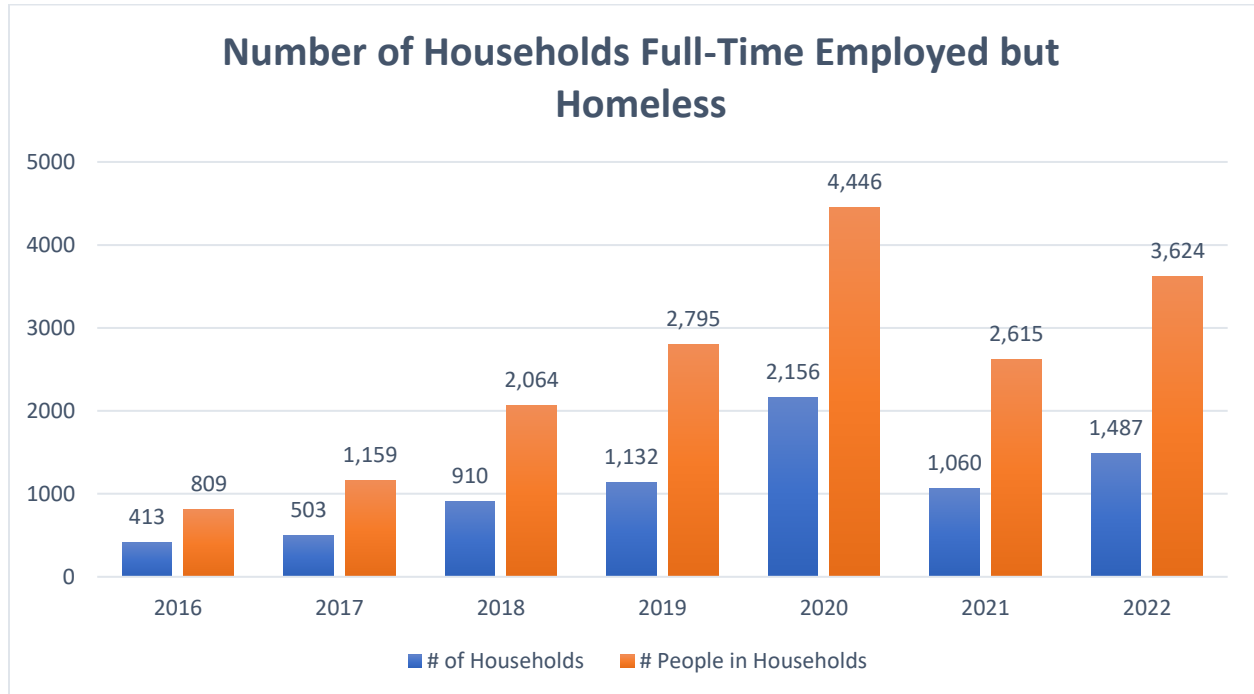# The Housing Crisis in MA: Numbers of Employed but Homeless Continue to Grow

They were growing before the pandemic and are growing again now that the Eviction Moratorium has Ended

Number of Households Full-Time Employed but Homeless

Findings and Explanations

a. **Families are self-reporting their housing status, so are likely using real-world definitions for "homeless" rather than accepting the government definition** – For instance: someone illegally sleeping on a couch in a subsidized unit, who is at risk of being asked to leave/evicted at any time, might consider themselves homeless even though the government would not.*

   Government Definition of Homelessness: https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/article/definitions-of-homelessness

b. **Numbers were clearly increasing in the years before the pandemic**, which suggests that housing policies, in the Boston area at least, were not successfully reversing the trend.

c. **Numbers lowered during the pandemic;** likely in response to assistance money provided to both tenants and properties. Should these policies be continued?

d. **Numbers are again on the rise, post-pandemic**.

e. **Questions that need to be be Raised and Evaluation by the Voting Public:** What happens to a town when the service population is forced to live outside the town? What happens to the commuting service populations, in terms of *depleted social capital*?

Credits:

Data Conceptualization, Data Conclusions, Editing, Chart and Report Design

Liz Hauck, John Kraft, Daniel J. Curley, Mat Thall, Michael Kane, Thuan Nguyen, and Dan Derman

The Data Set Explained: What is the data? Where do the numbers come from? How are they Real-Time?

HousingWorks.net is comprised of three modules of service and data collection:

THE FIRST MODULE lets applicants and housing advocates locate and apply to all low-income housing across the [40+ different independent housing inventories](). The first component allows applicants to anonymously search for and download applications free of cost. The second component is a subscription-based program for advocates to enter applicant information and download applications that are prepopulated with the entered information. This second component records and stores applicant information the moment they start applying, and updates information every time an applicant applies for any other housing property. This makes HousingWorks.net the only system that can quantify and unduplicate applicant information across private and public housing properties.

THE SECOND MODULE is the only a comprehensive inventory listing of truly low-income housing in Massachusetts tied with a subscription-based waitlist software and service for low-income housing administrators. This service product lets us build and update waitlists for more than 125 properties, mostly on the Eastern side of the state. This module allows HousingWorks.net to quantify and unduplicate applicant information up to the moment they are housed or rejected for housing. This module is connected to the first module so that HousingWorks.net also has comprehensive data on applicants from the moment they first apply to the moment their housing search ends across numerous, independent housing properties.

THE THIRD MODULE is a real-time data reporting system. Since applicants sit on waitlists for years, it's necessary to pull data from the first two modules to achieve a clear picture of the relationship between the applicant population and the housing inventory. Our datasets pull from the two service modules and the data sets are a byproduct of the increased service, which is a crucial feature. Further, by combining these two unique sets of data, these interactive modules allow HousingWorks.net to run real-time, supply-demand data comparisons that have never before been available; data that identifies gaps and can help suggest more efficient policy and planning.

Since its inception in 2000, the HousingWorks team has understood that it was essential to offer all three modules simultaneously, and that the data module needed to be an automatic side-effect of improved service delivery because data quality is inevitably better when there is an immediate benefit to the applicant – getting housed - and the landlord – filling vacancies.

HousingWorks is alone in being able to provide real-time affordable housing data. **For More Information**

Contact HousingWorks, 617-504-0577 (or 617-304-9961) admin@housingworks.net