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Coalition for the Homeless

State of the Homeless 2005

Part I: Record New York City Homelessness

**Part II: An Immediate Action Plan to Reduce
Homelessness in New York City**

February 15, 2005

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State of the Homeless 2005

Overview of the Report

Part I: Highlights of the Year 2004 in Homelessness

- ◆ **Record Homelessness Persists**
- ◆ **More New Yorkers Experienced Homelessness**
- ◆ **Long Shelter Stays for Homeless Children and Families**
- ◆ **Rising Number of Homeless Single Adults in Shelters**
- ◆ **All-Time Record Number of Homeless Single Women in Shelters**
- ◆ **Rising Street Homelessness**

> Detailed on Pages 4-14



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Overview of the Report

Part II: Immediate Action Plan to Reduce Homelessness

- ◆ **Create Supportive Housing for Homeless New Yorkers**
- ◆ **Repair the Flaws in the City's New Homeless Rent Subsidy Program**
- ◆ **Fulfill the Promise of Battery Park City – Use Revenues to Create and Preserve Housing for Homeless and Low-Income New Yorkers**
- ◆ **Improve Shelter Access for the Street Homeless and Homeless Families**
- ◆ **Target Resources to Address the Record Numbers of Homeless Women**

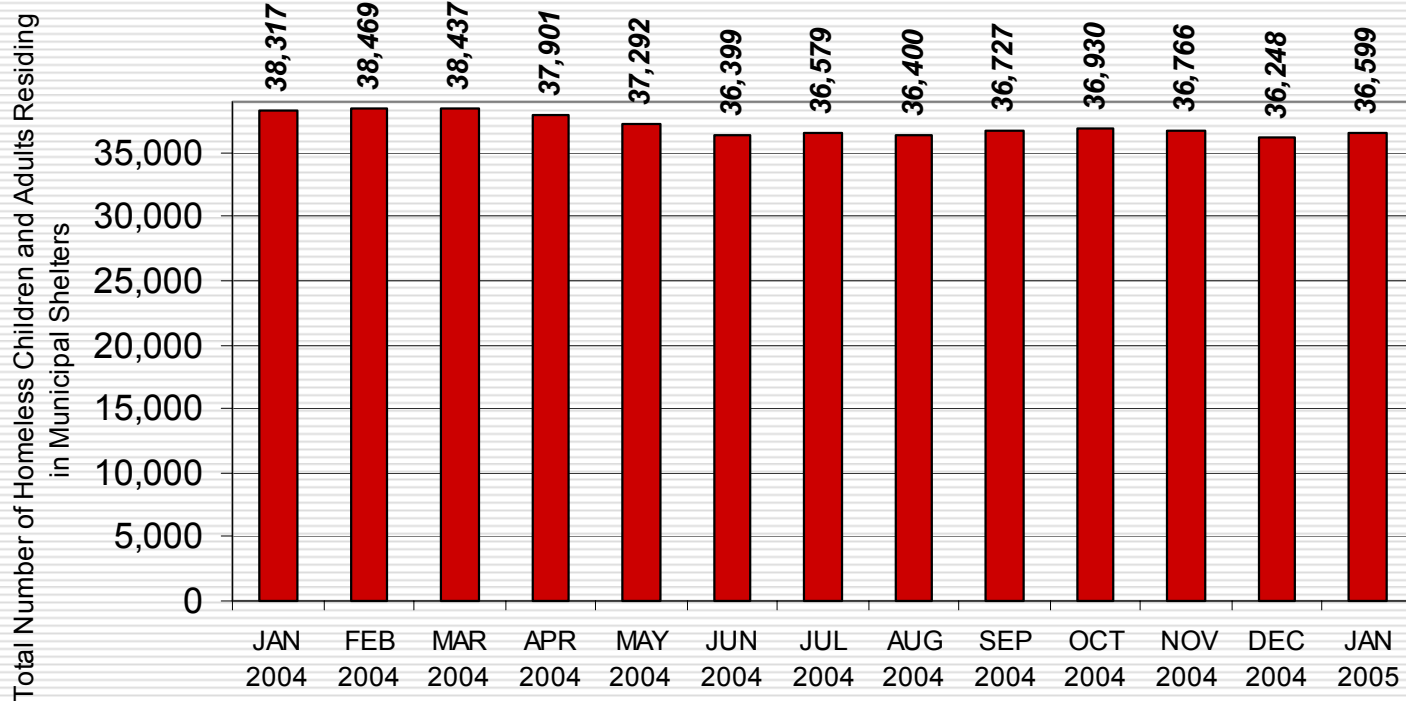
> Detailed on Pages 15-26



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Record Homelessness Persists

