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February 9, 2023

**AARP Maine Testimony in favor of LD 258 Part "TT" Transferring \$30,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority for the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the Low-income Housing Tax Credit Program**

Greetings Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and honorable members of the Joint Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Honorable Members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing. My name is Bridget Quinn, and I am an Associate State Director for Advocacy and Outreach with AARP Maine. Today, on behalf of our 200,000 Maine members, I am testifying in favor of housing provisions included in LD 258.

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. Right here in Maine, we work to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment.

For nearly 60 years, AARP has been fighting to make our all our communities great places to live. This means having access to safe, affordable and accessible housing. The combination of a shortage in rental housing, rising development costs and stagnant incomes are among the factors driving the growing housing affordability crisis affecting U.S. cities<sup>1</sup>. The pandemic resulted in an unprecedented rising in housing costs, leaving home prices 38.6% above before the pandemic took hold.<sup>2</sup>

According to Statista/AARP analysis of data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB), 609 individuals 55+ are expected to be unhoused in Maine in 2023. Nearly 964 people 55+ are expected to be evicted. When considering people of all ages, that number increases to nearly 2,161 people facing eviction and 1,367 experiencing homelessness.

None of our communities are immune, either. The numbers vary county by county, but in every county of our state, individuals are at risk of being evicted. I've provided a breakdown of counties based on AARP Data with my testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://housingtoolkit.nmhc.org/#national-trends>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/reports/files/Harvard\\_JCHS\\_State\\_Nations\\_Housing\\_2022.pdf](https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/reports/files/Harvard_JCHS_State_Nations_Housing_2022.pdf)

Maine is short nearly 20,000 affordable places to call home for those who need it most.<sup>3</sup> That is why we urge you to support the transfer of \$30,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority for the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the Low-income Housing Tax Credit Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. If you have questions, I can be reached at [bquinn@aarp.org](mailto:bquinn@aarp.org) or at 207-272-8563.

Bridget Quinn  
AARP Maine  
Associated State Director for Advocacy and Outreach

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<sup>3</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition: Housing Needs by State





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☒ include small counties <sup>①</sup>

1,160,419

Evictions (Total, USA)

2,161

Evictions (Total, Selection)

22,753

Evictions (Avg., USA)

2,161

Evictions (Avg., Selection)

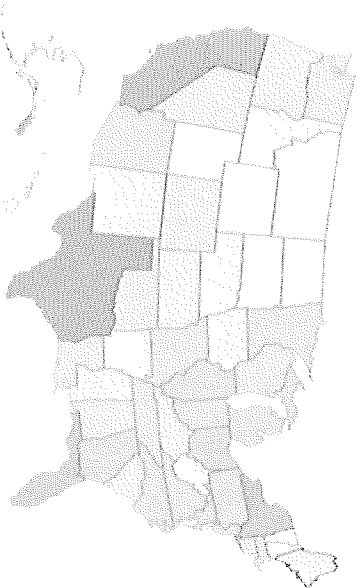
1 2

Age group Ethnicity <sup>①</sup> Year  
Multiple selections ☐ All ☐ 2023

Measure <sup>①</sup>  
Evictions (TOTAL)

<sup>①</sup>

Total predicted evictions in the United States per county from 2019 to 2027



1,099,637

Population

157,784

Renting Households

State	County	Value
Maine	Androscoggin County	257.0
Maine	Aroostook County	102.0
Maine	Cumberland County	529.0
Maine	Franklin County	31.0
Maine	Hancock County	83.0
Maine	Kennebec County	203.0
Maine	Knox County	64.0
Maine	Lincoln County	53.0
Maine	Oxford County	64.0
Maine	Penobscot County	258.0
Maine	Piscataquis County	26.0
Maine	Sagadahoc County	46.0
Maine	Somerset County	73.0
Maine	Waldo County	45.0
Total		2,161.0

NOTE: Any data from the dashboard should be cited as "Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB)".



powered by **statista**

☒ Include small counties <sup>①</sup>

1,160,419

Evictions (Total, USA)

2,161

Evictions (Total, Selection)

2.6%

Evictions (Share, USA)

1.4%

Evictions (Share, Selection)

