

BRIEFING PAPER

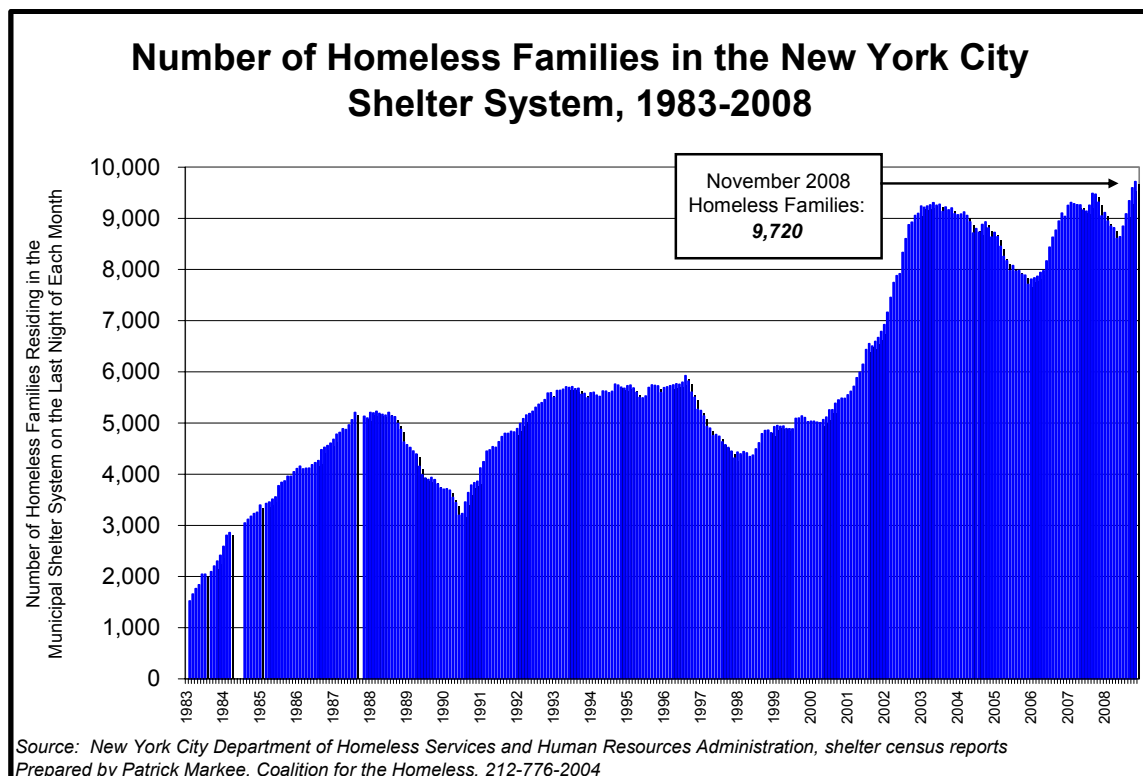
Number of Homeless Families in New York City Reaches Highest Point Since Modern Homelessness Began

By Patrick Markee, Coalition for the Homeless
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New data released by the City of New York show that, as the current economic downturn worsens, the number of homeless families sleeping in municipal shelters has reached the highest point since modern homelessness began. Following are highlights of the new record number of homeless New York City families:

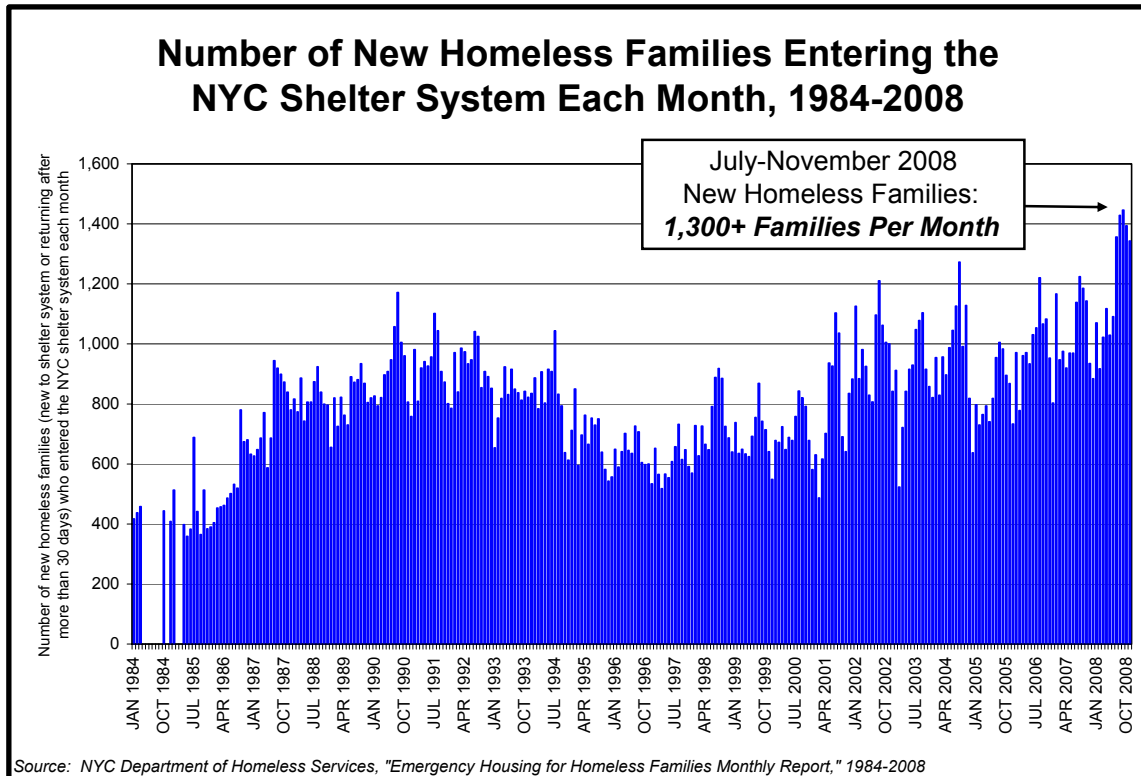
Record Number of Homeless Families in New York City