2004: Despite Slight Decline, NYC Homeless Shelter Population Remains at Record Levels

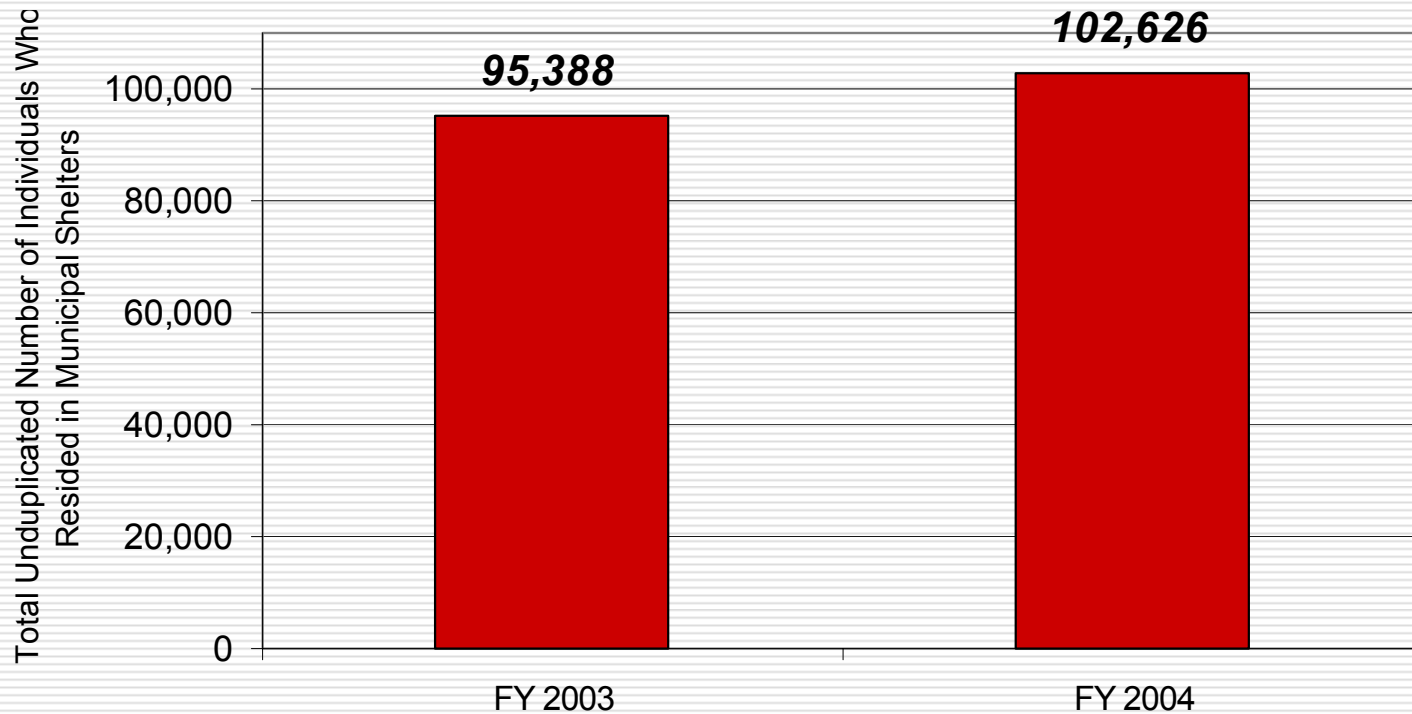




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More New Yorkers Use Shelters

