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State of the Homeless 2007

Falling Behind: A Mid-Point Look at the Bloomberg Homeless Plan

March 7, 2007

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www.coalitionforthehomeless.org



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Overview of the Report

Part I: Record Family Homelessness in New York City

- ◆ Last Year the Total Number of Homeless New Yorkers in Shelters Increased by 11.1 Percent
 - ◆ The Number of Homeless Families Alone Increased by 17.6 Percent Last Year
 - ◆ The Number of Homeless Children in NYC Increased by 18.1 Percent Last Year
 - ◆ In February 2007 Family Homelessness in New York City Reached Modern Record Levels: 9,287 Homeless Families
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Overview of the Report

Part II: A Mid-Point Look at the Bloomberg Homeless Plan

- ◆ **At the Mid-Point of Mayor Bloomberg's Five-Year Homeless Plan, the Number of Homeless Families Is Significantly Higher Than the Plan's Targets**
- ◆ **In Year 2, the Mayor's Plan Projected 7,400 Homeless Families – In Feb 2007 There Were Actually 9,287 Homeless Families**
- ◆ **The Number of Homeless Single Adults in Shelters Was Actually Smaller Than the "Year 2" Target in the Mayor's Plan**



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Overview of the Report

Part III: Dynamics of Rising Family Homelessness in NYC

- ◆ Number of New Homeless Families Entering Shelter Increased by 22.9 Percent Last Year
 - ◆ Number of Homeless Families Moved to Permanent Housing Fell by 11.0 Percent Last Year
 - ◆ City Policies Cut Back on Federal Housing Aid for Homeless Families
 - ◆ In Its Second Year, the “Housing Stability Plus” Program Moved 10.9 Percent Fewer Families into Permanent Housing
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Overview of the Report

Part IV: Reform the Flawed “Housing Stability Plus” Program, and Expand Housing Aid to the Homeless

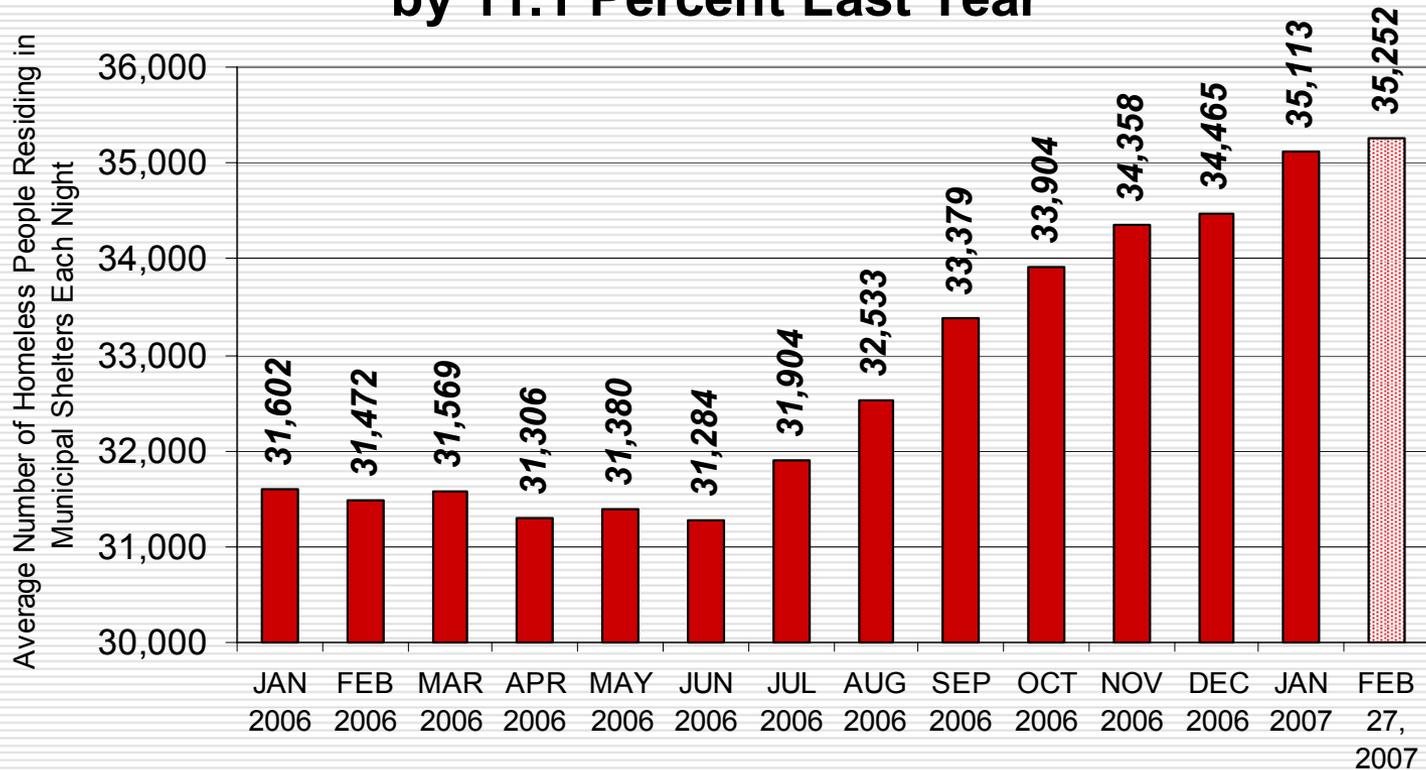
- ◆ **The Mayor Should Reform the HSP Program to Address Flaws that Threaten the Stability for Formerly-Homeless Families, and that Place Children and Adults in Hazardous Homes**
- ◆ **The Mayor Should Restore Homeless New Yorkers’ Priority for Federal Housing Assistance**
- ◆ **The Mayor Should Target More City-Funded Apartments to Homeless New Yorkers**



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Homeless Shelter Population Rising

NYC Homeless Shelter Population Increased by 11.1 Percent Last Year

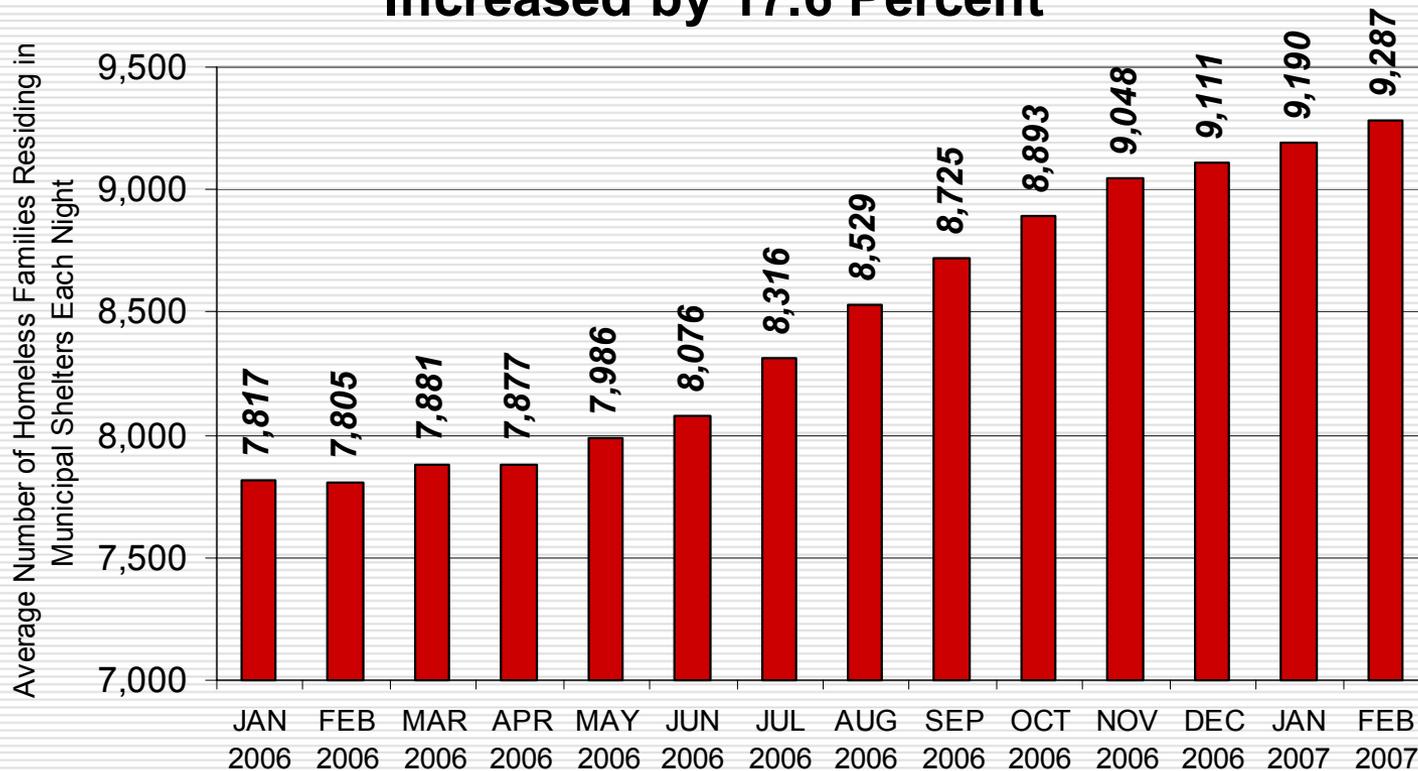




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Worsening Family Homelessness

