

BRIEFING PAPER

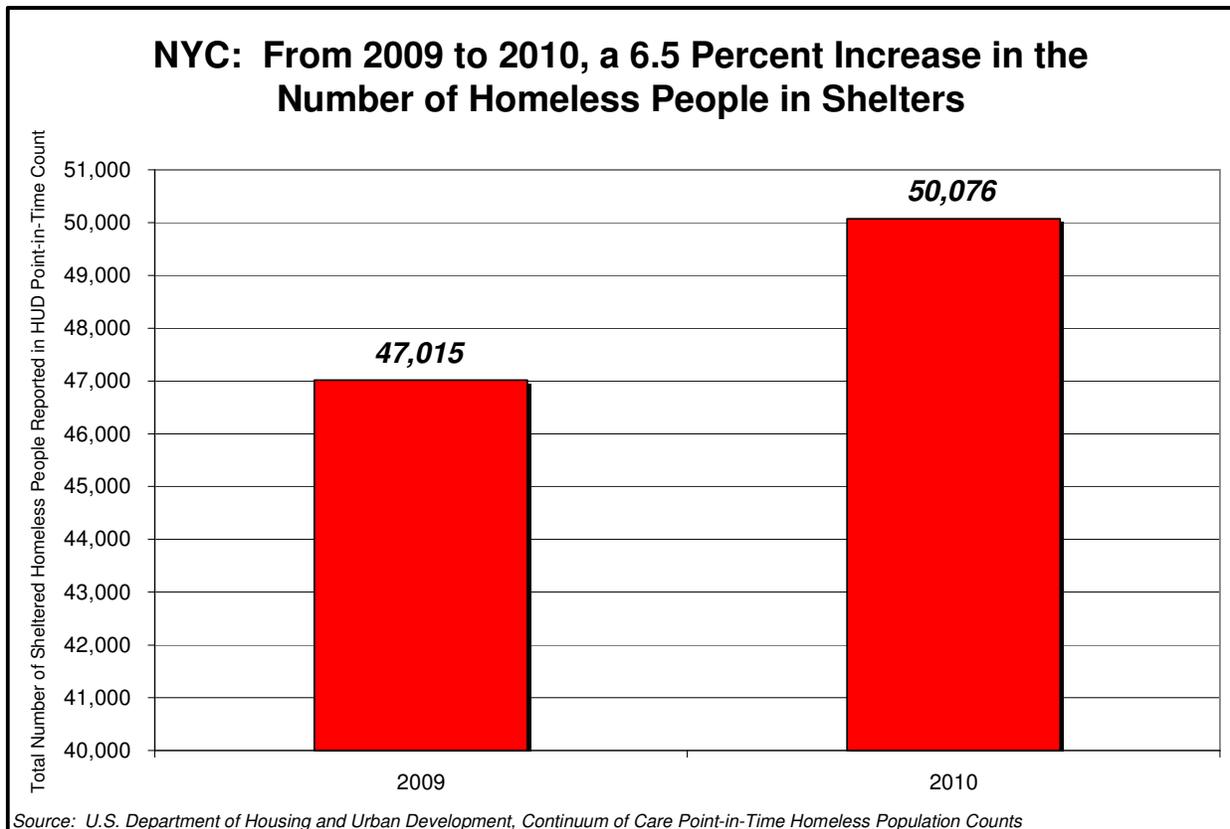
New Federal Data Confirms Rising Homeless Population in New York