More New Yorkers Experienced Homelessness Over the Past Year



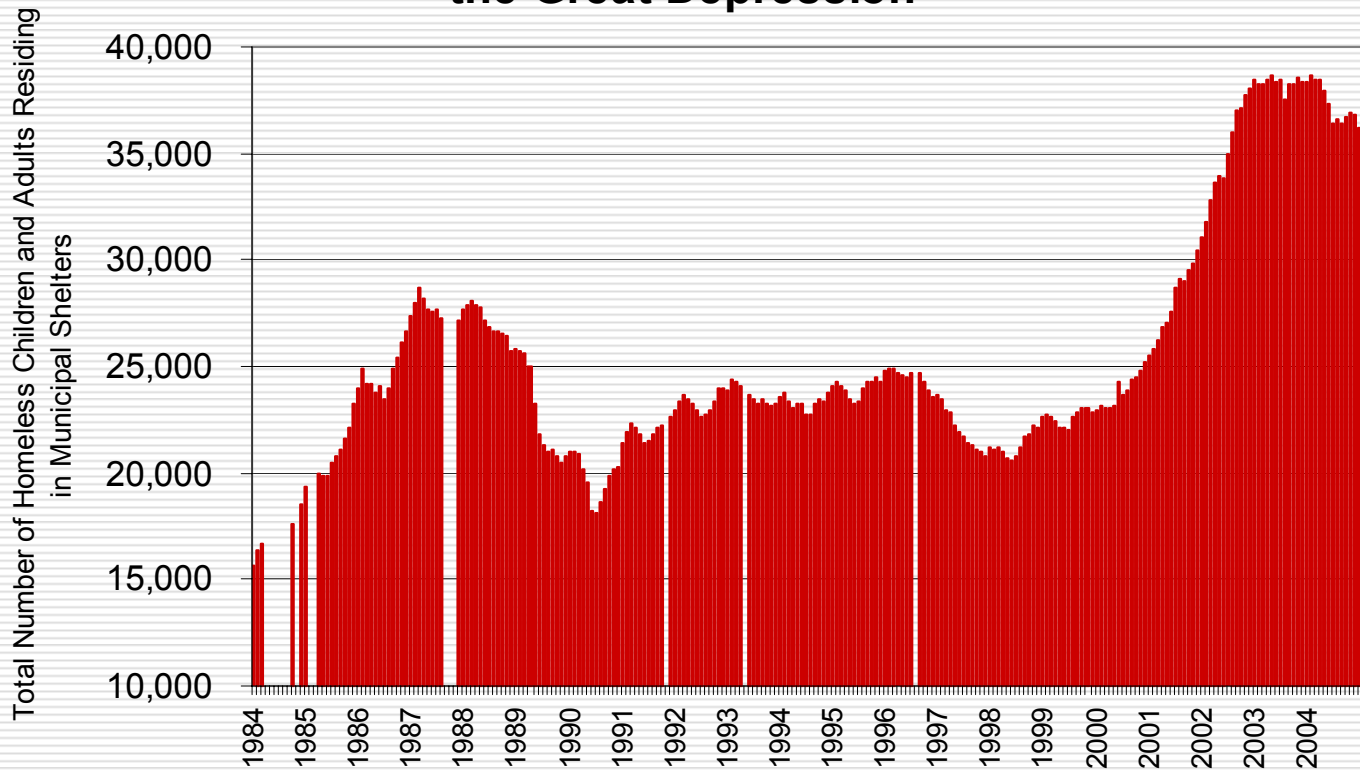


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All-Time Record Shelter Population