Number of Homeless Families in NYC Increased by 17.6 Percent

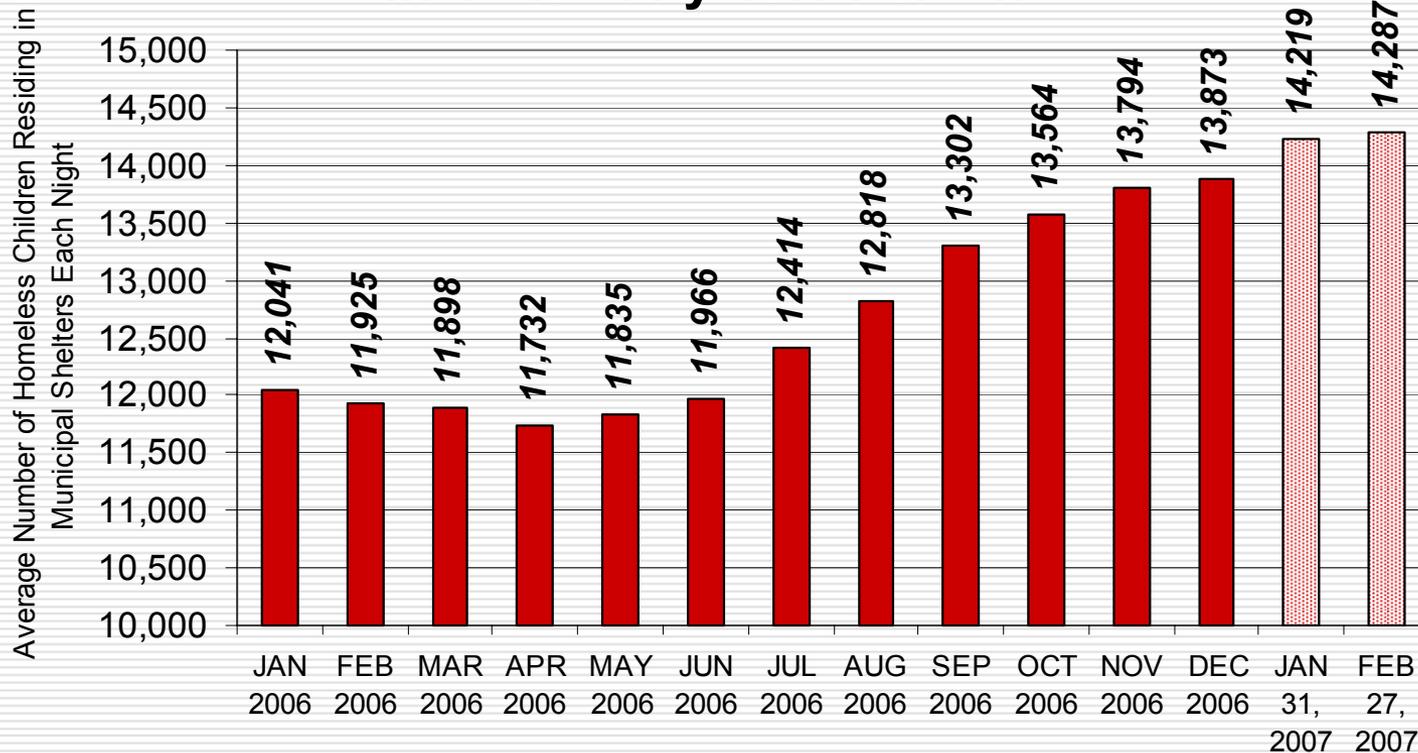




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More Homeless NYC Children

Number of Homeless Children in NYC Increased by 18.1 Percent

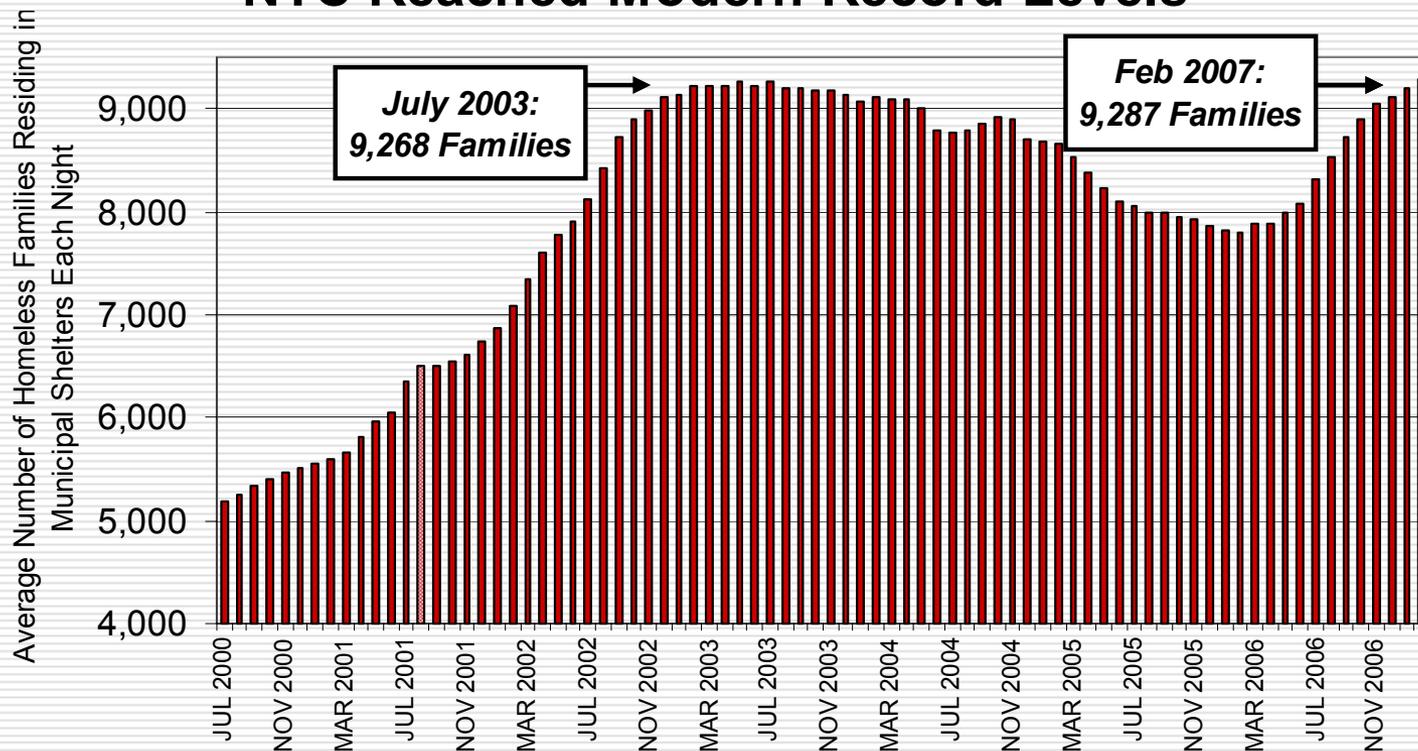




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Record Family Homelessness

In Feb 2007 Number of Homeless Families in NYC Reached Modern Record Levels

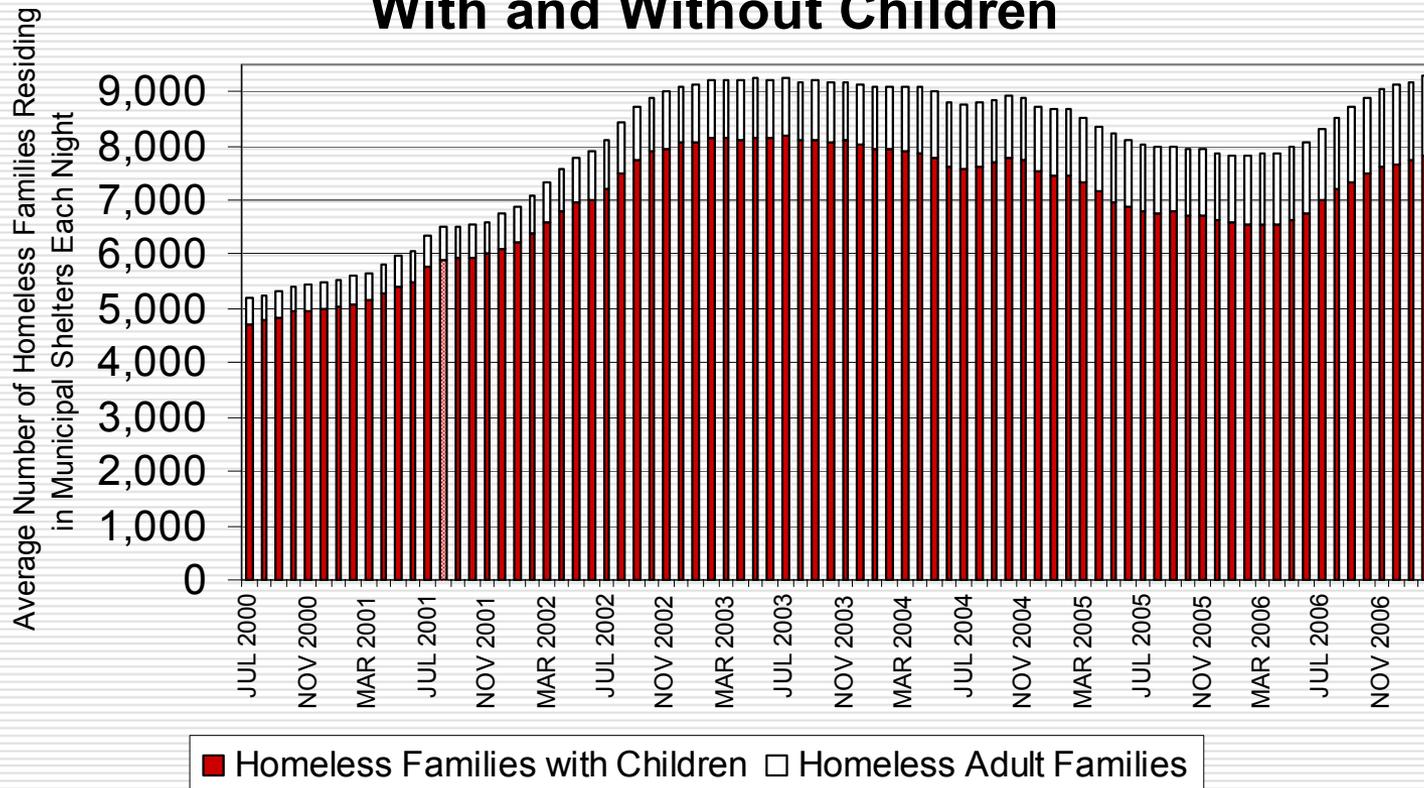




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Record Family Homelessness

Rising Number of Homeless Families, Both With and Without Children

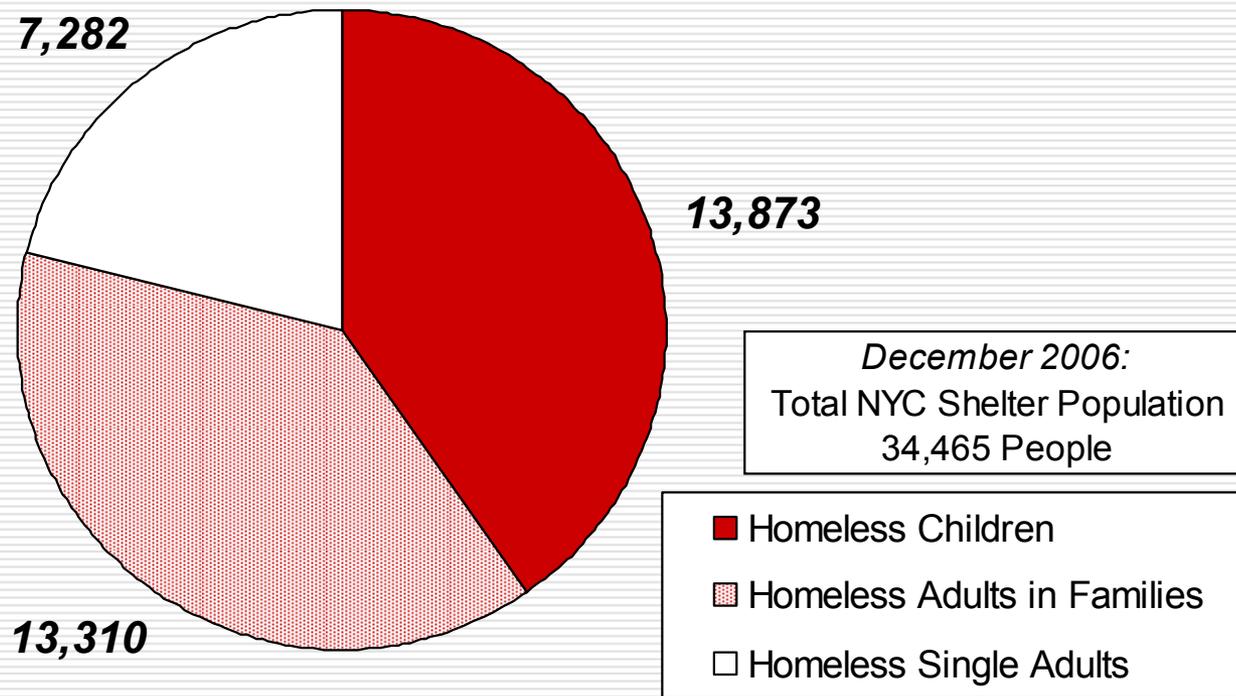




