

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2015, First Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

September 30, 2014



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 1, SFY 2015

During Quarter 1, 3,382 families applied for EA, a 13 percent increase from the previous quarter but ten percent fewer families compared to FY14 Quarter 1. Consistent with demand for EA as reflected in the number of families applying, 1,575 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 1. Almost the same number of families were placed in shelter or hotels/motels the previous quarter (1,579 families), while 11 percent fewer were placed in FY15 Quarter 1 compared to FY14 Quarter 1. Also in FY15 Quarter 1, 165 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.

The Boston regional office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelter or hotels/motels, 499 families in Quarter 1 or 32 percent of all placements, followed by the Brockton and Springfield offices each accounting for 10 percent of placements.

Forty-nine percent of families entering EA shelter and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while Eviction was the reason for homelessness for 14 percent of families and Domestic Violence for another 13 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 62% qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. 21 percent were living in situations unfit for human habitation, and another 17 percent were experiencing health and safety problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness).

To accommodate demand for EA beyond DHCD's contracted shelter units, the Department continued to rely on hotels/motels. During Quarter 1, there was a daily average caseload of 1,994 families in hotels/motels compared to 1,905 in the previous quarter, a 5 percent increase. The fourth quarter began with 1,991 families in hotels/motels and decreased two percent to 1,959 families by the end quarter. Due to the continuing demand for EA, DHCD continued contracting for additional shelter units. During Quarter 1, DHCD added 201 new shelter units, expanding shelter capacity to 2,930 contracted shelter units by the end of the quarter.

During Quarter 1, 1,588 families exited the EA system. 507 (32%) of these families left with an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

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EA Applications and Entries

All Applications	SFY 2015 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015 YTD
			Jul	Aug	Sept	
Families Applying to EA	3,382	3,002	1,167	1,175	1,168	3,382
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,740	1,668	586	578	576	1,740
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels/Motels	1,575	1,579	536	521	518	1,575
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	91%	95%	91%	90%	90%	91%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	165	89	50	57	58	165
% Entering HomeBASE	9%	5%	9%	10%	10%	9%

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 2015 Quarter 1	Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015
			Jul	Aug	Sept	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	876	763	257	292	327	876
Families Determined at Risk	639	660	188	208	243	639
% Referrals at Risk	73%	87%	73%	71%	74%	73%
Shelter Diversions	237	103	69	84	84	237%
% Referrals Diverted	27%	13%	27%	29%	26%	27%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2015 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sept	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	1,575	100%	1,579	536	521	518	1,575	100%
Boston	499	32%	469	187	165	147	499	32%
Brockton	157	10%	172	42	55	60	157	10%
Fall River	45	3%	48	11	22	12	45	3%
Fitchburg	12	1%	15	5	3	4	12	1%
Framingham	38	2%	35	20	9	9	38	2%
Greenfield	15	1%	18	9	3	3	15	1%
Holyoke	82	5%	71	29	28	25	82	5%
Hyannis	25	2%	19	5	11	9	25	2%
Lawrence	68	4%	63	19	24	25	68	4%
Lowell	68	4%	85	25	13	30	68	4%
Malden	94	6%	68	29	30	35	94	6%
New Bedford	36	2%	39	12	10	14	36	2%
North Shore (Salem)	76	5%	80	23	37	16	76	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	1	<1%	3	1	0	0	1	<1%
Plymouth	12	1%	9	2	6	4	12	1%
Revere/Chelsea	90	6%	83	29	27	34	90	6%
Southbridge	3	<1%	5	0	2	1	3	<1%
Springfield	159	10%	198	56	43	60	159	10%
Taunton	43	3%	38	14	14	15	43	3%
Worcester	52	3%	61	16	19	15	52	3%

Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

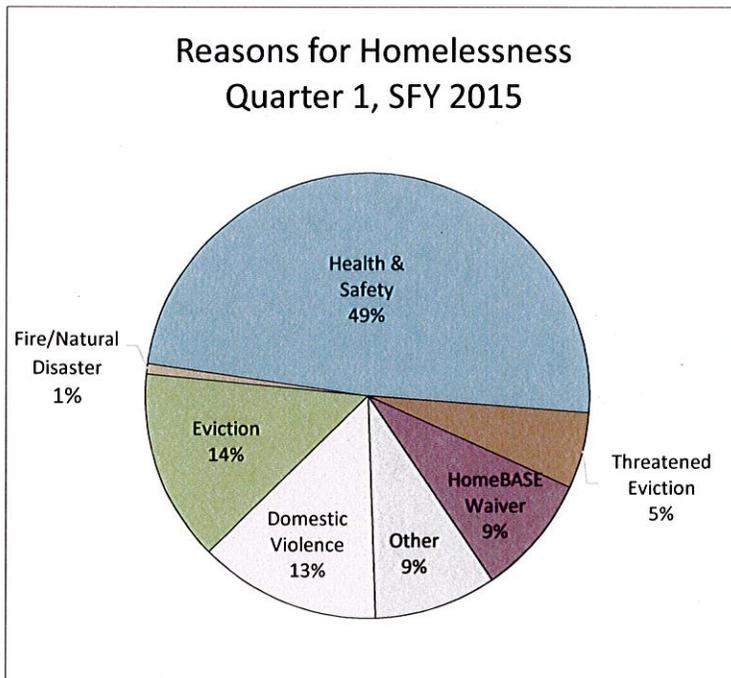
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**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter/Motels**

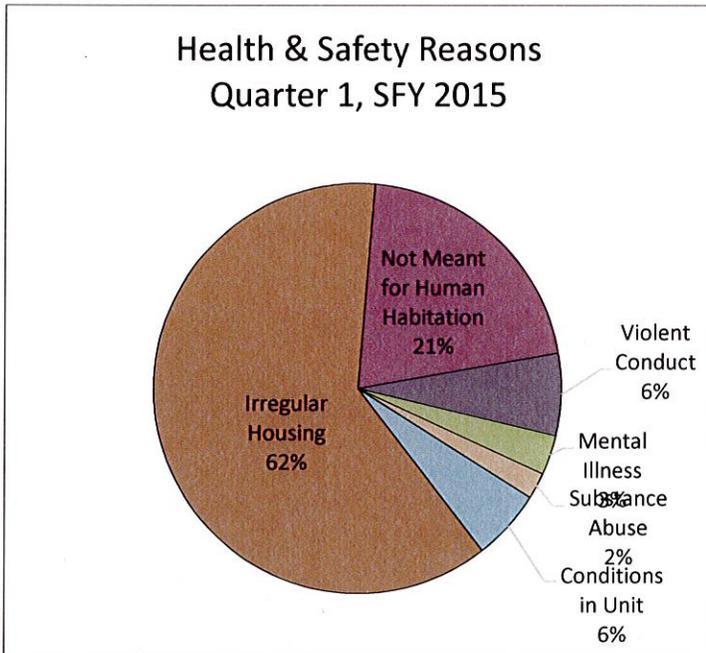
Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2015 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sept	# Families	% of Total
Total	1,575	100%	1,579	536	521	518	1,575	100%
Domestic Violence	208	13%	217	70	67	71	208	13%
Eviction	219	14%	212	79	70	70	219	14%
Fire/Natural Disaster	12	1%	28	4	2	6	12	1%
Health & Safety	770	49%	775	266	253	251	770	49%
Threatened Eviction	87	6%	90	31	24	32	87	6%
HomeBASE Waiver	138	9%	158	49	46	43	138	9%
Other	141	9%	99	37	59	45	141	9%

Note: Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.

Source: DHCD Placement Unit data.



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Shelter Exits

	SFY 2015 Quarter 1		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jul	Aug	Sept	# Families	% of Total
Total Shelter & Hotel/Motel Exits	1,588	100%	1,516	496	526	566	1,588	100%
Exiting with HomeBASE HA	507	32%	538	156	181	170	507	32%

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EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 1, SFY 2015	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	2,796	58%
Hotels/Motels	1,994	42%
All Families	4,790	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	229	
% Change from Previous Quarter	5.0%	

Note: Number of families indicates the average daily number during the quarter.

**Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA
During Quarter 1**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	0	1,569	229
Cost Per Episode	\$106	\$166,314	\$24,274

Notes:

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$106 (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. It is possible to have a length of stay of zero days with associated costs if a family is approved for EA and placed in a shelter or hotel/motel but abandons their placement.

HomeBASE Caseload

Type of Assistance	Number of Families
Household Assistance	5,065

Note: Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program on 9/30/2014.

