

HOMELESSNESS IN HAMPDEN COUNTY

2023 REPORT

Number homeless

4,909 people experienced homelessness in Hampden County in 2023

Household Type

- 1,242 individuals
- 3,667 people in families
 - including 2,160 children under 18

Subpopulations

- 168 Older adults (60+)
- 312 Young adults (18-24)
- 55 Veterans

Homeless response system

Inflow: 2,542 people entered our homeless system for first time

Outflow: 2,100 people exited our system; **757** of those reported an exit to permanent housing

Preventing and ending homelessness

RAFT prevents homelessness. RAFT provided rental assistance to 7,400 households in FY 2023, preventing hundreds from becoming homeless. Right now **roughly 700 households seek rental assistance every week.**

Eviction filings are rising. Following the end of pandemic protections and funding, eviction filings in western MA have grown from 3,638 residential eviction filings in 2021 to **5,832 filings in 2023**--a 60% increase.

Only **3% 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. Springfield metropolitan area **median rent rose 16%** over the 3-year period 2019 to 2022.