1 2

Age group  
Multiple selections



Ethnicity <sup>①</sup>

All



Year  
2023

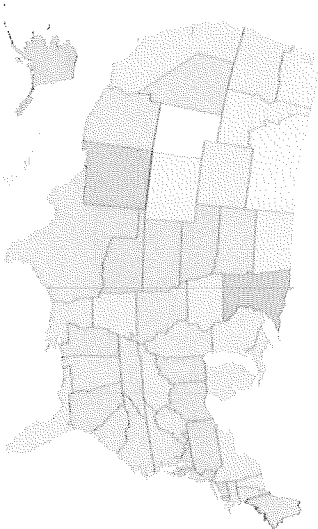


Measure <sup>①</sup>

Evictions (SHARE)



**Predicted eviction rate in the United States per county from 2019 to 2027 in %**



1,099,637  
Population

157,784  
Renting Households

State	County	Value
Maine	Cumberland County	1.4
Maine	Franklin County	1.4
Maine	Hancock County	1.4
Maine	Kennebec County	1.3
Maine	Knox County	1.6
Maine	Lincoln County	1.4
Maine	Oxford County	1.7
Maine	Penobscot County	1.4
Maine	Piscataquis County	1.5
Maine	Sagadahoc County	1.1
Maine	Somerset County	1.4
Maine	Waldo County	1.2
Maine	Washington County	1.3
Maine	York County	1.3
Total		1.4

NOTE: Any data from the dashboard should be cited as "Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB)".

☒ include small counties ⓘ

687,044

Homelessness (Total, USA)

1,367

Homelessness (Total, Selection)

13,471

Homelessness (Avg., USA)

1,367

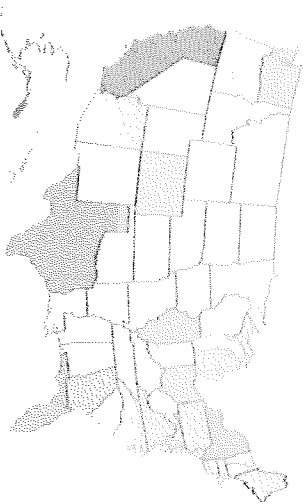
Homelessness (Avg., Selection)

1 2

Age group Multiple selections Ethnicity ⓘ Year 2023

Measure ⓘ Homelessness (TOTAL)

1 Predicted people experiencing homelessness in the United States per county from 2019 to 2027



State	County	Value
Maine	Androscoggin County	163.0
Maine	Aroostook County	64.0
Maine	Cumberland County	336.0
Maine	Franklin County	20.0
Maine	Hancock County	52.0
Maine	Kennebec County	128.0
Maine	Knox County	40.0
Maine	Lincoln County	33.0
Maine	Oxford County	40.0
Maine	Penobscot County	163.0
Maine	Piscataquis County	17.0
Maine	Sagadahoc County	29.0
Maine	Somerset County	46.0
Maine	Waldo County	28.0
Total		1,367.0

1,099,637 Population 157,784 Renting Households

NOTE Any data from the dashboard should be cited as "Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB)".

☒ include small counties

687,044

Homelessness (Total, USA)

1,367

Homelessness (Total, Selection)

13,471

Homelessness (Avg, USA)

1,367

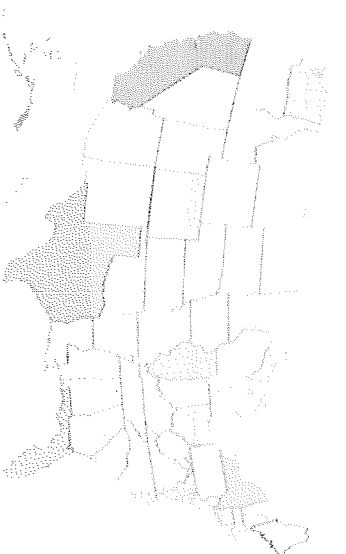
Homelessness (Avg, Selection)

1 2

Age group Ethnicity ① Year  
Multiple selections All 2023

Measure ①  
Homelessness (TOTAL)

Predicted people experiencing homelessness in the United States per county from 2019 to 2027



State	County	Value
Maine	Cumberland County	336.0
Maine	Franklin County	20.0
Maine	Hancock County	52.0
Maine	Kennebec County	128.0
Maine	Knox County	40.0
Maine	Lincoln County	33.0
Maine	Oxford County	40.0
Maine	Penobscot County	163.0
Maine	Piscataquis County	17.0
Maine	Sagadahoc County	29.0
Maine	Somerset County	46.0
Maine	Waldo County	28.0
Maine	Washington County	26.0
Maine	York County	181.0
Total		1,367.0

NOTE: Any data from the dashboard should be cited as "Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB)".