

## APPENDIX

### APPENDIX IV – KEY FACTS ABOUT POVERTY IN BOSTON

#### From [BostonPlans.org](http://BostonPlans.org)

- 21.6% of Boston’s population lives in poverty.
- The poverty rate among family households is 17%.
- Poverty rates are notably high among the following subgroups:
- Racial minorities
  - Hispanic population (34.8%)
  - Asian population (26.6%)
    - African American/Black population (23%)
- Female-headed family households with no husband present (33.5%)
  - Children (26.9%), especially those living in one-parent households (40.5%)
  - Individuals with disabilities (35.9%)
  - Individuals who do not have a high school diploma or equivalency (32%)
  - Immigrants who have moved to the U.S. within the last year (61.8%)
- The neighborhoods with the highest poverty rates, excluding the Boston Harbor Islands, are:
  - Fenway (43.7%)
  - Mission Hill (40.9%)
  - Allston (37.0%)
- The poverty rate for Boston’s elderly is 21.4%.
- The poverty rates among Boston’s native born (21%) and foreign born (23.3%) are fairly similar.

#### From [NeighborhoodIndicators.org](http://NeighborhoodIndicators.org)

- When the region’s high cost of living is taken into account, as many as 340,000 Bostonians (excluding college students) may be challenged to make ends meet in post-Recession Boston—a figure that includes more than half of Boston’s population.

#### From [MAHomeless.org](http://MAHomeless.org)

- The number of people experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Massachusetts remains very high.
- According to numbers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, there were 21,135 people in Massachusetts counted as experiencing homelessness during the January/February 2015 point-in-time counts conducted by the HUD Continuum of Care across the state.
- On June 30, 2017, there were 3,545 families with children and pregnant women in Massachusetts’ Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter program. 46 of these families with children were being sheltered in motels. (The number has since decreased to 41 families in motels as of August 31, 2017.) This number does not count those families who are doubled up, living in unsafe conditions, or sleeping in their cars.
- During state fiscal year 2017, 4,860 families were assisted with emergency shelter and/or HomeBASE diversion assistance, out of the 9,124 families who completed applications for assistance. 3,314 families were denied assistance (47% denial rate, as reported by DHCD). More



data on the EA and HomeBASE programs can be found here, as well as in this February 2017 report from the Boston Foundation.

- 2013 data from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), released in August 2014, estimates that 9,493 high school-aged students in public schools are experiencing homelessness on any given day in Massachusetts. These figures are derived from the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey responses. This number includes an estimated 4,085 unaccompanied high school students who are experiencing homelessness and not in the custody of their parent or legal guardian. To see more data from ESE, [click here](#).
- In the 2016-2017 academic year, public schools across Massachusetts were able to identify and serve 21,112 students who were experiencing homelessness. This is a slight decrease from the 2015-2016 academic year's total of 21,226 students who were experiencing homelessness. (Archives: Academic year data 2010-2015.) The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has more than doubled since 1990.
- On any given night in Massachusetts, the approximately 3,000 night shelter beds for individuals usually are full or beyond capacity (supplemented by cots and sleeping bags).
- Sexual violence and homelessness often are interconnected. [Click here](#) for more information from our partners at the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.