**More Homeless New Yorkers Than Any Time Since
the Great Depression**

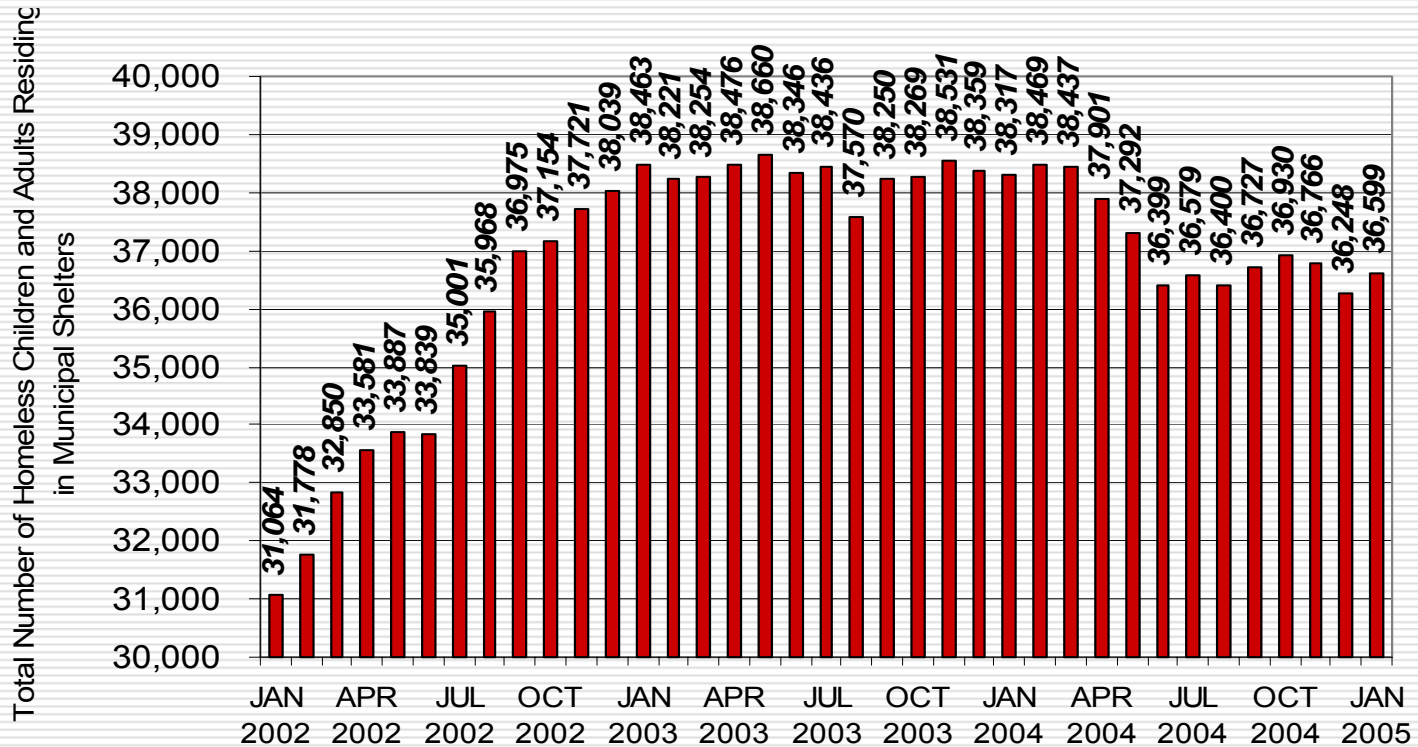




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Homelessness and City Elections