April 26, 2011

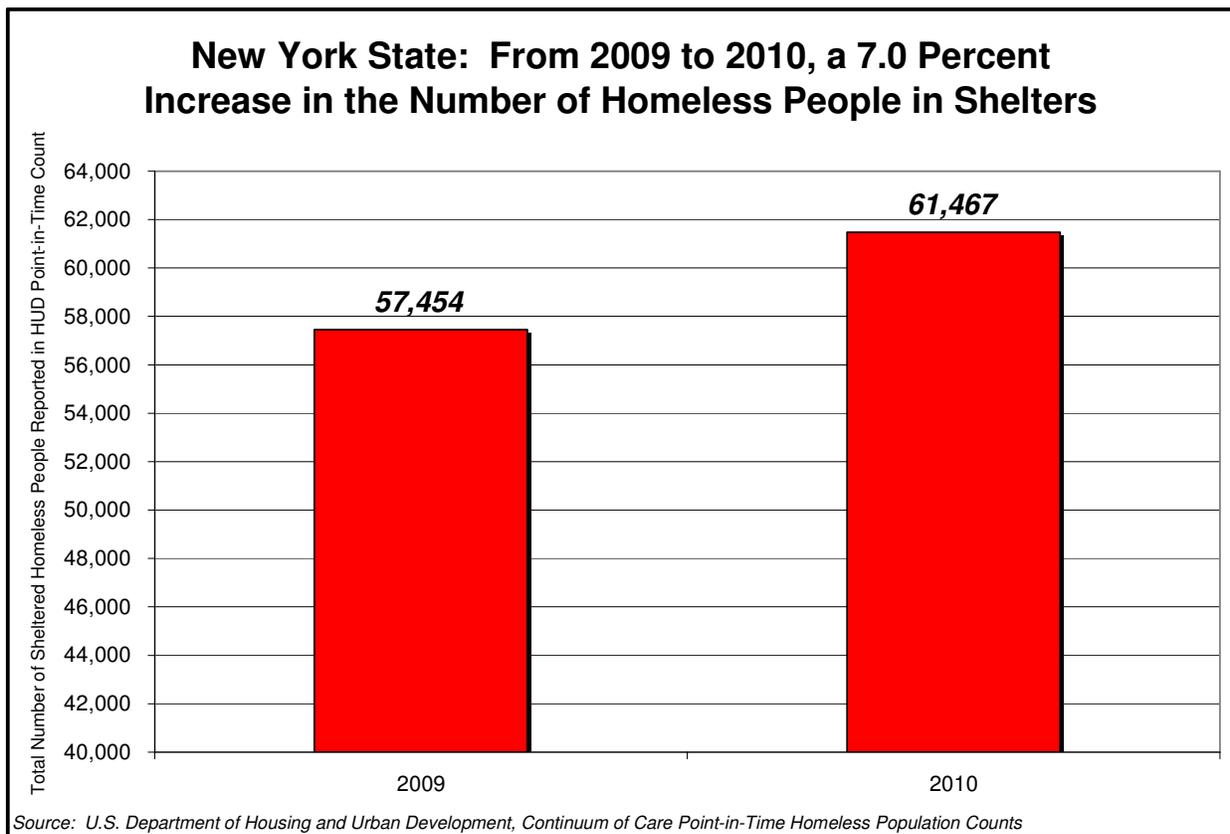
By Patrick Markee, Senior Policy Analyst

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released new data confirming the rising number of homeless people in New York. The new data show that **homelessness worsened significantly between 2009 and 2010 in New York City and throughout the rest of the state.** In particular, the **number of homeless New York families with children rose sharply.**

The newly-released HUD data echoes the findings of Coalition for the Homeless' "State of the Homeless 2011" report, released earlier this month. Analyzing City data, the "State of the Homeless" report found that **both the number of New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and the New York City municipal homeless shelter population rose dramatically over the past year and reached all-time record highs.** As we noted in that report, **persistently high unemployment and the continuing loss of low-cost rental housing are major factors behind the rise in New York homelessness, along with the failures of Mayor Bloomberg's policies which deny Federal housing assistance to homeless people.**



