

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program

Fiscal Year 2015, Second Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

February 17, 2014



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 2, SFY 2015

During Quarter 2, 2,831 families applied for EA, a 16 percent decrease from the previous quarter and nine percent fewer families compared to FY14 Quarter 2. Consistent with demand for EA as reflected in the number of families applying, 1,256 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 2, 20 percent less than the than the previous quarter (1,575 families), and 15 percent fewer families were placed in FY15 Quarter 2 compared to FY14 Quarter 2. Also in FY15 Quarter 2, 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. This represented 20 percent of families entering the system compared to only 9 percent who chose a HomeBASE diversion the previous quarter and 6 percent in FY14 Quarter 2.

The Boston regional office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelters or hotels/motels, 406 families in Quarter 2 or 32 percent of all placements, followed by the Springfield and Brockton offices, respectively, accounting for 12 percent and 10 percent of placements.

Fifty 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 12 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 2, there was a daily average caseload of 1,777 families in hotels/motels compared to 1,994 in the previous quarter, an 11 percent decrease. The fourth quarter began with 1,970 families in hotels/motels and decreased 21 percent to 1,557 families by the end quarter. Due to the continuing demand for EA, DHCD continued contracting for additional shelter units. During Quarter 2, DHCD added 326 new shelter units, expanding shelter capacity to 3,257 contracted shelter units by the end of the quarter.

During Quarter 2, 1,657 families exited the EA system. 806 (49%) 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 2	Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015 YTD
			Oct	Nov	Dec	
Families Applying to EA	2,831	3,382	1,093	880	960	5,981
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,579	1,740	601	474	504	3,319
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels/Motels	1,256	1,575	508	359	389	2,831
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	80%	91%	85%	76%	77%	85%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	323	165	93	115	115	488
% Entering HomeBASE	20%	9%	15%	24%	23%	15%

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 2	Previous Quarter	Oct	Nov	Dec	SFY 2015
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	667	876	216	220	231	1,543
Families Determined at Risk	544	640	180	184	180	1,184
% Referrals at Risk	82%	73%	83%	84%	78%	77%
Shelter Diversions	123	236	36	36	51	359
% Referrals Diverted	18%	27%	17%	16%	22%	23%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

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EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2015 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	Quarter 2			SFY 2015	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	1,256	100%	1,575	508	359	389	2,831	100%
Boston	406	32%	499	162	123	121	905	32%
Brockton	120	10%	157	51	30	39	277	10%
Fall River	32	3%	45	16	11	5	77	3%
Fitchburg	11	1%	12	3	5	3	23	1%
Framingham	26	2%	38	7	10	9	64	2%
Greenfield	21	2%	15	11	3	7	36	1%
Holyoke	58	5%	82	20	15	23	140	5%
Hyannis	9	1%	25	2	4	3	34	1%
Lawrence	47	4%	68	21	14	12	115	4%
Lowell	41	3%	68	19	8	14	109	4%
Malden	60	5%	94	24	14	22	154	5%
New Bedford	28	2%	36	9	8	11	64	2%
North Shore (Salem)	78	6%	76	35	25	18	154	5%
Pittsfield/North Adams	2	<1%	1	1	1	0	3	<1%
Plymouth	12	1%	12	4	4	4	24	1%
Revere/Chelsea	71	6%	90	21	26	24	161	6%
Southbridge	1	<1%	3	0	0	1	4	<1%
Springfield	154	12%	159	71	36	47	313	11%
Taunton	29	2%	43	10	7	12	72	3%
Worcester	50	4%	52	21	15	14	102	4%

Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

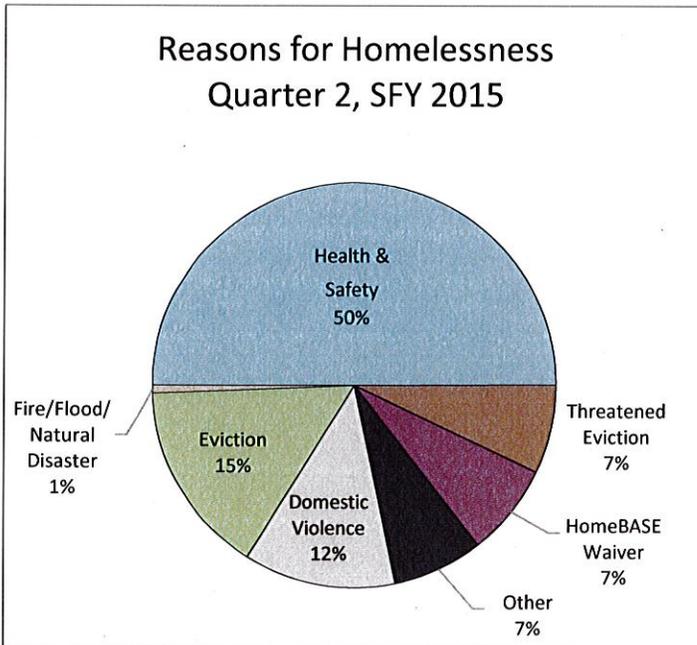
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**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter/Motels**

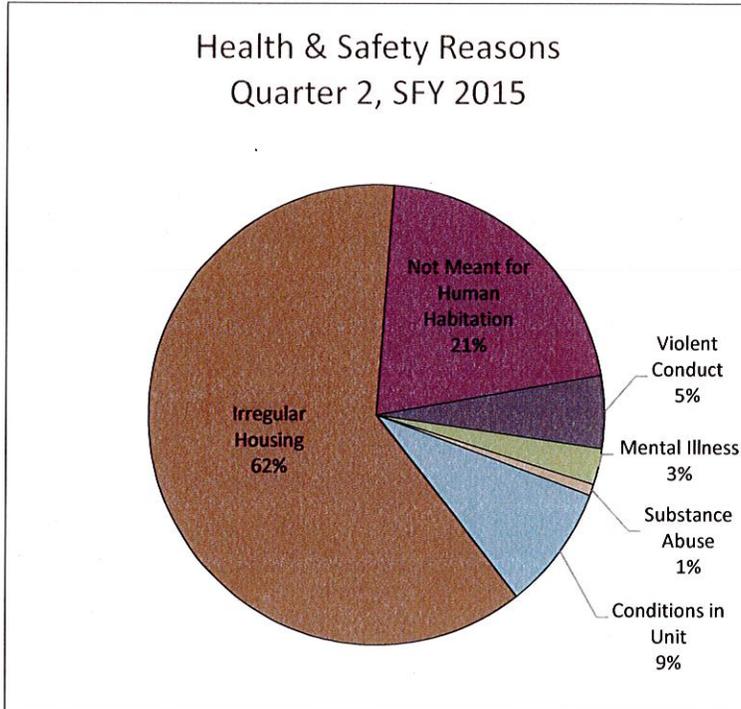
Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2015 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2014	
	# Families	% of Total		Apr	May	Jun	# Families	% of Total
Total	1,256	100%	1,575	508	359	389	2,831	100%
Domestic Violence	154	12%	208	76	46	32	362	12%
Eviction	194	15%	219	80	57	57	413	14%
Fire/Natural Disaster	8	1%	12	3	2	3	20	1%
Health & Safety	627	50%	770	251	166	210	1,397	51%
Threatened Eviction	89	7%	87	35	29	25	176	5%
HomeBASE Waiver	93	7%	138	33	31	29	231	11%
Other	91	7%	141	30	28	33	232	5%

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 and Hotel/Motel Exits

	SFY 2015 Quarter 2		Previous Quarter	SFY 2015			SFY 2015 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Oct	Nov	Dec	# Families	% of Total
Total Shelter & Hotel/Motel Exits	1,657	100%	1,588	612	477	568	3,245	100%
Exiting with HomeBASE HA	806	49%	538	256	278	272	1,344	41%

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EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 2, SFY 2015	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter	3,121	64%
Hotels/Motels	1,777	36%
All Families	4,898	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 2**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	0	1,425	285
Cost Per Episode	\$106	\$151,050	\$30,210

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	4,186

Note: Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program on 1/13/2015.