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Majority of Homeless New Yorkers in Families

Homeless Families Represent 78.9 Percent of Homeless New Yorkers in Shelters



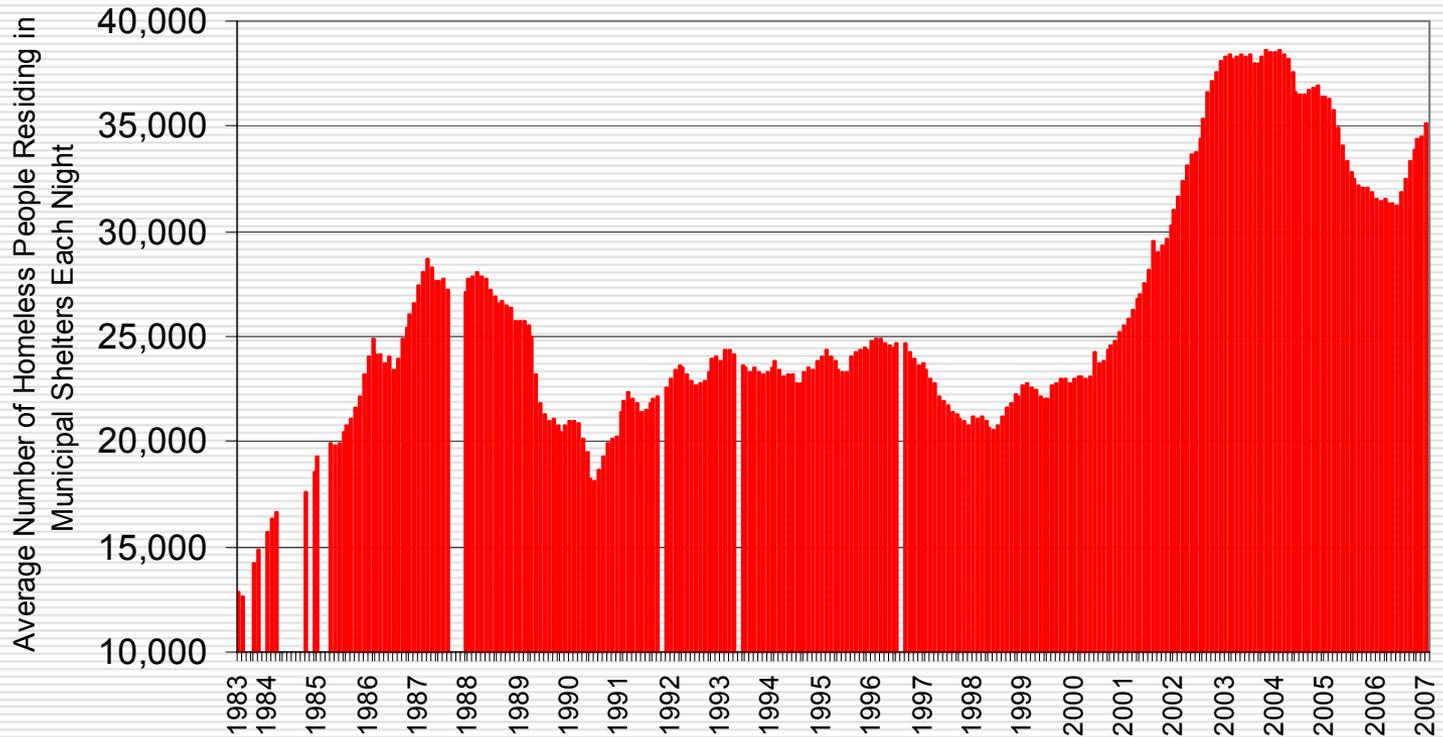


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NYC Homelessness Nearing Record Levels

NYC Homeless Shelter Population Once Again Exceeds 35,000 Children and Adults

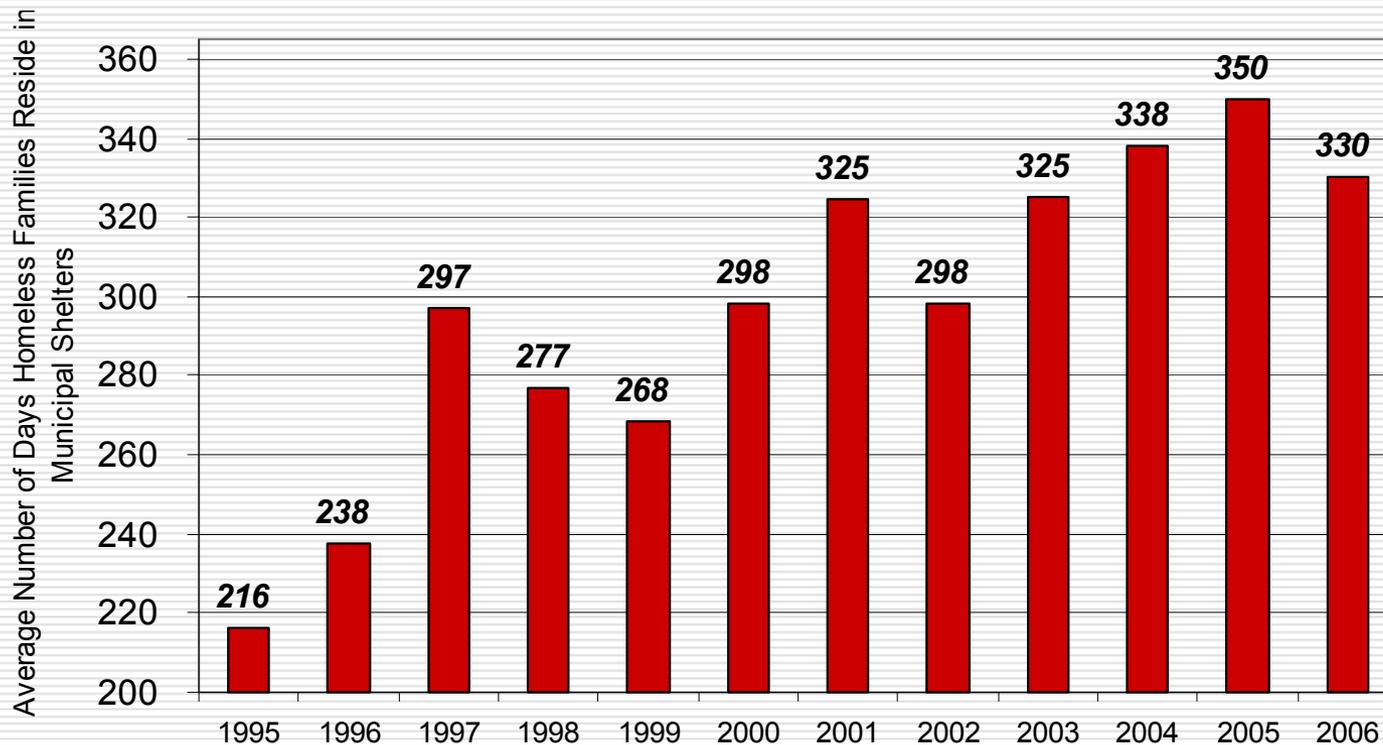




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Long Shelter Stays for Homeless Families

Homeless Family Shelter Stays Decline, But Still Average 11 Months

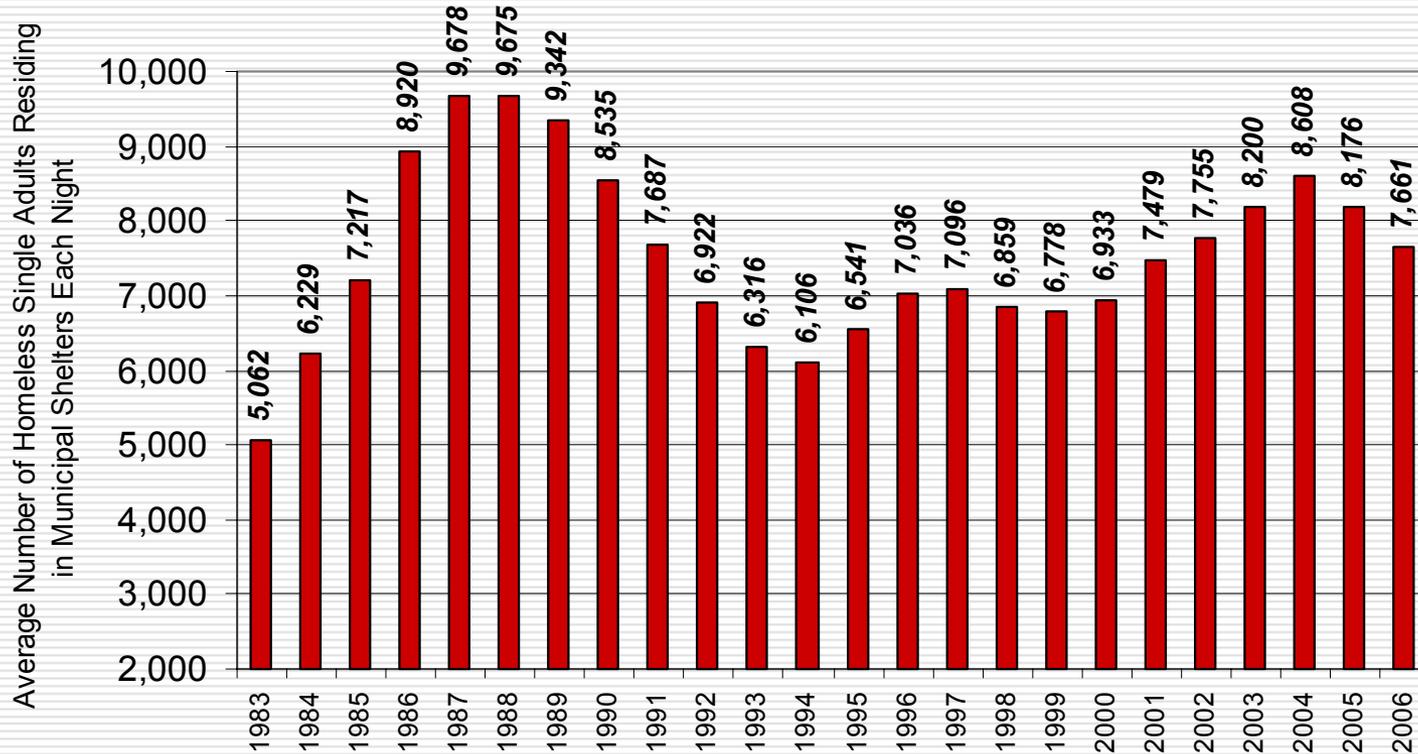




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Declines in Adult Homelessness

