



Creating a Healthy Connected Cape Cod

Poverty on Cape Cod, 2014

Subject	Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 2014		
	Total	Less than 100 percent of the poverty level	
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Population for whom poverty status is determined	212,184	20,588	9.70%
SEX:			
Male	101,279	9,457	9.30%
Female	110,905	11,131	10.00%
AGE:			
Under 18 years	34,942	5,391	15.40%
18 to 64 years	121,857	11,561	9.50%
65 years and over	55,385	3,636	6.60%

(Source: Census.gov, American Community Survey (ACS), 2014)

Housing Affordability on Cape Cod, 2015

In Barnstable County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two bedroom apartment is **\$1,234 per month**. **In order to afford this level of rent and utilities**, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn **\$49,360 annually**, or **\$23.73 per hour**.

In Barnstable County, **the estimated mean (average) wage for a renter is \$10.84 per hour**. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 88 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 2.2 worker(s) earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two bedroom FMR affordable.

A unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income.

(Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, *Out of Reach 2015: Barnstable, MA*. <http://nlihc.org/oor/massachusetts>)

Why is it so difficult to create Affordable Homes on the Cape?

Politics?

- Zoning, Zoning, Zoning ✓
- Neighborhood Opposition/Concerns ✓
- Federal and State Housing Policy and Resources- Need for Multiple Funding Sources ✓
- Sole Source Aquifer
- Lack of Wastewater/Water Infrastructure
- Other Environmental and/or Community Character Concerns ✓

(Source: Paul Ruchinkas, Cape Cod Commission, 10/24/2014)

Educating and incentivizing the electorate to vote for affordable housing policy and zoning is recommended (Advocacy)

Percentage and Number of Homeowners among Total Votes Cast in Barnstable County in the 2012 Presidential Election

	2012 Pop. 18+ (Voting Age) in Barn. County	Age Bracket Percent of 18+ Pop.	2012 Reg. Voters in Barn. County	2012 Presidential Election Voter Turnout	Est. Votes by Age Bracket	Est. Percent of Voters that are Homeowners	2012 Raw Number of Voting Homeowners
Age 18 - 54	88,824	50%	84,268	78%	65,729	54%	35,730
Age 55+	89,964	50%	85,350	78%	66,573	75%	49,930
Total	178,788		169,618		132,302		85,659
Conclusion: Percentage and Number of Homeowners among Total Votes Cast in Barn. Coun						64.7%	85,659

(Source: V. Harik analysis citing Census.gov; Cape Cod Commission; Politico.com; United States Election Project, electproject.org)

➡ Part of the solution to the affordable housing problem may be for the community to provide elected officials the direction and support to carry forward necessary change.