



# Small Claims and Civil Consumer Debt Actions:

## Selected Statistics on Cases Filed and Disposed in the Boston Municipal and District Courts

Massachusetts Trial Court  
Department of Research and Planning  
July 2024







































Appendix 4: Urban Institute Data – Share of MA Residents with Credit Reports Who Have Debts in Collection						
County	2016*			2023*		
	Overall	White Areas**	Nonwhite Areas**	Overall	White Areas**	Nonwhite Areas**
Barnstable	18%	19%	n/a***	14%	13%	n/a***
Berkshire	23%	23%	n/a***	18%	18%	n/a***
Bristol	27%	26%	n/a***	22%	20%	n/a***
Dukes	21%	21%	n/a***	11%	11%	n/a***
Essex	24%	19%	48%	18%	14%	30%
Franklin	21%	21%	n/a***	15%	15%	n/a***
Hampden	32%	21%	54%	25%	18%	42%
Hampshire	14%	14%	n/a***	12%	12%	n/a***
Middlesex	17%	13%	36%	12%	10%	25%
Nantucket	22%	22%	n/a***	14%	14%	n/a***
Norfolk	16%	15%	32%	12%	11%	25%
Plymouth	24%	20%	43%	18%	15%	33%
Suffolk	31%	19%	46%	20%	12%	28%
Worcester	26%	23%	50%	19%	17%	34%
Massachusetts Total	23%	18%	46%	17%	14%	31%

\* Urban Institute, Debt in America: An Interactive Map (Dec. 6, 2018 and Oct. 10, 2023), available at <http://apps.urban.org/features/debt-interactive-map/>.

\*\* White communities and communities of color are based on zip codes where at least 60% of the population is white or at least 60% of the population is of color.

\*\*\* Not available because sample size is too small.