An 18 Percent Increase in Homelessness Since the Last New York City Elections

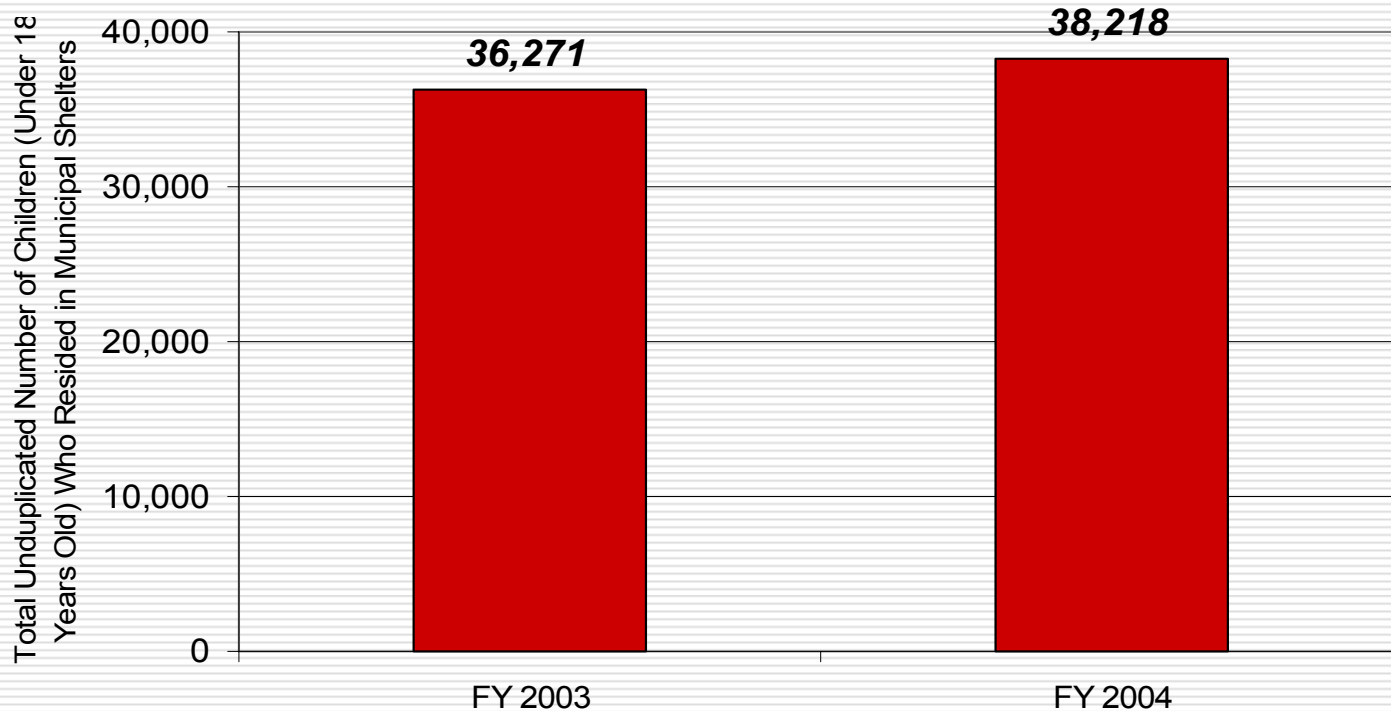




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More NYC Children in Shelters