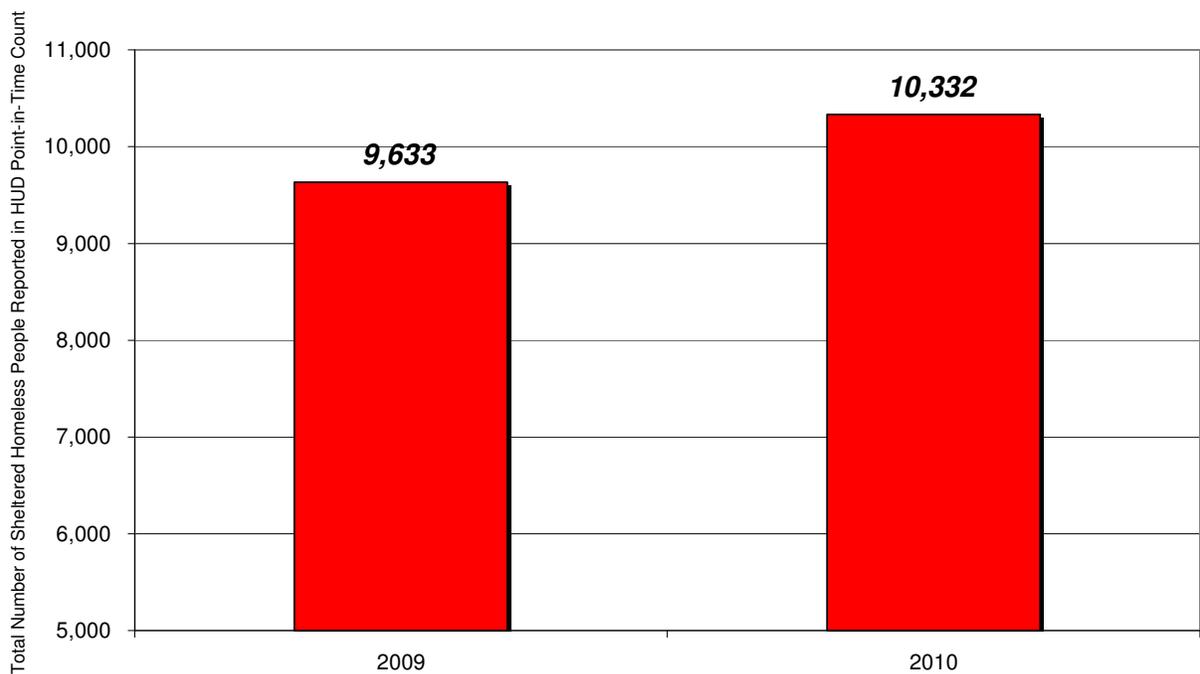
The HUD data is on the one hand more comprehensive than City data about the municipal shelter system – it includes additional shelter populations such as domestic violence survivors and homeless youth – and on the other hand more limited, because it is drawn from single-night counts in the winter months of each year. Nevertheless, the ***new HUD data clearly shows that the homeless population in both New York City and the rest of the state is on the rise.***



Below and in the accompanying charts and table are the key findings of the newly-released HUD data about New York homelessness:

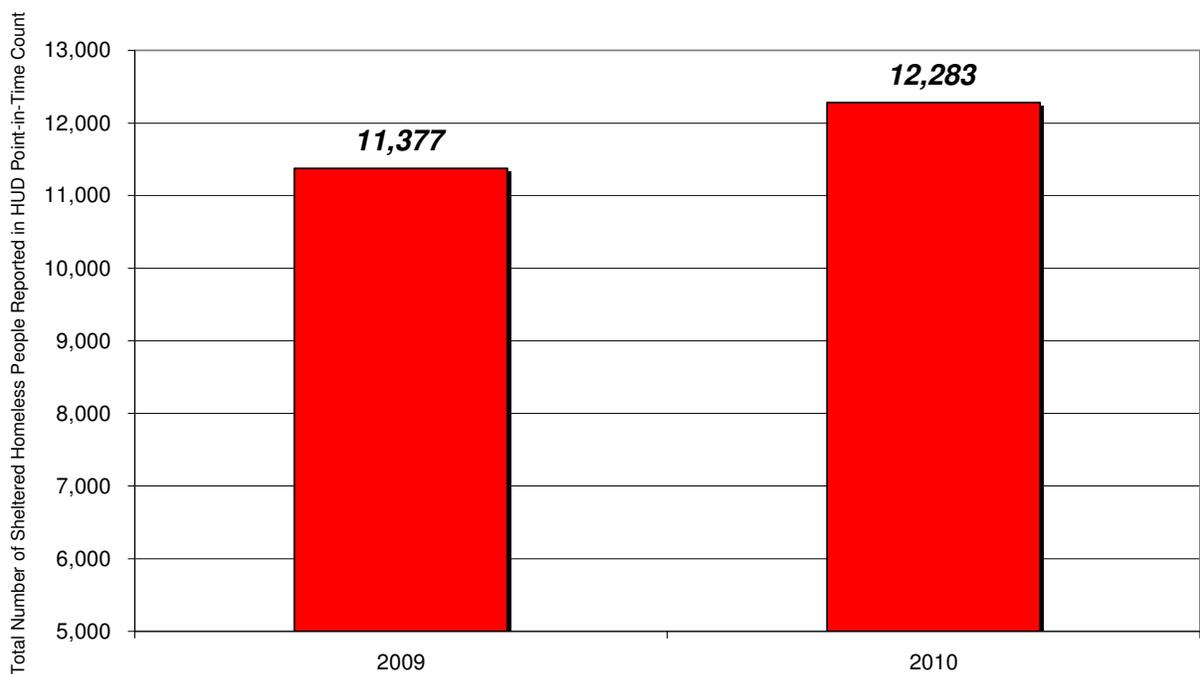
- Between 2009 and 2010, the ***number of homeless people in New York City shelters increased by 6.5 percent.***
- Over the same period, the ***number of homeless people in shelters throughout New York state rose by 7.0 percent.***
- Between 2009 and 2010, the ***number of homeless families with children rose at a faster rate both in New York City and statewide.***
- In New York City, the ***number of homeless families with children increased by 7.3 percent.***
- In New York state, the ***number of homeless families with children increased by 8.0 percent.***