- At the end of November, there were 9,720 homeless families sleeping in the New York City municipal shelter system, the highest number since the City began reporting this data more than 25 years ago.¹
- The previous record number of homeless families in shelter was recorded a year ago, when 9,500 homeless families were in shelters each night.
- Currently more than 36,000 homeless people – including nearly 16,000 children – bed down each night in New York City’s municipal shelter system, while thousands more rough on city streets, in the subway system, or in other public spaces.



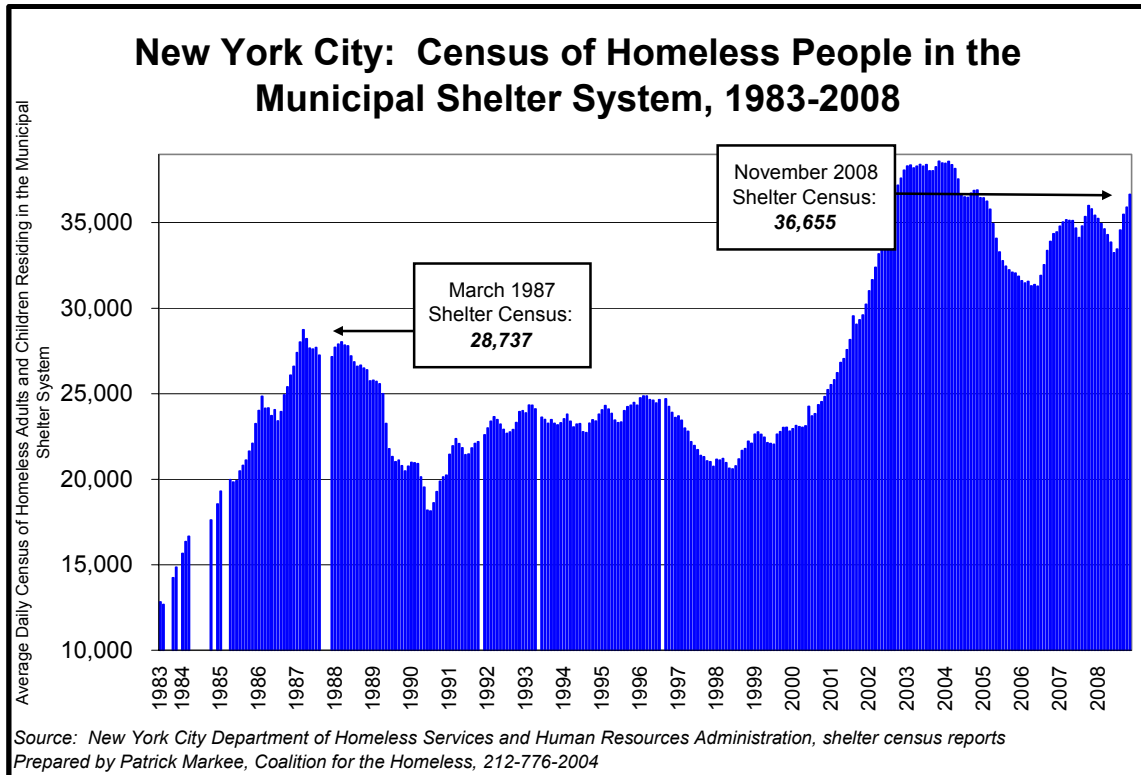
Surge in the Number of New Homeless Families Entering NYC Shelters

- During the past six months alone, as the economic recession has deepened, the nightly census of homeless families has soared by 13 percent, from 8,607 homeless families in municipal shelters at the end of May to 9,720 families at the end of November.
- As Coalition for the Homeless has previously reported, according to City data, in recent months the number of new homeless families entering municipal shelters has reached all-time record levels. In September, an all-time-record 1,464 new homeless families entered the municipal shelter system. And in November, an additional 1,343 new homeless families entered the shelter system.
- Altogether, the past five months (July through November) have seen the highest number of new homeless families -- more than 1,300 families each month -- entering the municipal shelter system in the 25 years that the City of New York has recorded this data.



Worsening NYC Homelessness Throughout the Current Decade

- During the current decade both the number of homeless families and the total homeless shelter population have increased dramatically in New York City.
- At the start of the decade, there were 5,000 homeless families in shelter each night and the total homeless shelter population was 22,800 people.



- When Mayor Bloomberg took office there were 6,900 homeless families in municipal shelters and the total homeless shelter population was 31,000 people.
- In June 2004, when Mayor Bloomberg unveiled a plan to reduce homelessness by two-thirds over five years, there were 8,700 homeless families in municipal shelters and the total homeless shelter population was 36,400 people.
- At the end of November 2008 there were 9,720 families in municipal shelters and the total homeless shelter population was an estimated 36,655 people.

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

¹ NYC Department of Homeless Services, "Emergency Housing Services for Homeless Families Monthly Report," November 2008 and previous months' reports.