Number of Homeless Single Adults in Shelters Declines for Second Year





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Mid-Point Look at Mayor's Homeless Plan

A Mid-Point Look at the Bloomberg Homeless Plan

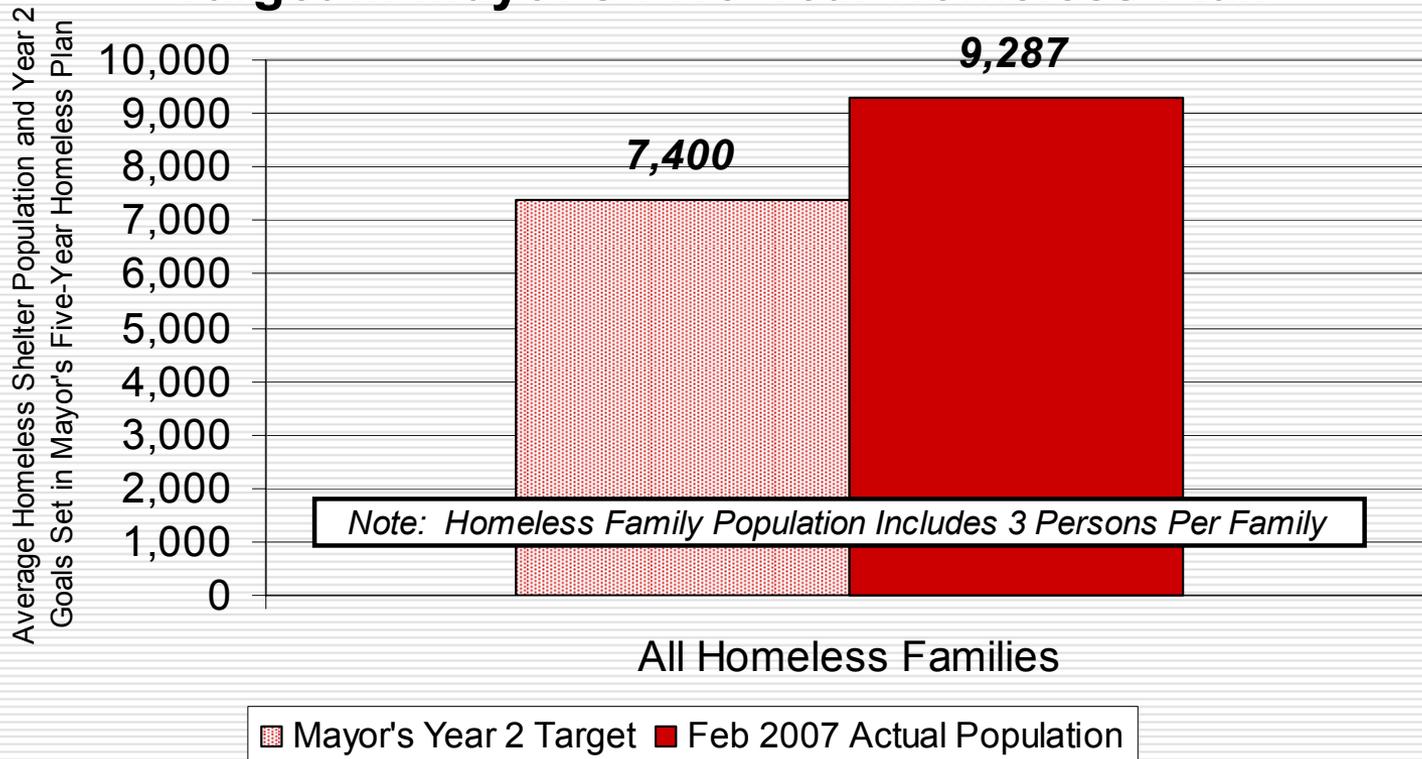
- ◆ **Mayor Bloomberg Unveiled His Five-Year Homeless Plan, “Uniting for Solutions Beyond Shelter,” in June 2004**
 - ◆ **The Mayor's Homeless Plan Calls for a Two-Thirds Reduction in NYC's Homeless Population Over Five Years**
 - ◆ **In Year 2, the Mayor's Plan Projected 7,400 Homeless Families – In Feb 2007 There Were Actually 9,287 Homeless Families**
 - ◆ **The Number of Homeless Single Adults in Shelters Was Actually Smaller Than the “Year 2” Target in the Mayor's Plan**
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Falling Behind on Mayor's Homeless Plan

Actual Family Homelessness Higher Than Target in Mayor's Five-Year Homeless Plan

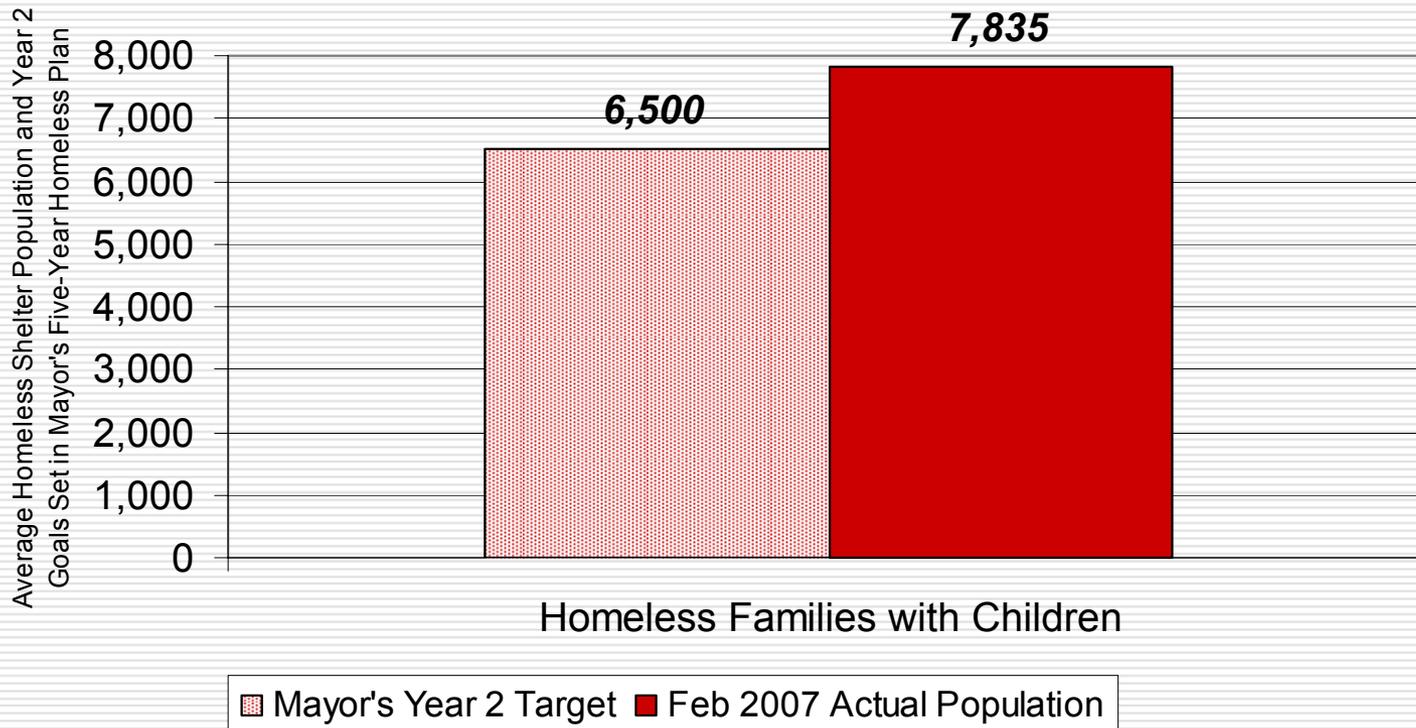




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Falling Behind on Mayor's Homeless Plan

