

Using Boston Housing Court Data to Inform Program and Policy Development

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Background

Project Hope

Seeking to better understand causes of and potential solutions for family homelessness

Collection and analysis of Boston Housing Court eviction data from 2006, 2010, 2011, and 2014

Data Challenges

Challenge	Response
Data accessibility and quality	Advocacy
Data analysis capacity	Partnerships

Early Findings & Policy Impact

Finding	Impact
Large number of subsidized tenants being brought to Housing Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships formed between service providers (Project Hope and HomeStart) and management companies/BHA• Subsidized evictions become priority of City of Boston's DND• Helped providers make the case for eviction prevention funding
High percentage of cases being filed by management companies and Boston Housing Authority	
High cost of eviction vs. relatively small amount of money owed by tenants being brought to Housing Court	

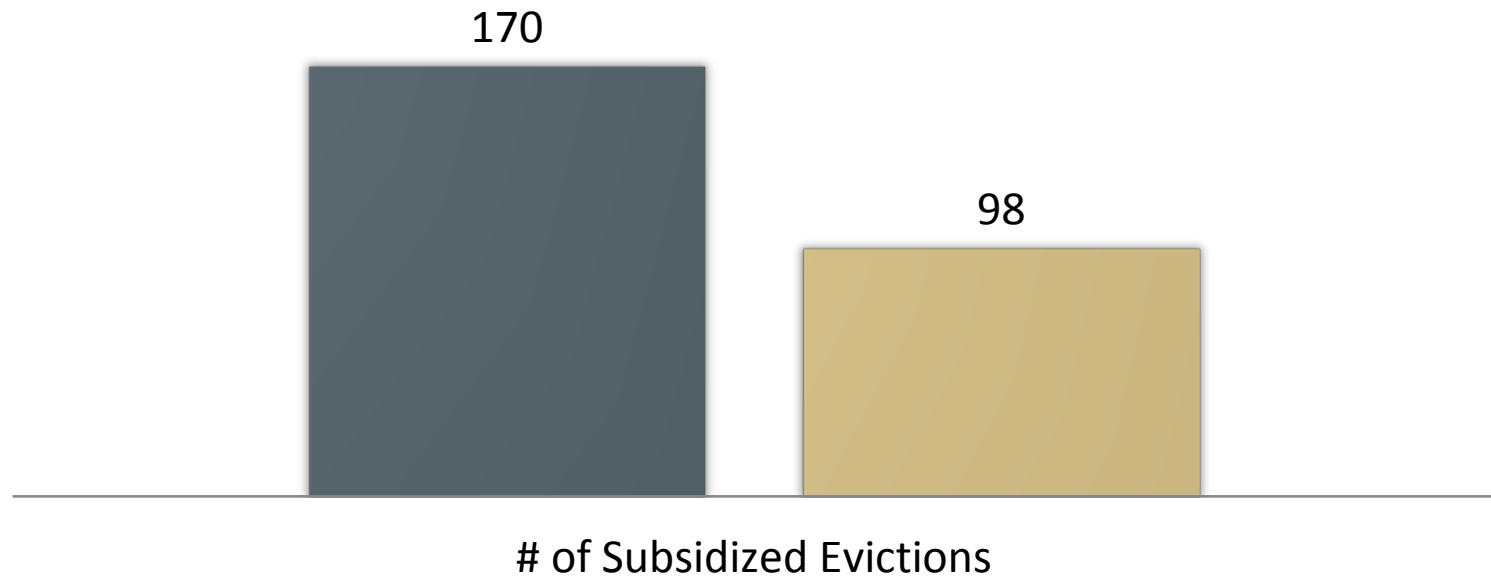
Evaluating Programmatic Impact

	2011 Execution Rate	2014 Execution Rate	Percent Change
WinnResidential	38%	23%	-15%
Maloney Properties	31%	19%	-12%
Boston Housing Authority (BHA)	37%	26%	-11%
<i>All Property Owners</i>	40%	32%	-8%

Evaluating Programmatic Impact

Subsidized Evictions in the Dudley Village Campus

■ 2010 ■ 2014



Recent Policy Developments

- City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development is taking on larger role in Housing Court data collection and analysis
- Bill has been filed in state legislature that would give all tenants facing eviction the right to legal counsel (S. 831); listed as part of Mayor Walsh's Anti-Displacement Legislative Agenda along with a statistic from our most recent Housing Court study

Lessons Learned

- Working with large datasets can be daunting and challenging, but is often worth the effort and can lead to new opportunities
- Issues of data access and quality might become policy opportunities in and of themselves
- Partnerships are often critical for data analysis
- Data can inform policy in unexpected ways