NEW YORK CITY HOMELESSNESS
The Basic Facts

- In recent years, homelessness in New York City has reached **the highest levels since the Great Depression of the 1930s**. [1] [2]

- In August 2017, there were **61,471 homeless people**, including **15,315 homeless families with 22,970 homeless children**, sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system. Families make up three-quarters of the homeless shelter population.

- Over the course of City fiscal year 2017, **129,803 different homeless men, women, and children** slept in the New York City municipal shelter system. This includes **over 45,000 different homeless New York City children**.

- In 2015, families entering shelter came from a few clustered zip codes in the poorest neighborhoods in New York City. [3]

- The number of homeless New Yorkers sleeping each night in municipal shelters is now **75 percent higher** than it was ten years ago.

- Research shows that the **primary cause of homelessness, particularly among families, is lack of affordable housing**. Surveys of homeless families have identified the following major immediate, triggering causes of homelessness: **eviction; doubled-up or severely overcrowded housing; domestic violence; job loss; and hazardous housing conditions**. [4] [5] [6]

- Research shows that, compared to homeless families, homeless single adults have much **higher rates of serious mental illness, addiction disorders, and other severe health problems**. [7]

- Each night **thousands of unsheltered homeless people** sleep on New York City streets, in the subway system, and in other public spaces. There is no accurate measurement of New York City's unsheltered homeless population, and recent **City surveys significantly underestimate the number of unsheltered homeless New Yorkers**.

- Studies show that the **large majority of street homeless New Yorkers are people living with mental illness or other severe health problems**. [8] [9]

- **African-American and Latino New Yorkers are disproportionately affected by homelessness**. Approximately 58 percent of New York City homeless shelter residents are African-American, 31 percent are Latino, 7 percent are white, less than 1 percent are Asian-American, and 3 percent are of unknown race/ethnicity.

References

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