

# Homelessness in Hampden County

## 2024 REPORT

### Number homeless

**5,349 people experienced homelessness in Hampden County in 2024**

#### Household Type

- 1,139 individuals without children
- 1,140 family households
  - including 2,478 children under 18

#### Subpopulations

- 85 Older adults (65+)
- 341 Young adults (18–24)
- 46 Veterans

The January 2025 point-in-time count found **211 unsheltered individuals** on a single night.

### Homeless response system

**Inflow: 2,518** people entered our homeless system for the first time

**Outflow: 3,085** people exited our system; 1,890 of those reported an exit to permanent housing

### Preventing and ending homelessness

**RAFT prevents homelessness.** RAFT provided rental assistance to 7,000 households in FY 2024 at a cost of \$27 million, preventing thousands from becoming homeless. Right now, **roughly 600 households seek rental assistance every week.**

**Hampden County has the highest rate of eviction filings in the state and the number is rising.** Residential eviction filings in Hampden County have grown from 2,794 residential eviction filings in 2023 to **3,887 filings in 2024** – a 39% increase.

Only **6–7% of tenants** have lawyers in eviction cases, while **over 90% of landlords** are represented.

**Housing ends homelessness.** Hampden County developers currently have **543 units of affordable rental housing** in the pipeline, including **92 units of permanent supportive housing.**

**Rents have skyrocketed.** Hampden County **median rent rose 21%** over the 4-year period 2019 to 2023.