More New York City Children Experienced Homelessness Over the Past Year

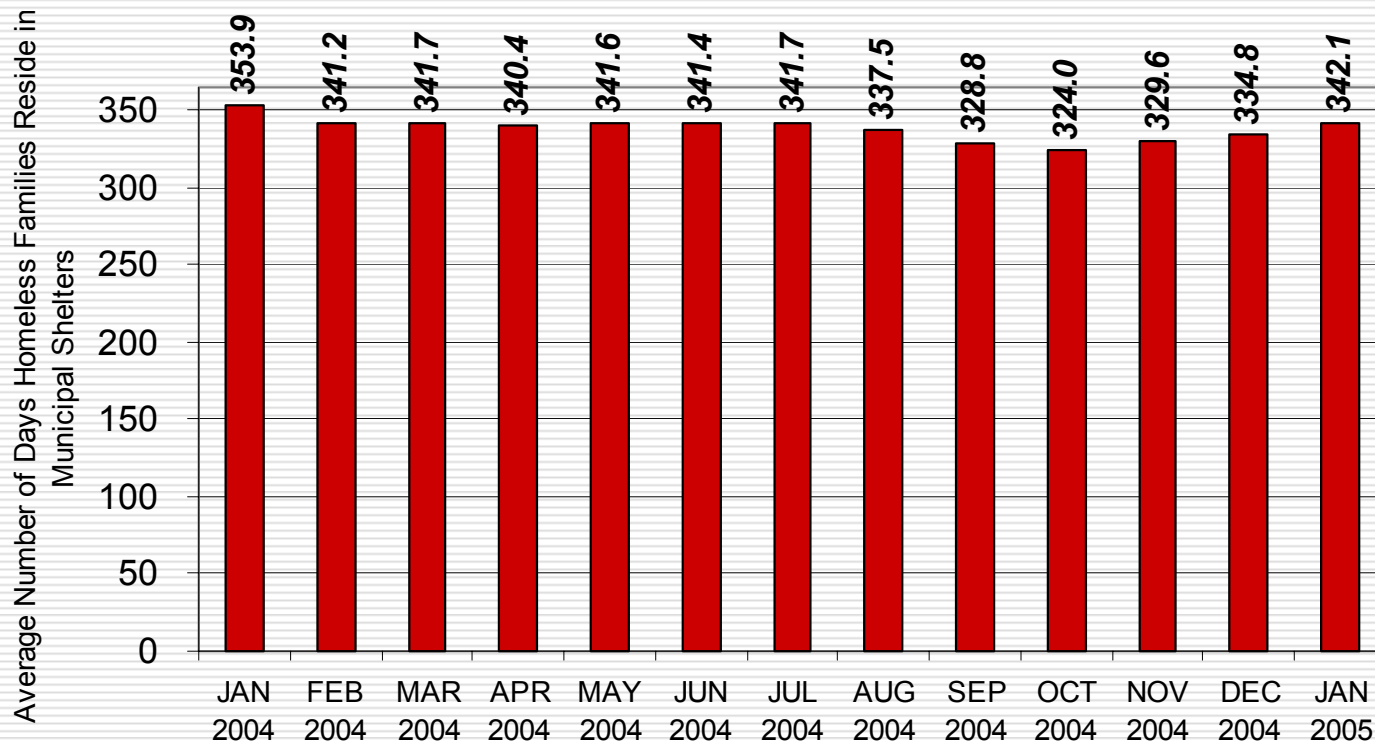




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Long Shelter Stays for Homeless Families

Homeless Children and Families Continued to Reside in Shelters for Nearly One Year

