



Homelessness in Boston

Toward breakthrough solutions in the Back Bay and throughout the city

Monday June 17, 2019

Did you know...

- The primary causes of homelessness include: Mental illness, physical illness, addiction, job loss, family disputes, domestic violence, evictions.
- The ultimate goal is to transition individuals from the streets to short-term housing in shelters, then to supported housing and ultimately to independent living. Through 'Boston's Way Home' the City and its partner agencies are expanding the efforts to identify and house chronically homeless individuals, including veterans.

CITY OF BOSTON HOMELESS CENSUS SUMMARY DATA 2017-2019							
	2017		2018		2019*		% change 2018-2019
SINGLE ADULTS	Individuals		Individuals		Individuals		
Street Count	186		163		121		
Emergency Shelter	1762		1779		1867		
Transitional Housing	431		399		360		
Subtotal	2379		2341		2348		0.3%
FAMILIES	Persons in Families	# of Families	Persons in Families	# of Families	Persons in Families	# of Families	
Emergency Shelter	3385	1064	3477	1068	3647	1145	
Hotels/Motels	54	18	0	0	0	0	
Transitional Housing	361	157	175	55	119	45	
Subtotal	3800	1239	3652	1123	3766	1190	3.1%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	Persons in Families	# of Families	Persons in Families	# of Families	Persons in Families	# of Families	
Emergency Shelter	83	34	75	35	89	31	18.6%
Transitional Housing	65	31	78	31	none reported		
Subtotal	148	65	153	66	89	31	
BOSTON TOTAL	6327	1304	6146	1189	6203	1221	0.9%

* The 2019 Census was taken on January 30, 2019, one of the coldest nights of the year. Many consider these numbers an under-count due to the frigid weather.

source: City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development

What can I do...

- Volunteer at local shelters and programs for the homeless
- Make in-kind donations including food and clothing: Look at each shelter's website for requested items, the shelters know what they need!
- Offer financial support

Partial list of local day and night shelters...

- PINE STREET INN:** *To Volunteer:* 617 892-9100

Mens' Inn 617 892 9207, 444 Harrison Ave, Boston.

Womens' Inn 617 892-9321, 363 Albany Street, Boston

Open every night; Both remain open during the day in freezing weather.

- ROSIE'S PLACE:** *To Volunteer:* volunteer@rosiesplace.org

Providing meals and shelter for poor and homeless women

617 442 9322, 889 Harrison Avenue, Boston

•WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

Day shelter for women experiencing poverty and homelessness

To Volunteer: allegra@womenslunchplace.org or register on the website

617 267-0200, 67 Newbury Street, Boston

•WOODS MULLEN SHELTER FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Primary emergency shelter used by the Boston Police Department: It is the policy of the BPD to transport any person to a shelter during the winter months.

Men's Shelter: 617 534 6100, 112 Southampton Street, Boston

Women's Shelter 617 534 7100, 794 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston

•SHATTUCK SHELTER

Day and night shelter accommodations

617 892-7917

Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Campus, 170 Morton St, Jamaica Plain

•NEW ENGLAND CENTER AND HOME FOR VETERANS

Provides overnight shelter to homeless veterans but accepts all in freezing weather.

617 371-1800, 17 Court Street, Government Center, Boston

Guidelines for Interactions with the Homeless in Boston...

- For **ANY MEDICAL** or **SAFETY** emergencies or serious concerns call **9-1-1**. Be prepared to describe the exact location, the person's attire, and the perceived problem.

- For all other calls, concerned citizens can call the Mayor's 24 hour Service (**3-1-1**) or as an alternate dial **617 635-4500**.

- If you think a homeless person may be mentally ill and needs assistance, call the Boston Emergency Medical System (EMS) at **9-1-1**. They have access to the **Boston Emergency Service Team (B.E.S.T.)**, crisis team licensed individuals available 24/7 who will assist the BPD in helping the mentally ill homeless individual. B.E.S.T. triage line is 1-800-981-4357. Signs of mental illness in the homeless include: inappropriate dress for the weather, hallucinations, no response from the person when asked where they are, evidence of intoxication.

- An excellent guidance for compassionate and safe interactions with the homeless is provided by the 'Coalition for the Homeless' and can be found at this link:*

<http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/take-action/what-should-i-do-if/>

THIS PROGRAM WAS ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED BY: THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE BACK BAY (NABB) to increase public understanding of homelessness and the resources available in the city. The mission of NABB is to preserve and protect the residential quality of life in the Back Bay.

www.nabbonline.org