Number of Homeless Families with Kids Higher Than Target in Mayor's Plan

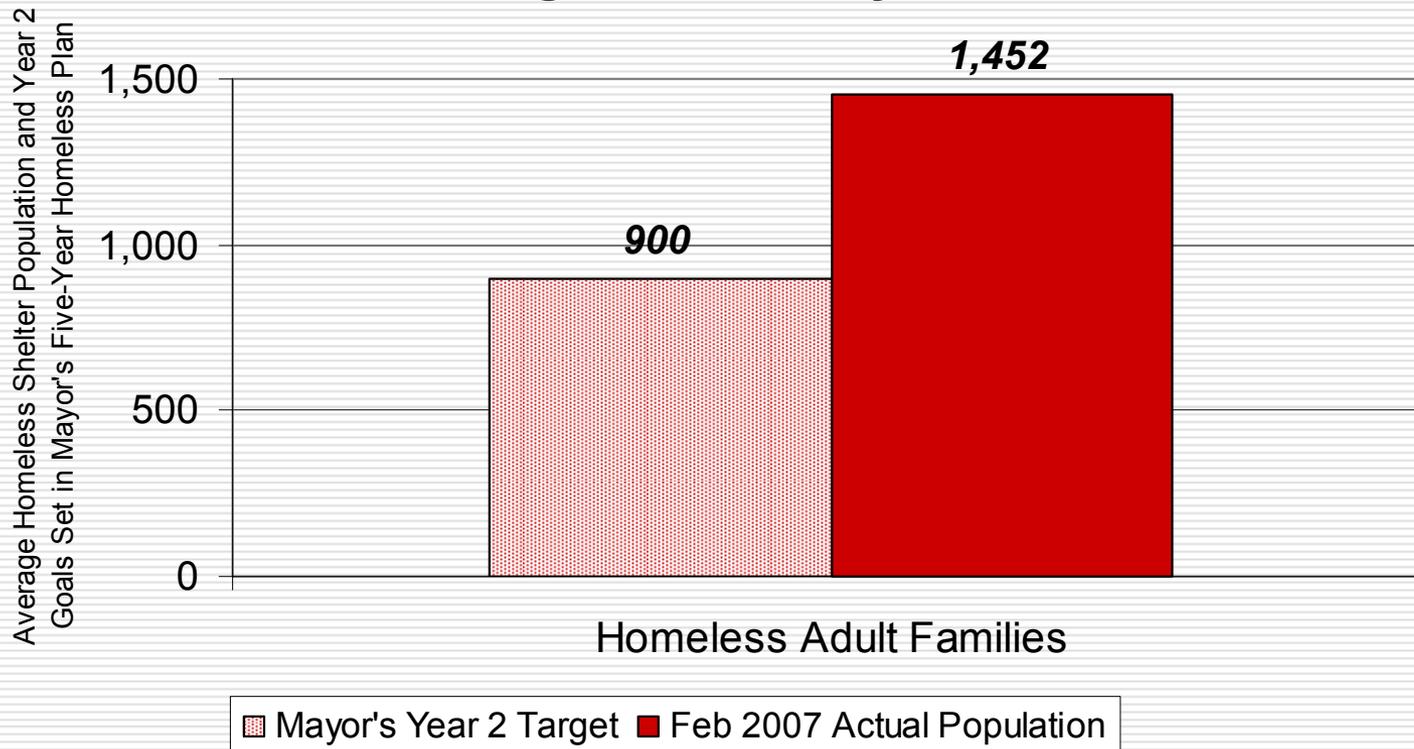




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Falling Behind on Mayor's Homeless Plan

Number of Homeless Adult Families Higher Than Target Set in Mayor's Plan

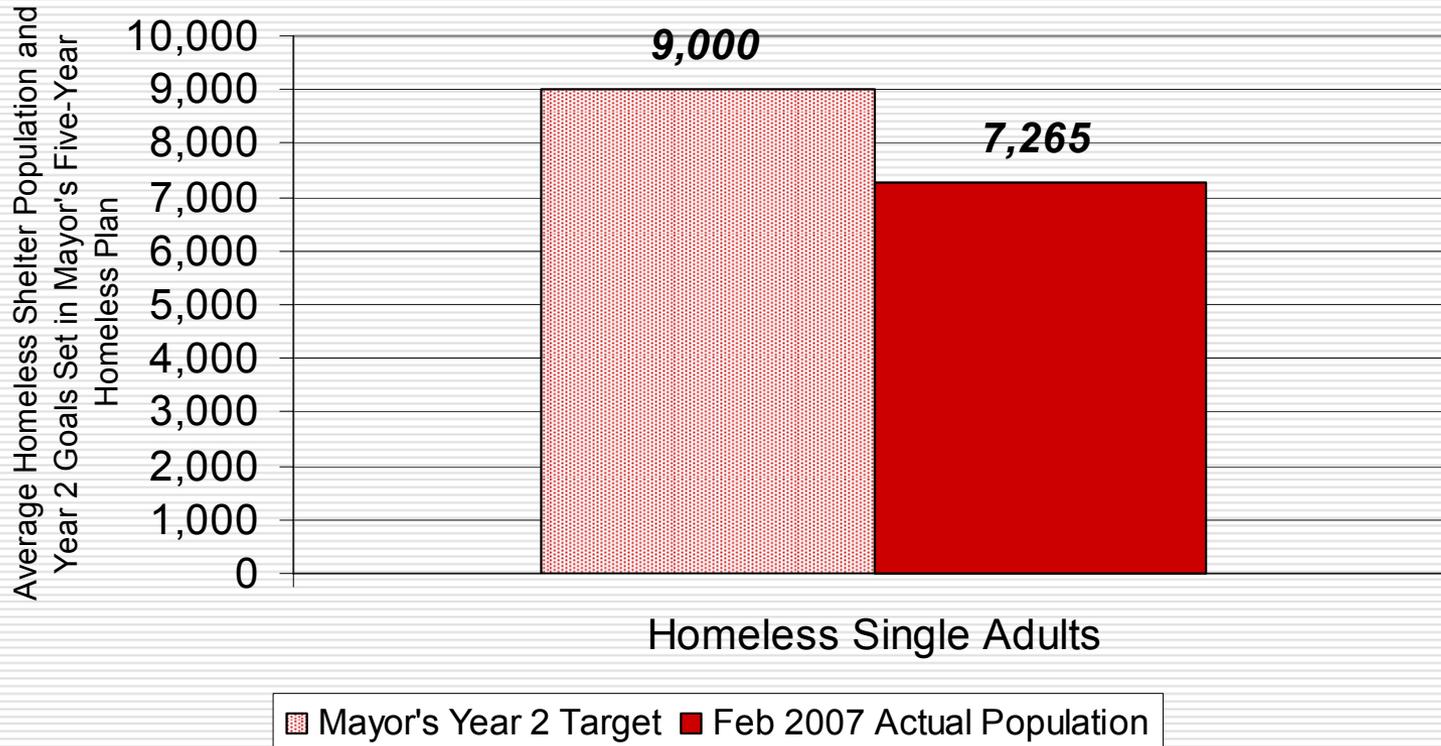




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Uneven Progress on Mayor's Homeless Plan

Number of Homeless Single Adults Actually Lower Than Target in Mayor's Plan





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Analyzing the Rise in Family Homelessness

Dynamics of Rising Family Homelessness in New York City

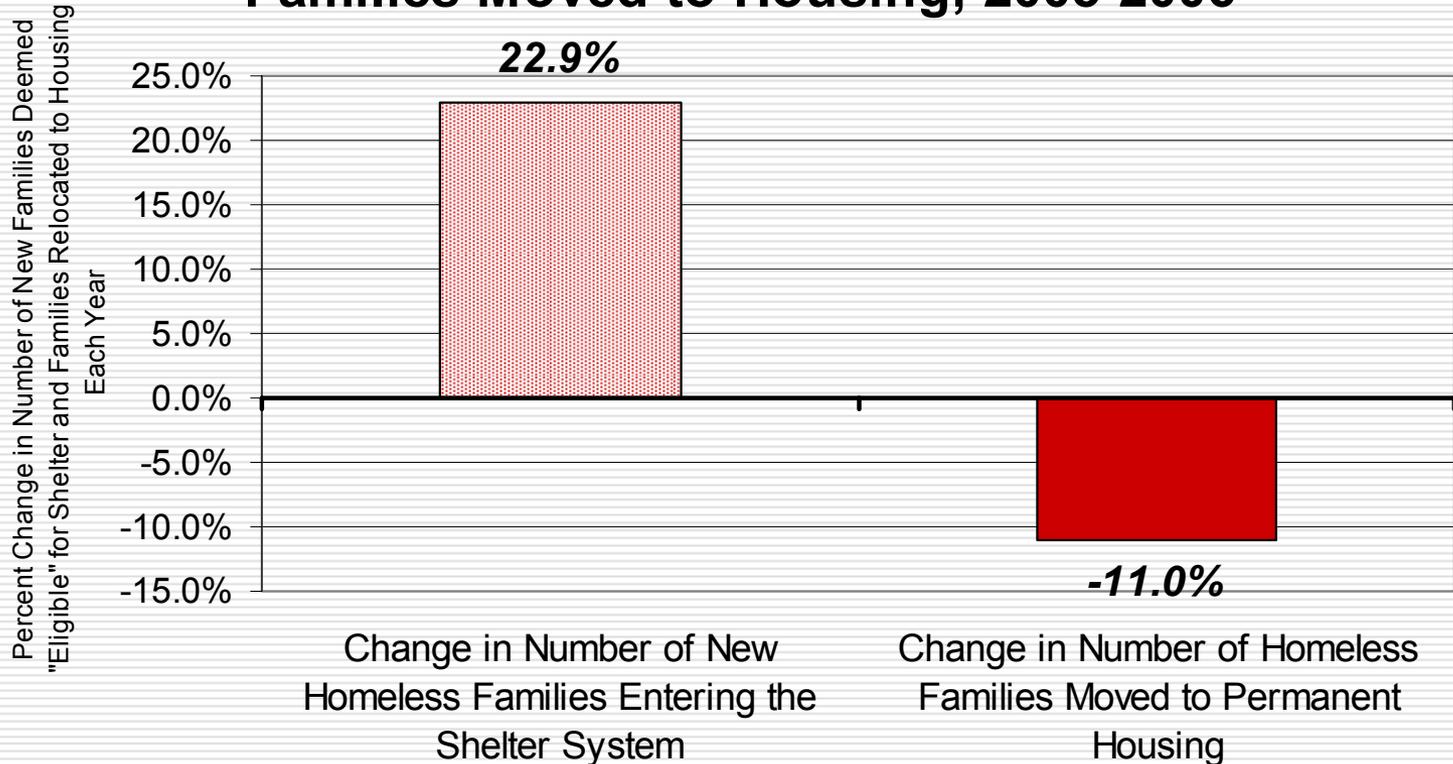
- ◆ **Number of New Homeless Families Seeking Shelter Increased by 22.9 Percent Last Year**
 - ◆ **Number of Homeless Families Moved to Permanent Housing Fell by 11.0 Percent Last Year**
 - ◆ **City Policies Cut Back on Federal Housing Aid for Homeless Families**
 - ◆ **In Its Second Year, the “Housing Stability Plus” Program Moved 10.9 Percent Fewer Families into Permanent Housing**
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More Homeless Families, Less Housing Aid

