

HOMELESSNESS IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

2023 REPORT

Number homeless

752 people experienced homelessness in Hampshire County in 2023

Household Type

- 602 individuals
- 150 people in families
 - including 80 children under 18

Subpopulations

- 167 Older adults (60+)
- 44 Young adults (18-24)
- 245 Veterans (includes both Hampshire & Berkshire County veterans)

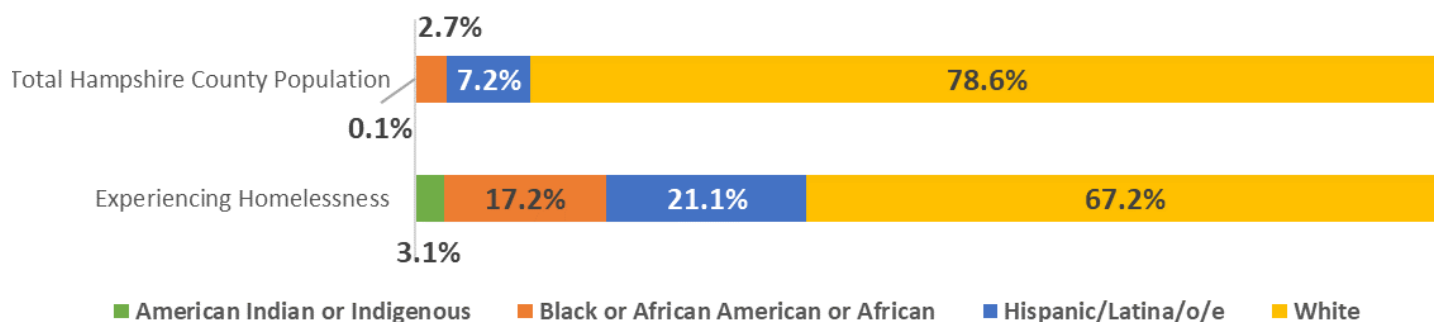
A multi-year look*

*Based on data reported in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which does not include someone who might be couch surfing or otherwise experiencing homelessness in a way that does not fit the definition used by HUD

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	1 Year Increase
Total # experiencing homelessness	776	556	545	557	752	35%
Individuals	767	534	507	489	602	23%
People in families	9	22	38	68	150	121%
60+	162	119	125	147	167	14%
18-24	23	17	18	16	44	175%
American Indian or Indigenous	21	19	25	16	23	44%
Black or African American	153	96	106	107	129	21%
Hispanic/Latina/o/e	116	89	94	119	159	34%
White	593	427	382	420	505	20%

The trend down and then up tracks the beginning of Covid eviction protections and resources, and the end of them.

Racial disparities



Homeless response system

Inflow: 514 people entered our homeless system for first time

Outflow: 417 people exited our system; **89** of those reported an exit to permanent housing

Preventing and ending homelessness

RAFT prevents homelessness. RAFT provided rental assistance to 7,400 households in Hampshire and Hampden counties in FY 2023, preventing hundreds from becoming homeless. Right now **roughly 70 households seek rental assistance every week in Hampshire County.**

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. There were **463** filings in Hampshire County alone in 2023.

Only **3% of tenants** have lawyers in eviction cases, while **over 90% of landlords** are represented.

Housing ends homelessness. Hampshire County developers currently have **361 units of affordable rental housing** in the pipeline, including **110 units of permanent supportive housing.**

Rents have skyrocketed. Hampshire County **median rent rose 20%** over the 3-year period 2019 to 2022.