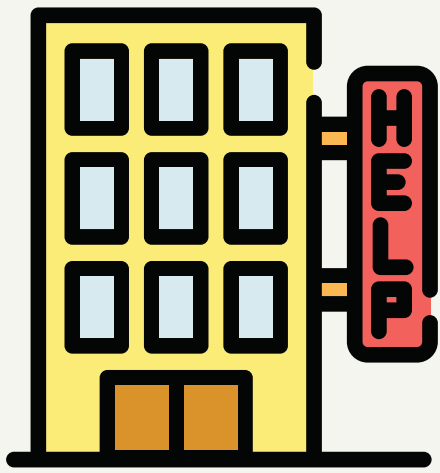
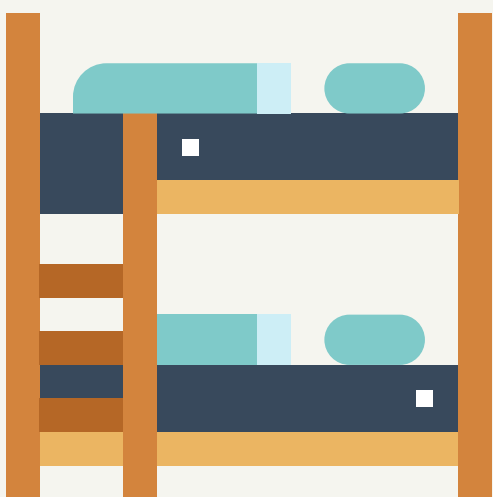


# PREVALENCE OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES



## ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND SOCIAL POLICY CHANGES

Historically, homelessness often fluctuated with the economy, but in the 1980s following economic downturn and social policy changes in the United States, homelessness became more prevalent and persistent.



## STRAINED SHELTER CAPACITY

There are not enough shelter beds for the number of adult individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night in Massachusetts.



## COLONIZATION IN THE US

Homelessness has long been an issue in the United States, with roots dating back to the era of colonization. It was not until 1889, however, that the first shelter was established. Jane Adams founded the Hull House, providing shelter, food, and medical attention to those experiencing homelessness.



## CURRENT RATES OF HOMELESSNESS

According to the 2020 Point-in-Time Count, an annual count of people experiencing homelessness on a given night across the country, there were 3,748 adult individuals staying in an emergency shelter in Massachusetts and 1,271 adult individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, which includes anyone living on the street, abandoned buildings, or other places not meant for habitation. For the same point-in-time in 2020, there were approximately 3,016 emergency shelter beds for adult individuals experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts with an additional 1,010 shelter beds available during winter.

## REDUCING INFLOW TO SHELTER

With the strain on shelter capacity and the prevalence of homelessness in Massachusetts, systems of care must make efforts to help households find safe alternatives to shelter.