

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## **Emergency Assistance Program**

Fiscal Year 2016, Third Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

May 9, 2016



**Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**EA Legislative Report**  
**Quarter 3, SFY 2016**

During Quarter 3, 2,207 families applied for EA, only one percent fewer than the previous quarter (2,226 families) but 12 percent fewer families compared to FY15 Quarter 3. 992 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 3, five percent fewer than the previous quarter (1,040 families) and 10 percent fewer families than were placed in FY15 Quarter 3. Also in FY16 Quarter 3, 333 EA eligible families were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance, a flexible benefit to help them retain their current housing or support them in seeking alternative housing. This represented 25 percent of families entering the system. Twenty-eight percent chose a HomeBASE diversion the previous quarter, while 20 percent took a HomeBASE diversion in FY15 Quarter 3.

The Boston regional eligibility office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 378 families in Quarter 3, 38 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield and Brockton offices, respectively, accounting for 16 percent and 10 percent of placements.

Fifty-five percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while domestic violence was the reason for homelessness for 14 percent of families and eviction for another 13 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 54 percent qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Thirty percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation, and seven percent were homeless due to conditions in their housing units. Another nine percent of families entering an EA shelter or hotel/motel during Quarter 3 were experiencing health and safety problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness).

Quarter 3 ended with 629 families in hotels/motels compared to 964 at the end of the previous quarter (a 35 percent decrease) and 1,361 at the end of FY15 Quarter 3 (a 54 percent decrease).

During Quarter 3, 1,155 families exited the EA system. 621 (54 percent) of these families left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

**Department of Housing and Community Development  
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**EA Applications and Entries**

All Applications	SFY 2016 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
Families Applying to EA	2,207	2,226	735	705	853	6,944
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,325	1,448	419	440	466	4,397
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	992	1,040	304	333	355	3,306
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	75%	72%	73%	76%	76%	75%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	333	408	115	107	111	1091
% Entering HomeBASE	25%	28%	27%	24%	24%	25%

**Note:** Families applying for EA are an unduplicated count. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

**Sources:** DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

**EA Health & Safety Assessments**

	SFY 2016 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	Jan	Feb	Mar	SFY 2016 YTD
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	646	594	210	201	235	1,992
Families Determined at Risk	513	489	163	170	180	1,607
% Referrals at Risk	79%	82%	78%	85%	77%	81%
Shelter Diversions	133	105	47	31	55	385
% Referrals Diverted	21%	18%	22%	15%	23%	19%

**Source:** DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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**EA Shelter Entries by Region**

	SFY 2016 Quarter 3			SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
Regional Office	# Families	% of Total	Previous Quarter	Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
<b>All Offices</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>100%</b>
Boston	378	38%	391	118	117	143	1,252	38%
Brockton	96	10%	66	21	37	38	269	8%
Fall River	16	2%	16	3	6	7	64	2%
Fitchburg	9	1%	8	2	4	3	33	1%
Framingham	16	2%	18	3	6	7	58	2%
Greenfield	4	<1%	12	1	1	2	33	1%
Holyoke	3	<1%	5	0	2	1	65	2%
Hyannis	11	1%	15	3	5	3	52	2%
Lawrence	48	5%	55	19	9	20	172	5%
Lowell	44	4%	42	16	16	12	140	4%
Malden	1	0%	5	0	1	0	29	1%
New Bedford	26	3%	24	6	10	10	78	2%
North Shore/Salem	52	5%	50	14	22	16	154	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	2	<1%	4	1	1	0	7	<1%
Plymouth	3	<1%	3	1	1	1	12	<1%
Revere/Chelsea	78	8%	109	28	23	27	284	9%
Southbridge	0	0%	4	0	0	0	8	<1%
Springfield	159	16%	164	55	54	50	436	13%
Taunton	6	1%	6	0	6	0	20	1%
Worcester	40	4%	43	13	12	15	140	4%

Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

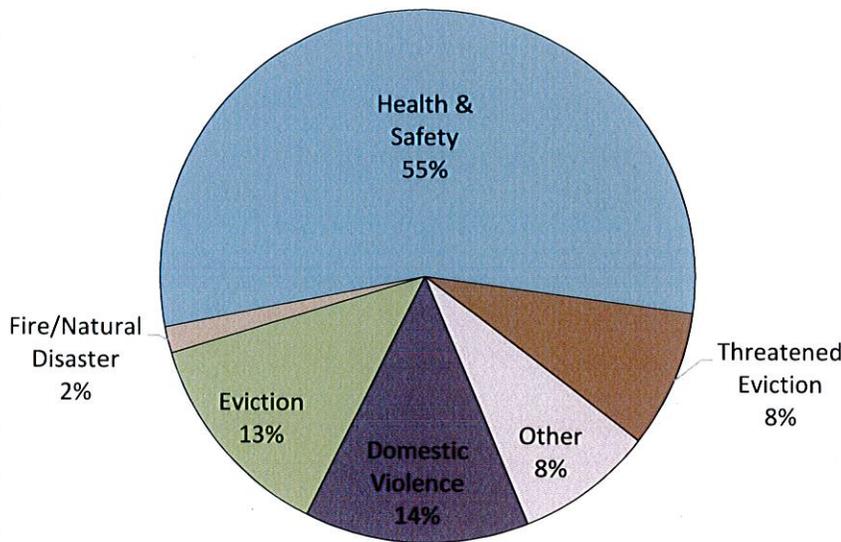
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**Reason for Homelessness,  
Families Entering Shelter/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2016 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>100%</b>
Domestic Violence	134	14%	119	37	46	51	415	13%
Eviction	128	13%	130	44	46	38	437	13%
Fire/Natural Disaster	16	2%	11	4	8	4	57	2%
Health & Safety	548	55%	604	173	171	204	1,822	55%
Threatened Eviction	83	8%	102	20	33	30	305	9%
Other	83	8%	74	26	29	28	270	8%

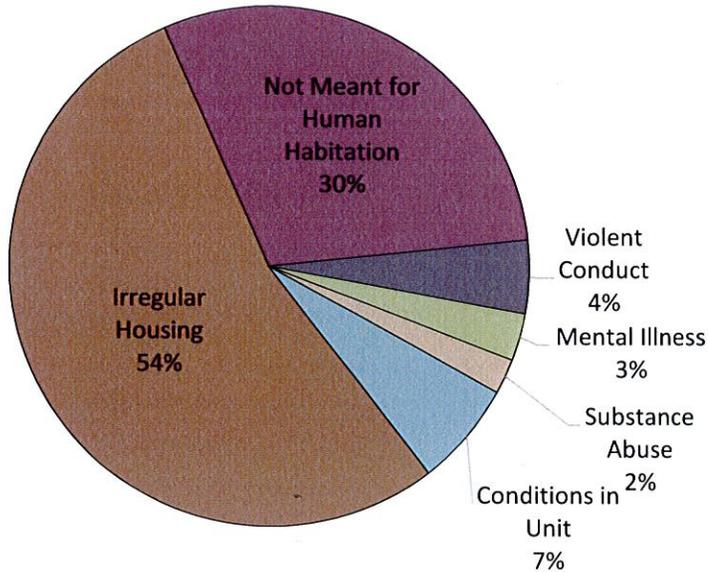
**Note:** Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.  
**Source:** DHCD Placement Unit data.

**Reasons for Homelessness  
Quarter 3, SFY 2016**



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**Health & Safety Reasons  
Quarter 3, SFY 2016**



**Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits**

Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits	Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2016			SFY 2016 YTD	
			Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% Exits
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>100%</b>
Abandoned	86	128	27	30	29	399	11%
Criminal Activity	4	2	1	0	3	14	<1%
Feasible Alternative Housing with HB	621	683	217	190	214	1,824	51%
Feasible Alternative Housing without HB	244	201	74	72	98	649	18%
Ineligible	26	20	11	8	7	76	2%
No Show/Rejected Placement	14	21	3	5	6	53	1%
Non-compliance	31	13	7	9	15	57	2%
Temporary Shelter Interruption	74	76	25	16	33	254	7%
Other/Unknown	55	84	23	4	28	224	6%

**Notes:**

Families receiving a Temporary Shelter Interruption may return to the system within 30 days.

Families terminated from shelter for abandoning their placements or non-compliance may return to the system pending an appeal.

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**EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload**

<b>Daily Utilization by Shelter Type</b>	<b>Quarter 3, SFY 2016</b>	
	<b># of Families</b>	<b>% of Total Daily Caseload</b>
Shelter	3,304	84%
Hotels/Motels	629	15%
<b>All Families</b>	<b>3,933</b>	<b>100%</b>
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-290	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-6.9%	

**Note:** Data indicate the number of families in EA shelter or hotels/motels at the end of the quarter.

**Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA  
During Quarter 3**

	<b>Min.</b>	<b>Max.</b>	<b>Average</b>
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	1	1,665	366
Cost Per Episode	\$117	\$194,805	\$42,822

**Notes:**

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$117 (the weighted average of the shelter and hotel/motel rates).

The average daily rate includes additional costs incurred through housing stabilization and services coordination provided to families in EA.

**HomeBASE Caseload**

<b>Type of Assistance</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>
Household Assistance	4,131

**Note:** Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program on March 31, 2016.