Housing Justice Happens Here

Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness
7th Annual Regional Gathering
Holyoke Community College
May 12, 2023
3,305 people homeless on Jan. 25, 2023

Annual Point-in-Time Count

Source: Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Count, Jan. 25, 2023
Homelessness in Western Massachusetts
Trend 2019–2023

Pre-pandemic: 11% drop 2019-2021
Post-pandemic: 24% increase 2021-2023

The 2023 count was higher than any point in the last five years

Source: Continuum of Care Annual Point-in-Time Counts, 2019–2023
Increases Among Both Families and Individuals
2019-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>People in Families</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2254</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1876</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td></td>
<td>1017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Continuum of Care Annual Point-in-Time Counts, 2019–2023
Unsheltered Homeless in Western Massachusetts Trend 2019–2023

The 2023 count was up almost 150% since 2021

Source: Continuum of Care Annual Point-in-Time Counts, 2019–2023
Select Characteristics of Homeless Adults
Trends 2019 - 2023

Serious Mental Illness
- 598

Substance Use Disorder
- 290

Domestic Violence Survivor
- 314

Source: Continuum of Care Annual Point-in-Time Counts, 2019–2023
People of Color are Overrepresented in Homeless Population
Four counties of Western Massachusetts

Blacks 4.6x greater
23% Homeless Population
5% General Population
49% General Population
27% Homeless Population

Hispanics 2.9x greater
5% Homeless Population
17% General Population
70% General Population

Sources: Continuum of Care 2023 Point-in-Time Count; General Population – U.S. Census 2020, PL 94-171
Exiting Homelessness to Housing

Over the last year, homeless providers in Western Mass helped over 950 people move from homelessness into permanent housing.

Source: Continuum of Care, Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, for period April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023
Creating the housing

1,097: affordable housing units in development pipeline over the next 5 years - in 18 cities and towns among 101 cities and towns across all of Western MA*

11,000: affordable housing unit gap in Western MA

184: units of new permanent supportive housing in the last year; with 179 PSH units in the development pipeline**

*Source: Western Massachusetts Housing Coalition  
**Source: Hampden County Continuum of Care, Three County Continuum of Care
Rental Assistance Works

In the four counties of Western Massachusetts—

Payment of rental assistance keeps tenants in their housing

For the one-year period ending March 2023—
8,878 tenancies preserved, at a cost of $25 million

The demand continues to be very high

2,479 applicants in April 2023
Evictions are higher than pre-pandemic levels

Western Massachusetts

Eviction Filing Trend: 1st quarter, by year 2020-2023

Source: MassCourts
Housing Justice Response: 4 Pillars

1. Prevent displacement
   • Improve access to rental assistance
   • Access to legal counsel in evictions
   • Local option for rental control and tenant protections

2. Preserve existing and affordable housing
   • Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act

3. Create more affordable housing
   • Local Option Transfer Fee to Fund Affordable Housing

4. House people who are unhoused
   • Reduce barriers to shelter
   • Flex Pool for Permanent Supportive Housing
Join the Network Blog for Housing Justice Action:

http://westernmassshousingfirst.org