NYC: From 2009 to 2010, a 7.3 Percent Increase in Homeless Families with Children in Shelters



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Homeless Population Counts

New York State: From 2009 to 2010, an 8.0 Percent Increase in Homeless Families with Children in Shelters



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care Point-in-Time Homeless Population Counts

FEDERAL POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS POPULATION DATA FOR NEW YORK, 2009-2010

(Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care Homelessness Assistance Programs)

NEW YORK CITY						
	Persons			Households		
	Total Sheltered	Sheltered -- Persons in Households with Only Individuals	Sheltered -- Persons in Households with Adults and Children	Total Sheltered	Sheltered -- Households with Only Individuals	Sheltered -- Households with Adults and Children
2009	47,015	15,860	31,155	24,059	14,426	9,633
2010	50,076	16,881	33,195	25,749	15,417	10,332
Change 2009-201	6.5%	6.4%	6.5%	7.0%	6.9%	7.3%
NEW YORK STATE						
	Persons			Households		
	Total Sheltered	Sheltered -- Persons in Households with Only Individuals	Sheltered -- Persons in Households with Adults and Children	Total Sheltered	Sheltered -- Households with Only Individuals	Sheltered -- Households with Adults and Children
2009	57,454	21,005	36,449	30,924	19,547	11,377
2010	61,467	22,292	39,175	32,980	20,697	12,283
Change 2009-201	7.0%	6.1%	7.5%	6.6%	5.9%	8.0%

Note on the data sources: Since 2005 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected point-in-time – i.e., single-night – counts and estimates of homeless populations from states and localities receiving Federal homelessness assistance funds pursuant to the McKinney-Vento Act. HUD gathers the data from local entities which administer the homelessness assistance grants, called Continuum of Care Homelessness Assistance Programs.

The homelessness population reports can be found at the HUD Homeless Resource Exchange website here: <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm>. Coalition for the Homeless has posted recent reports for New York City and state on our website here: <http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/pages/nyc-homeless-shelter-census-reports>.

As noted above, the HUD homeless population data is more comprehensive than City homeless data generally used in news reports as well as in Coalition for the Homeless' reports. City homeless data is usually restricted to homeless shelters administered by the NYC Department of Homeless Services, and has the advantage of being consistently reported over nearly three decades. See a note on City of New York homelessness data here: <http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/pages/basic-facts-about-homelessness-new-york-city-data-and-charts>.

In contrast, the HUD data includes homeless people residing in shelters administered by other City agencies, including shelters for homeless youth administered by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, shelters for domestic violence survivors administered by the NYC Human Resources Administration, and shelters for homeless people living with HIV/AIDS

administered by that same agency. However, the HUD data is limited due to the fact that it is only a point-in-time snapshot of the homeless population.

Note that the HUD reports also include estimates of unsheltered homeless populations. Coalition for the Homeless and others have long been critical of the City's methods of estimating New York City's unsheltered homeless population. We believe the City estimates severely understate the true dimensions of the unsheltered homeless population, and for that reason we have not included the HUD data on unsheltered homeless populations in this analysis. Please see a discussion of the flaws of the City's unsheltered homelessness estimates here:

<http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/pages/undercounting-the-homeless-2010>.

For more information please visit our website:

www.coalitionforthehomeless.org.