More Families Entering Shelter and Fewer Families Moved to Housing, 2005-2006

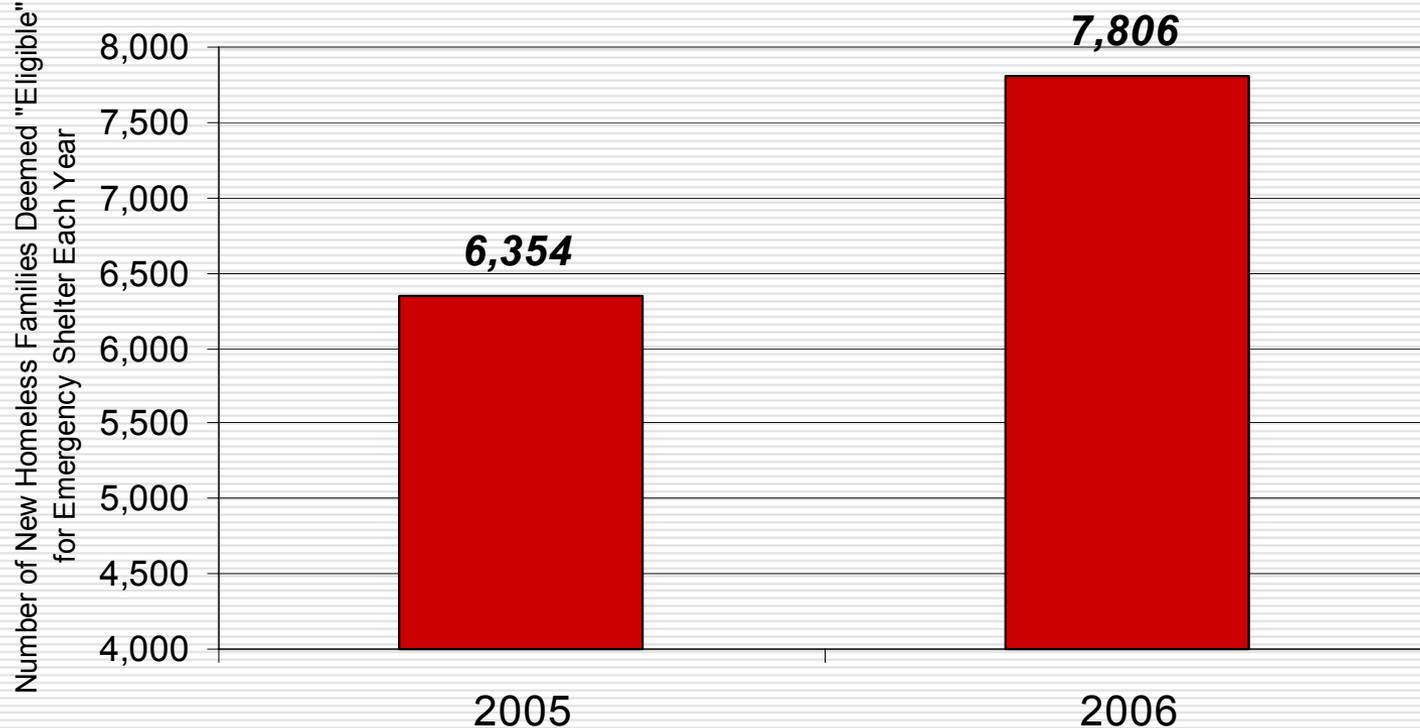




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More NYC Families Entering Shelters

Number of New Homeless Families Entering Shelter System Rose by 22.9 Percent

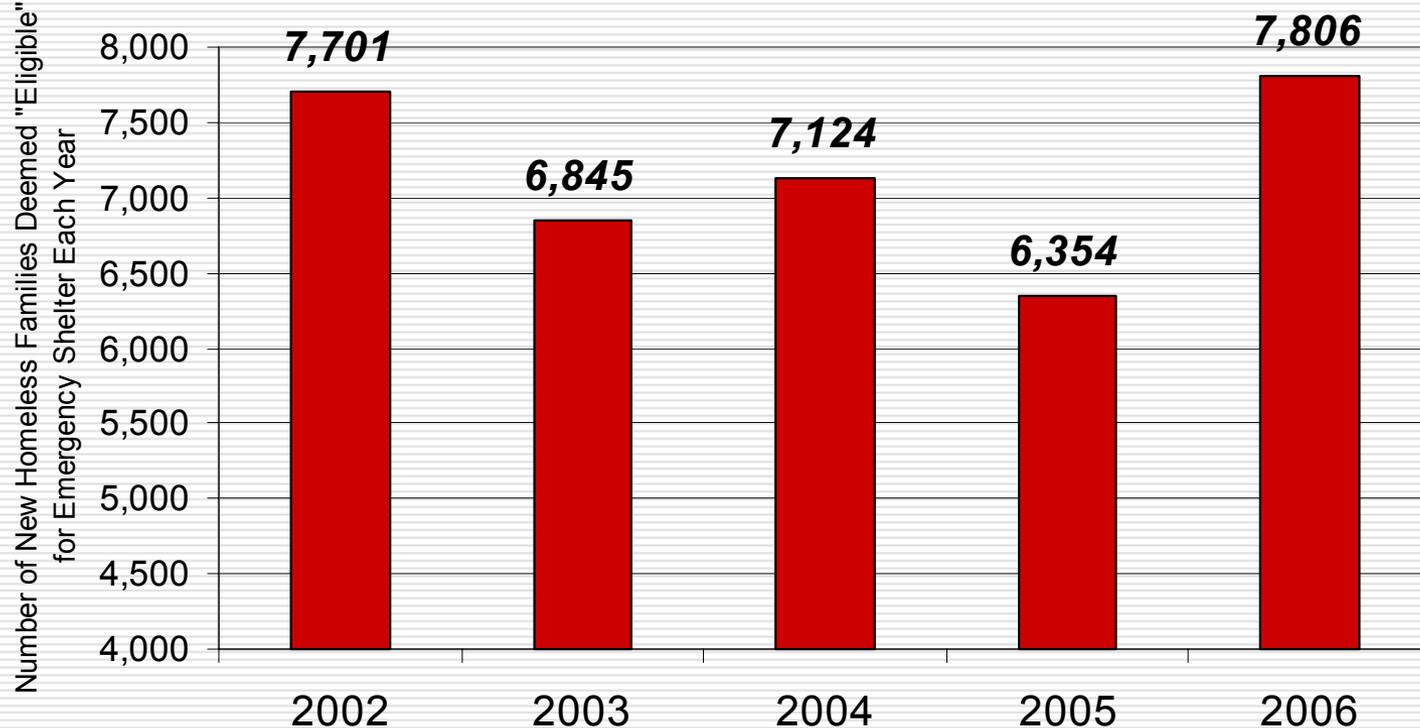




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More NYC Families Entering Shelters

Number of New Homeless Families Entering Shelter at Highest Point in Years

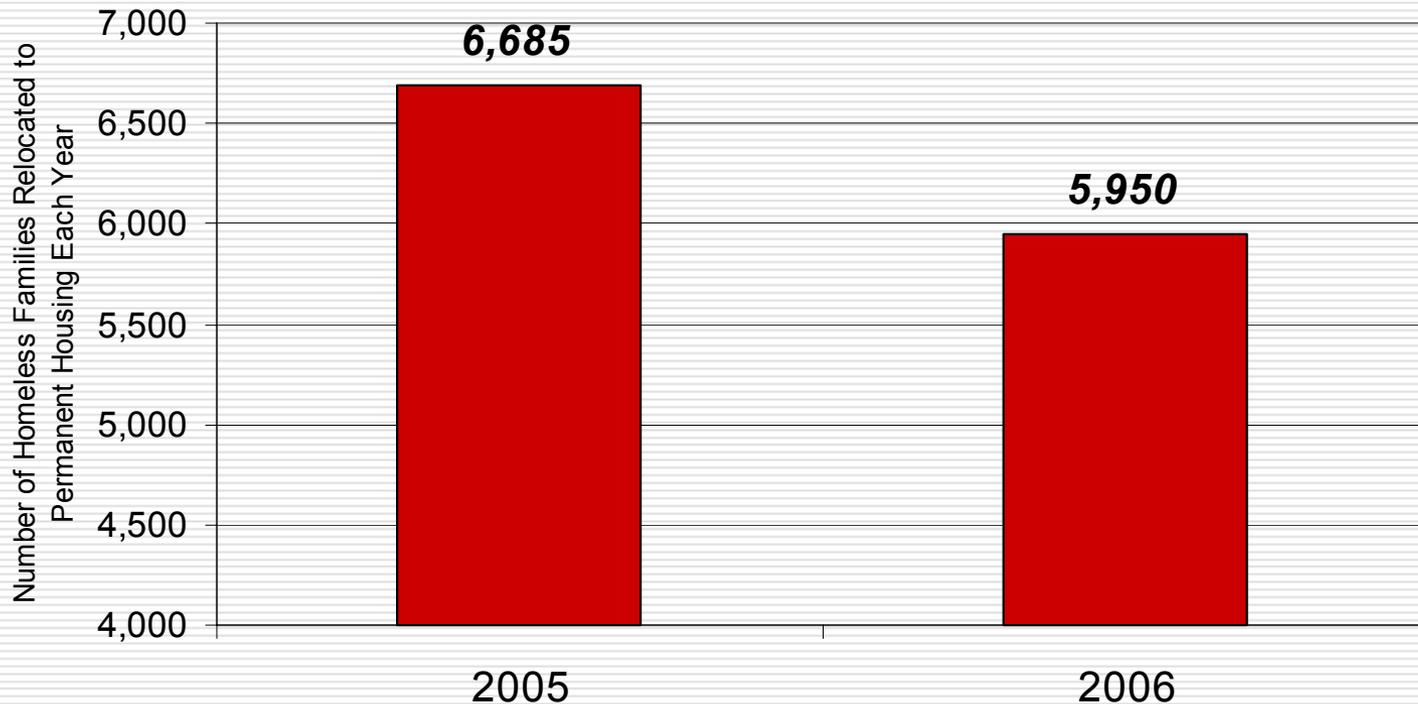




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Fewer Homeless Families Moved to Housing

