

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2015, Third Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

June 3, 2014



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2015

During Quarter 3, 2,507 families applied for EA, a 13 percent decrease from the previous quarter and 10 percent fewer families compared to FY14 Quarter 3. Consistent with demand for EA as reflected in the number of families applying, 1,103 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 3, 14 percent fewer than the than the previous quarter (1,256 families), and 18 percent fewer families were placed in FY15 Quarter 3 compared to FY14 Quarter 3. Also in FY15 Quarter 2, 278 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 20 percent of families entering the system, which is equal to the percentage choosing a HomeBASE diversion the previous quarter, while only 6 percent took a HomeBASE diversion in FY14 Quarter 3.

The Boston regional office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 356 families in Quarter 3 or 32 percent of all placements, followed by the Brockton and Springfield offices, respectively, accounting for 11 percent and 10 percent of placements.

Fifty-three percent of families entering EA shelters and hotels/motels were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while eviction was the reason for homelessness for 15 percent of families and domestic violence for another 13 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 69% qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. Ten percent reported living in situations not meant for human habitation, and another 21 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 3, there was an average daily caseload of 1,438 families in hotels/motels compared to 1,777 in the previous quarter, a 19 percent decrease. The third quarter began with 1,565 families in hotels/motels and decreased 13 percent to 1,361 families by the end quarter.

During Quarter 3, 1,300 families exited the EA system. 672 (52%) of these families left an EA shelter or hotel/motel with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

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EA Applications and Entries

All Applications	SFY 2015 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
Families Applying to EA	2,507	2,831	923	686	986	8,146
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,381	1,579	475	401	505	4,700
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels	1,103	1,256	373	317	413	3,934
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	80%	80%	79%	79%	82%	84%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	278	323	102	84	92	766
% Entering HomeBASE	20%	20%	21%	21%	18%	16%

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 Quarter3	Previous Quarter	Jan	Feb	Mar	SFY 2015
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	605	876	218	160	227	2,281
Families Determined at Risk	495	640	177	130	188	1,735
% Referrals at Risk	82%	73%	81%	81%	83%	76%
Shelter Diversions	110	236	41	30	39	546
% Referrals Diverted	18%	27%	19%	19%	17%	24%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2015 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	1,103	100%	1,256	373	317	413	3,934	100%
Boston	356	32%	406	121	106	129	1,261	32%
Brockton	122	11%	120	41	29	52	399	10%
Fall River	26	2%	32	11	7	8	103	3%
Fitchburg	5	<1%	11	1	2	2	28	1%
Framingham	19	2%	26	7	7	5	83	2%
Greenfield	7	1%	21	1	1	5	43	1%
Holyoke	44	4%	58	16	13	15	184	5%
Hyannis	17	2%	9	4	4	9	51	1%
Lawrence	52	5%	47	19	16	17	167	4%
Lowell	24	2%	41	10	5	9	133	3%
Malden	63	6%	60	17	22	24	217	6%
New Bedford	33	3%	28	17	6	10	97	2%
North Shore/Salem	61	6%	78	20	18	23	215	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	4	<1%	2	2	1	1	7	<1%
Plymouth	10	1%	12	4	1	5	34	1%
Revere/Chelsea	61	6%	71	17	21	23	222	6%
Southbridge	1	<1%	1	0	0	1	5	0%
Springfield	114	10%	154	34	32	48	427	11%
Taunton	27	2%	29	9	8	10	99	3%
Worcester	57	5%	50	22	18	17	159	4%

Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

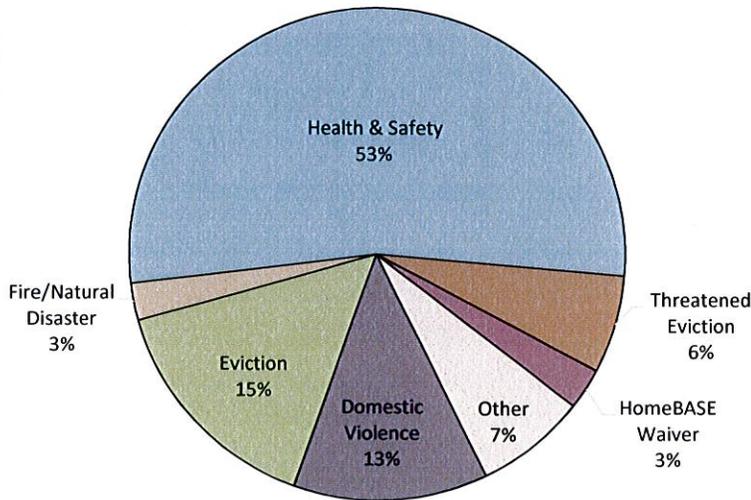
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**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2015 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
Total	1,103	100%	1,256	373	317	413	3,934	100%
Domestic Violence	140	13%	154	60	34	46	502	13%
Eviction	167	15%	194	54	47	66	580	15%
Fire/Natural Disaster	27	2%	8	8	8	11	47	1%
Health & Safety	588	53%	627	188	172	228	1,985	50%
Threatened Eviction	71	6%	89	25	20	26	247	6%
HomeBASE Waiver	30	3%	93	12	12	6	261	7%
Other	80	7%	91	26	24	30	312	8%

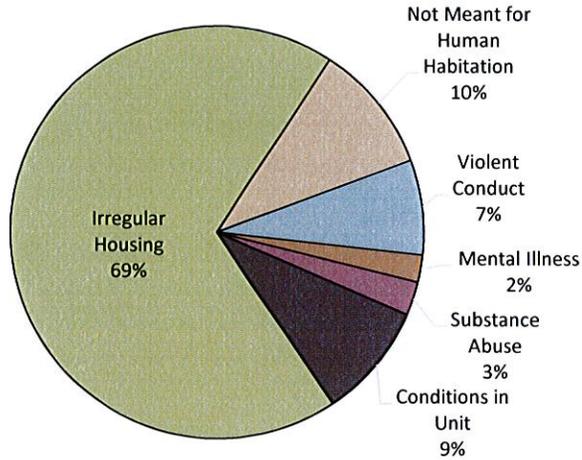
Note: Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.
Source: DHCD Placement Unit data.

**Reasons for Homelessness
Quarter 3, SFY 2015**



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Health & Safety Reasons
Quarter 3, SFY 2015



Shelter and Hotel/Motel Exits

	SFY 2015 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
Total Shelter & Hotel/Motel Exits	1,300	100%	1,657	451	364	485	4,545	100%
Exiting with HomeBASE HA	672	52%	806	249	196	227	2,016	44%

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EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 3, SFY 2015	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,159	70%
Hotels/Motels	1,361	30%
All Families	4,520	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	-108	
% Change from Previous Quarter	-2.3%	

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

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

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	0	1,211	310
Cost Per Episode	\$106	\$128,366	\$32,860

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	3,747

Note: Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program on 3/31/2015.