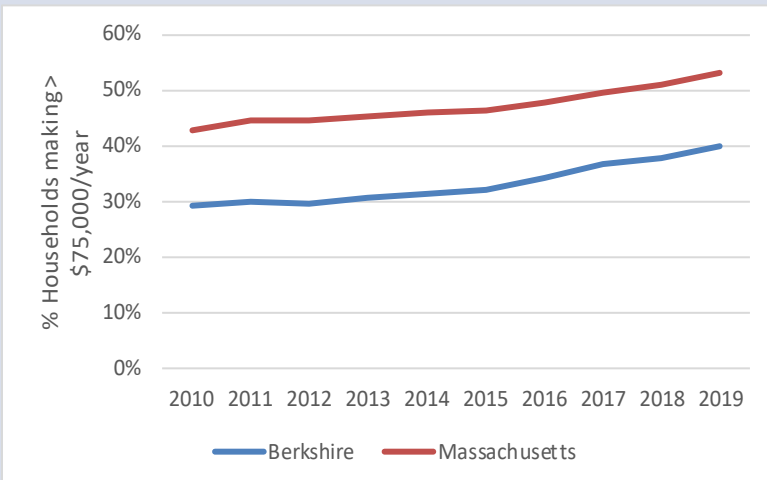
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year average

% of families that are low income (200% of poverty)



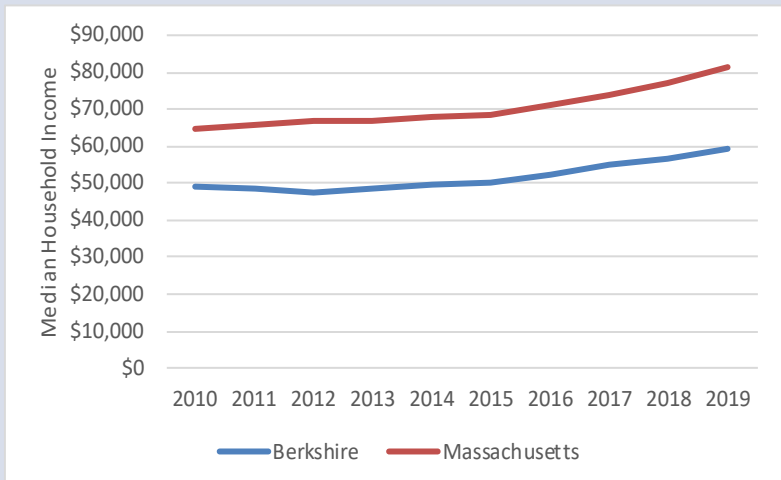
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year average

% of households making > \$75,000/year



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

Median Household Income



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

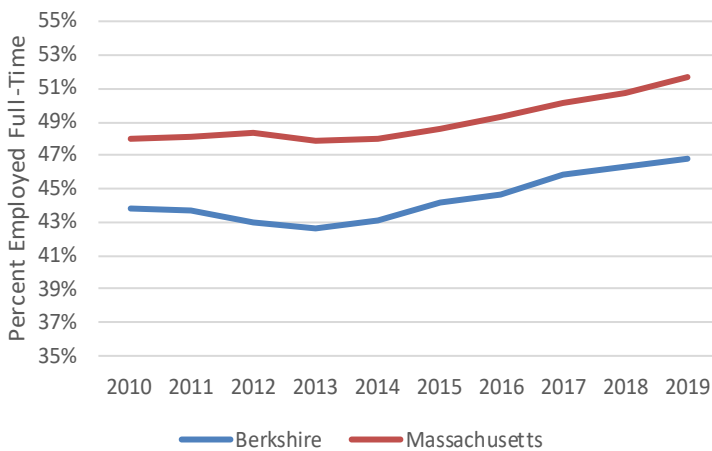
# Additional Data



## Berkshire County

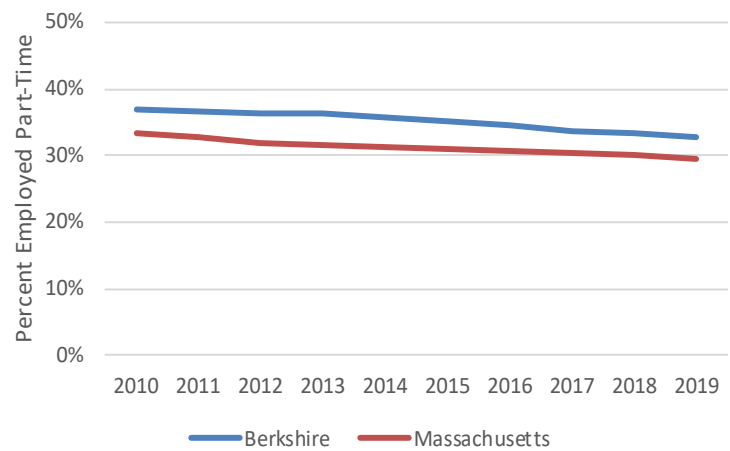
- Median Rent continues to increase, but remains below the state level and is growing at a slower rate.
- Total Population continued to decline, led by the population age 18 to 64.
- The number and percent of people who are employed full time has gone up, along with a corresponding decrease in the number and percent of people employed part time. Full-time employment is below the state, while part-time employment is above the state.
- Individuals in poverty has declined for four consecutive years and is now at the same level as 10 years ago.

**% Employed Full-time**



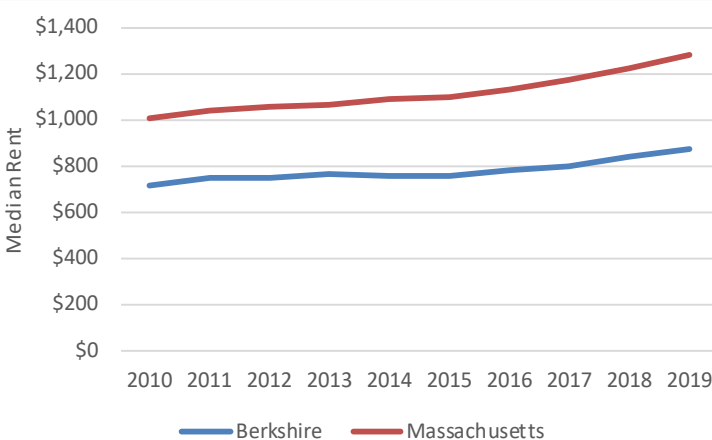
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year average

**% Employed Part-time**



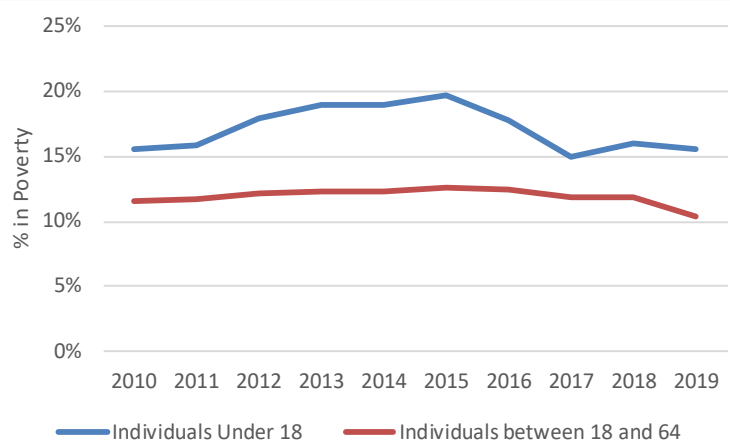
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year average

**Median Rent**



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

**Percent in Poverty**



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



Funding for this report has been provided by Berkshire United Way