Number of Homeless Families Moved to Permanent Housing Fell by 11.0 Percent

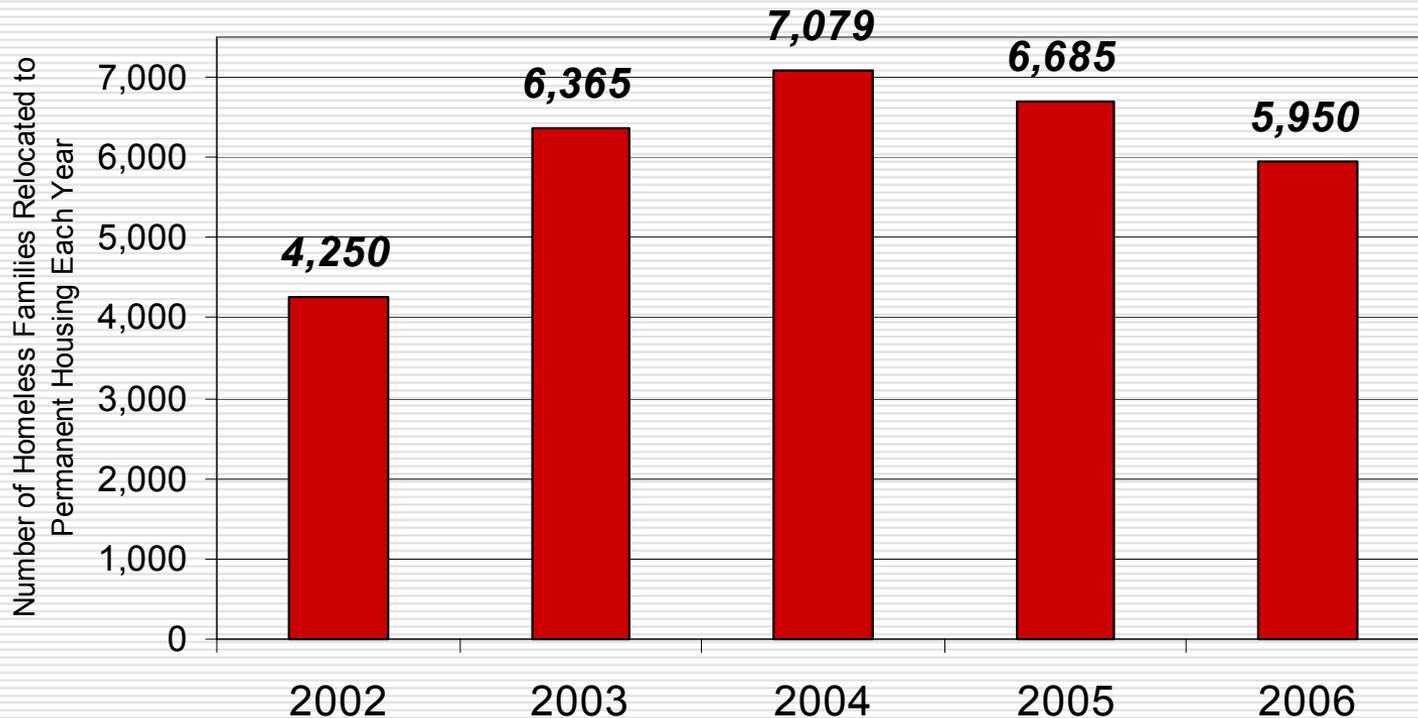




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Fewer Homeless Families Moved to Housing

Number of Homeless Families Moved to Housing at Lowest Point in Four Years

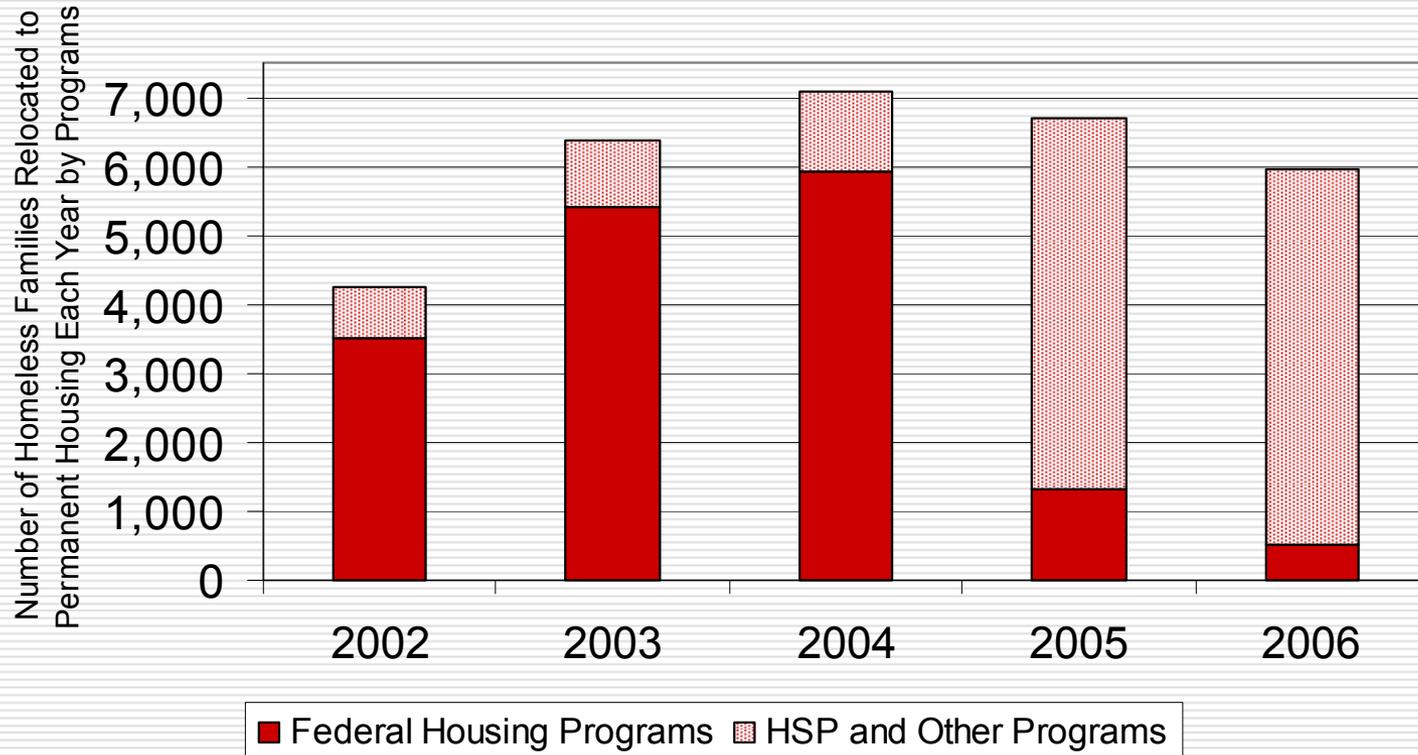




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Less Federal Housing Aid for Homeless

Cutback on Federal Aid for Homeless Families Leads to Fewer Placements

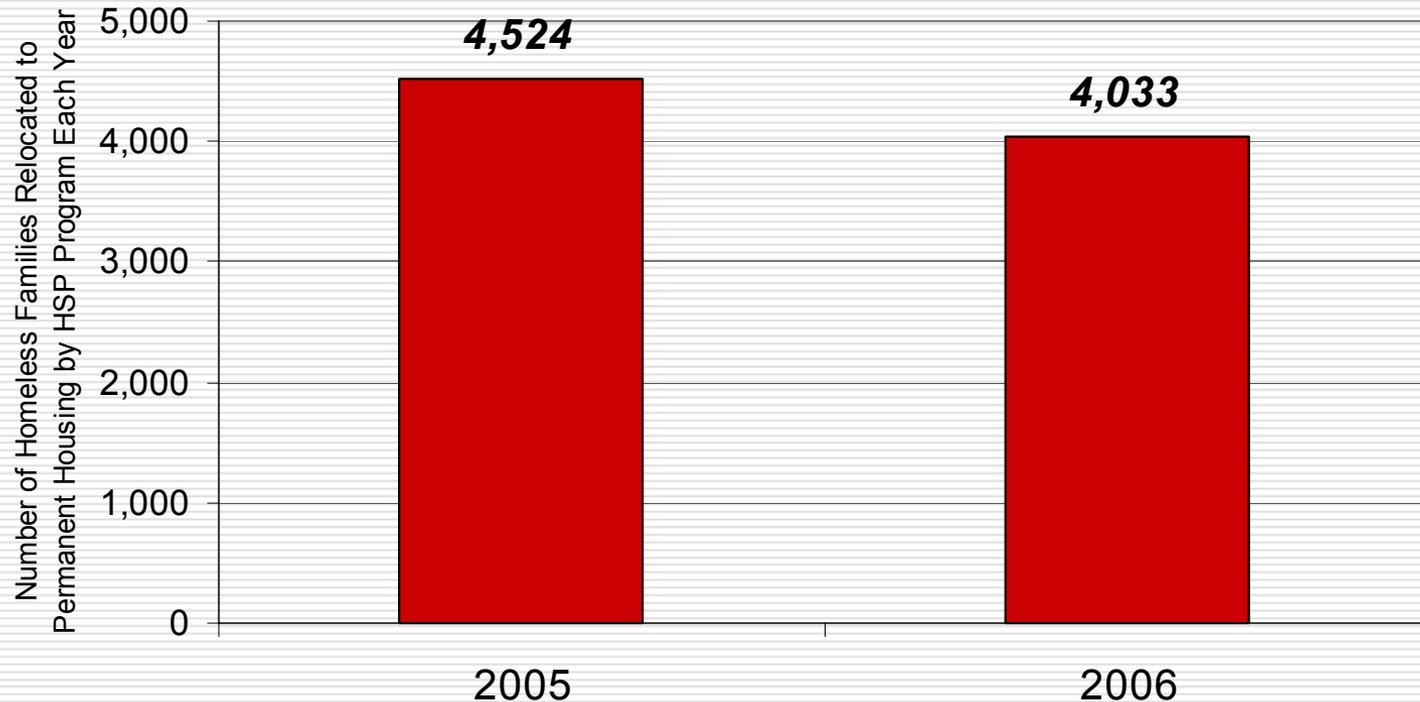




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HSP Program Assists Fewer Families

**In Second Year, Number of Families Assisted
by HSP Fell by 10.9 Percent**

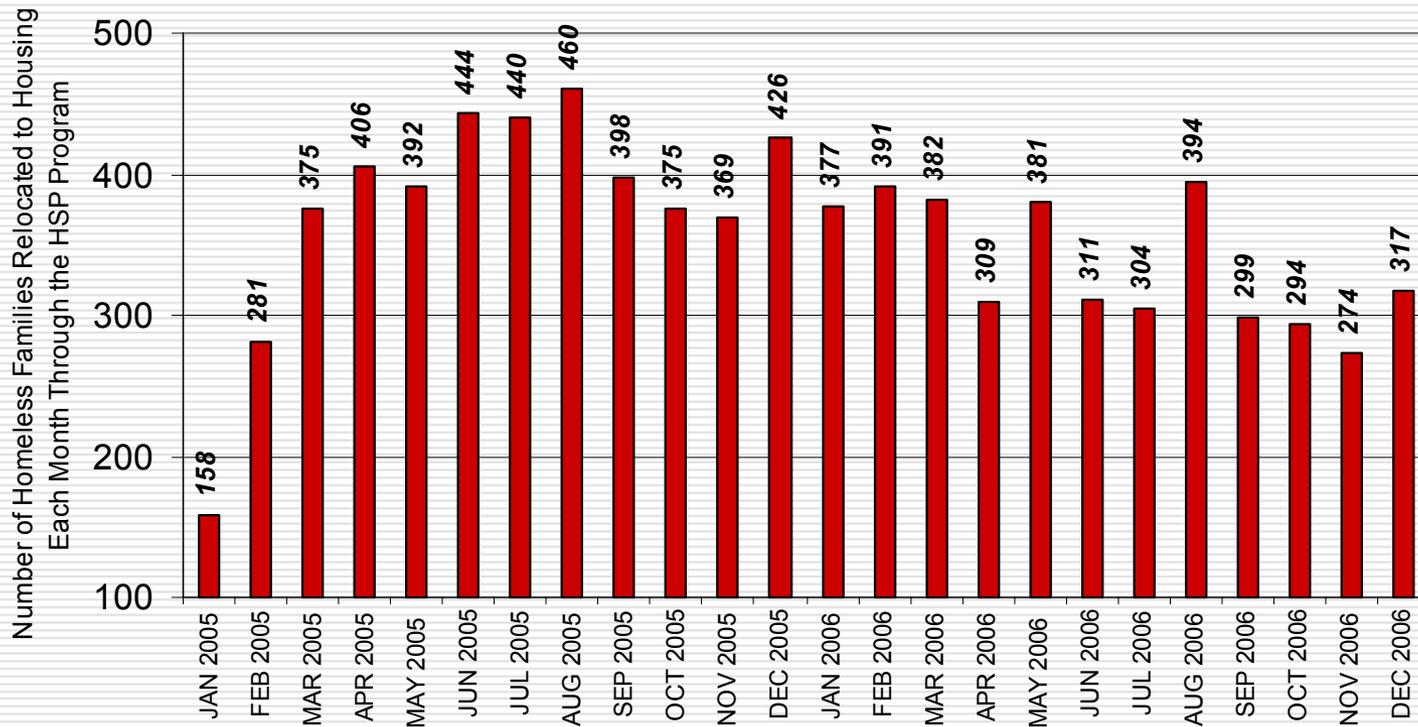




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Fewer “Housing Stability Plus” Placements

In Second Year of HSP, Decline in Number of Homeless Families Moved to Housing

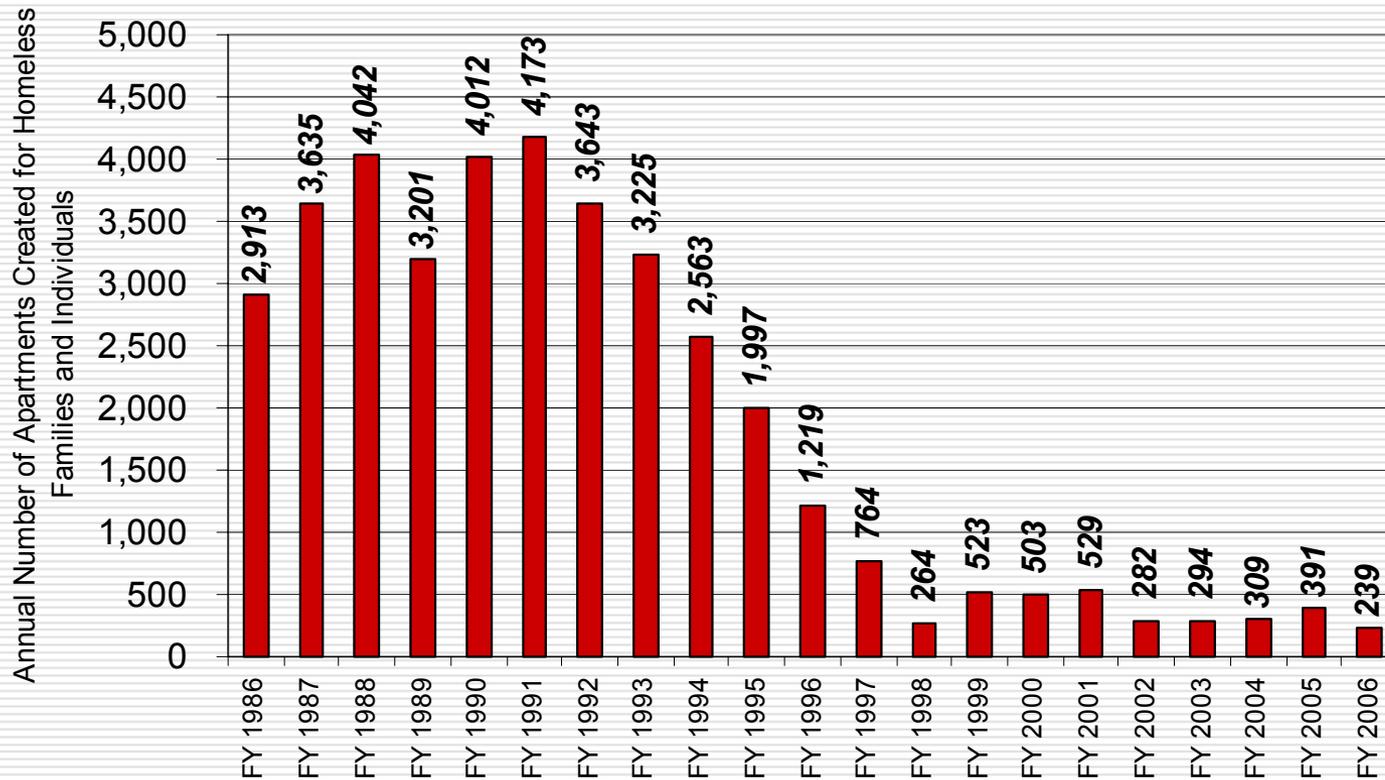




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Fewer New Apartments Created for the Homeless

Lowest Number of New City-Funded Apartments Created for Homeless Households Since 1980s





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Major Flaws in “Housing Stability Plus”

“Housing Stability Plus”: The Major Flaws in Need of Reform

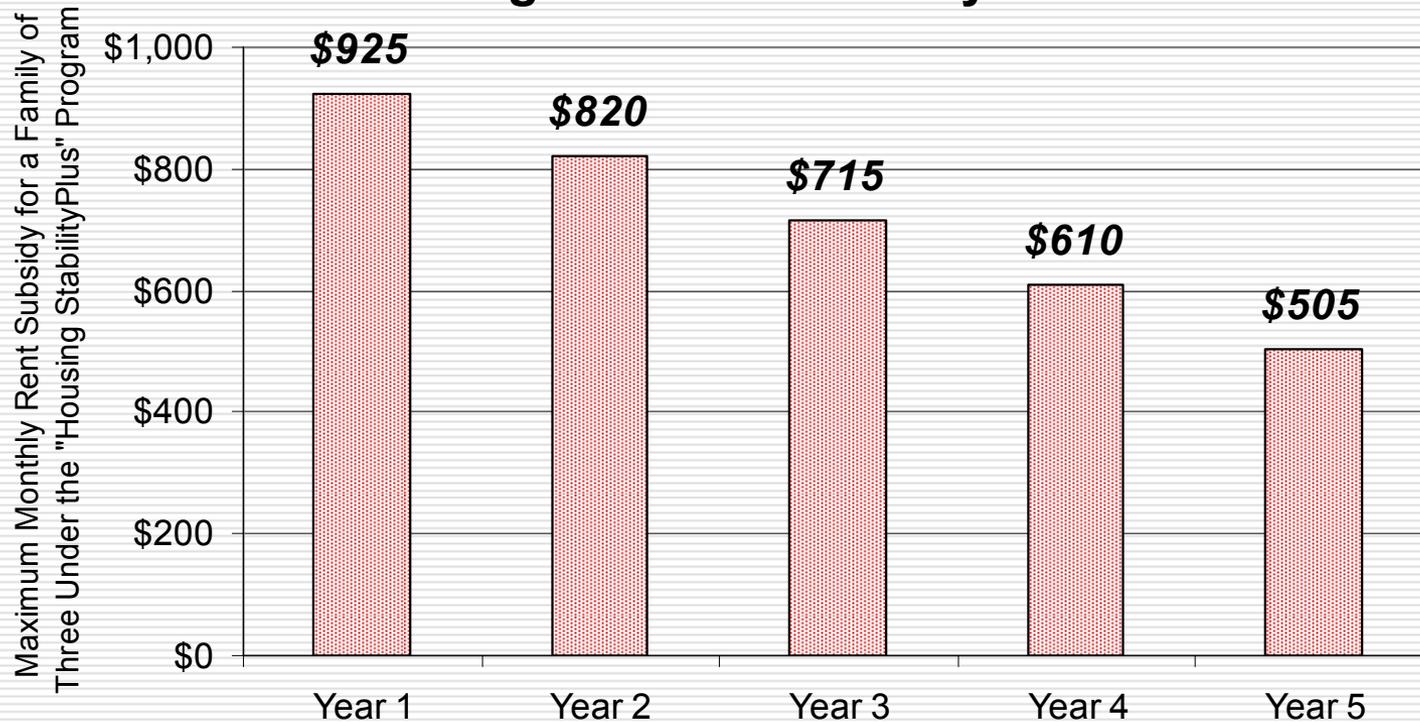
- 1. Reduces Rental Assistance 20 Percent Annually**
- 2. Requires Families to Stay on Welfare – Prohibits Most Families from Moving to Employment**
- 3. Places Many Homeless Families in Hazardous Housing, and Gives Taxpayer Subsidies to Slumlords**



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HSP Flaws: Declining Rental Assistance

"Housing Stability Plus" Program Reduces Housing Assistance Every Year





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Recommendations: Reform the HSP Program

“Housing Stability Plus”: A Reform Plan for the Mayor

- 1. Eliminate the Annual 20 Percent Reduction in the Value of the HSP Rent Supplement**
- 2. Allow “Housing Stability Plus” Recipients to Work, and Eliminate Rules Requiring HSP Families to Stay on Welfare**
- 3. Protect Homeless Families from Lead Paint and Other Hazards by Using the Same Inspection Standards for Federal Housing Vouchers**

For more details on the HSP reform plan, visit www.coalitionforthehomeless.org.



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Recommendations: Expand Housing Aid

Expand Housing Assistance for Homeless New Yorkers

- 1. Mayor Bloomberg Should Reverse City Policies that Have Reduced Homeless New Yorkers' Longstanding Priority for Federal Housing Programs**
- 2. The Mayor's Ten-Year "New Housing Marketplace" Plan Should Target More City-Funded Apartments to Homeless Families and Individuals**



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Data Sources and Acknowledgments

Data Sources

All data used in this report is from the NYC Department of Homeless Services, available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dhs/html/home/home.shtml> (see “Critical Activities Reports” and daily shelter census reports), with one exception – the data on new apartments created for homeless households is from the “Mayor’s Management Reports” for various years, available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ops/html/home/home.shtml>.

Acknowledgments

Report prepared by Patrick Markee, Senior Policy Analyst, Coalition for the Homeless.

For more information, please visit www.coalitionforthehomeless.org.