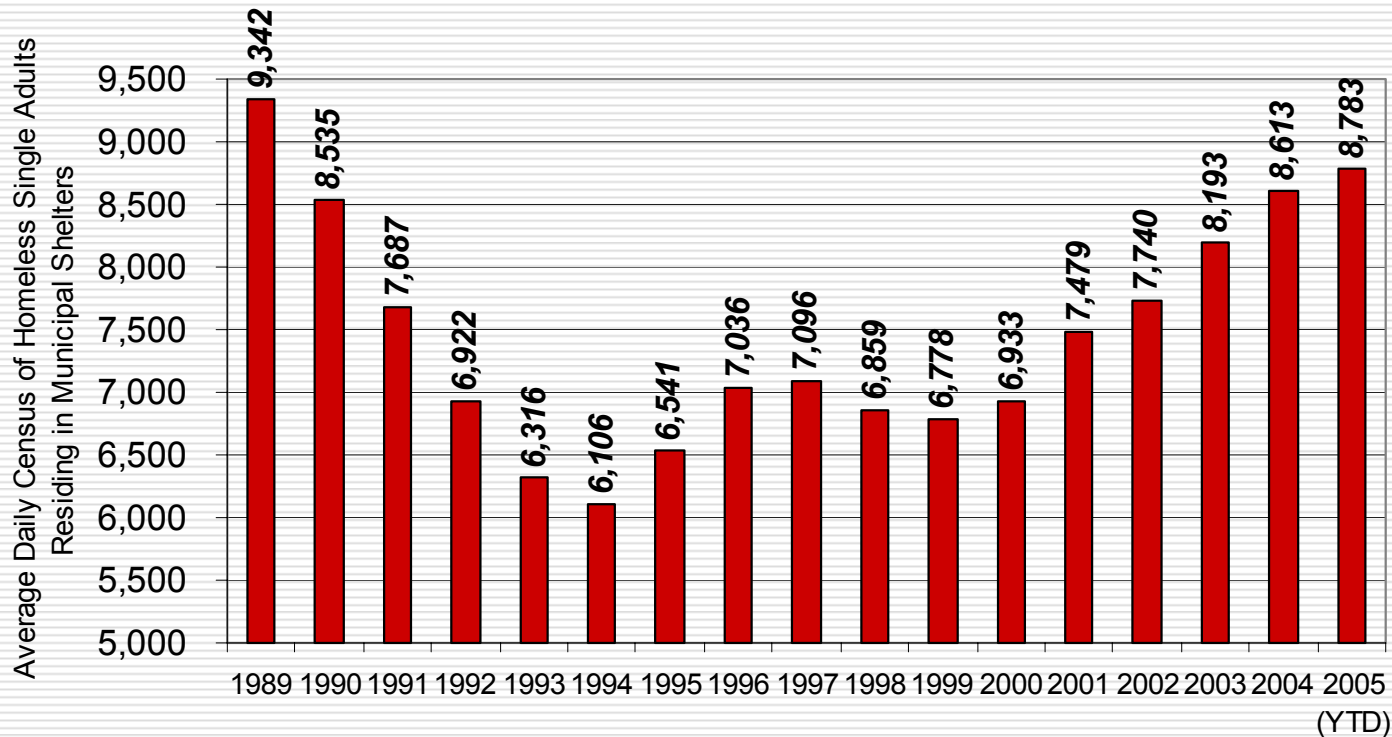




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More Homeless Individuals in Shelters

Number of Homeless Single Adults in Shelters Reaches Highest Point Since 1989

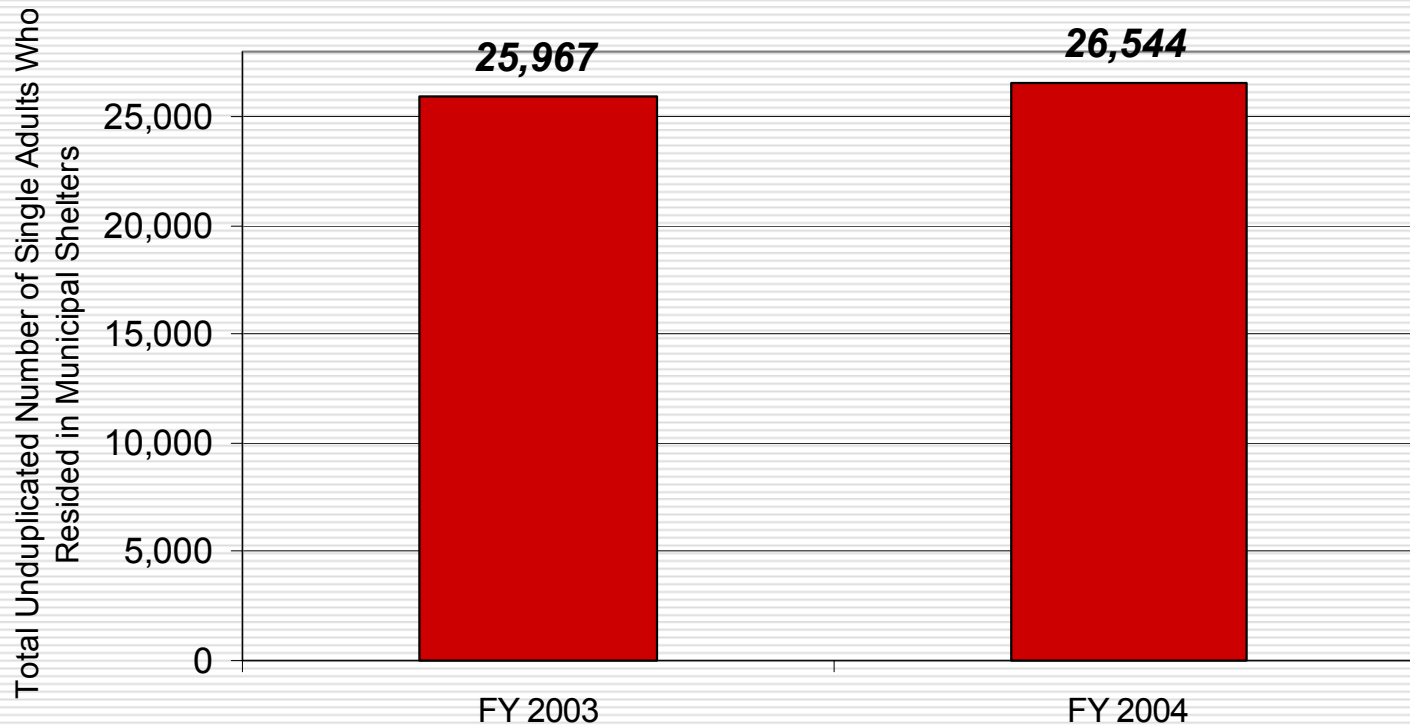




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More NYC Adults Turn to Shelters

More New York City Single Adults Turned to Shelters Over the Past Year

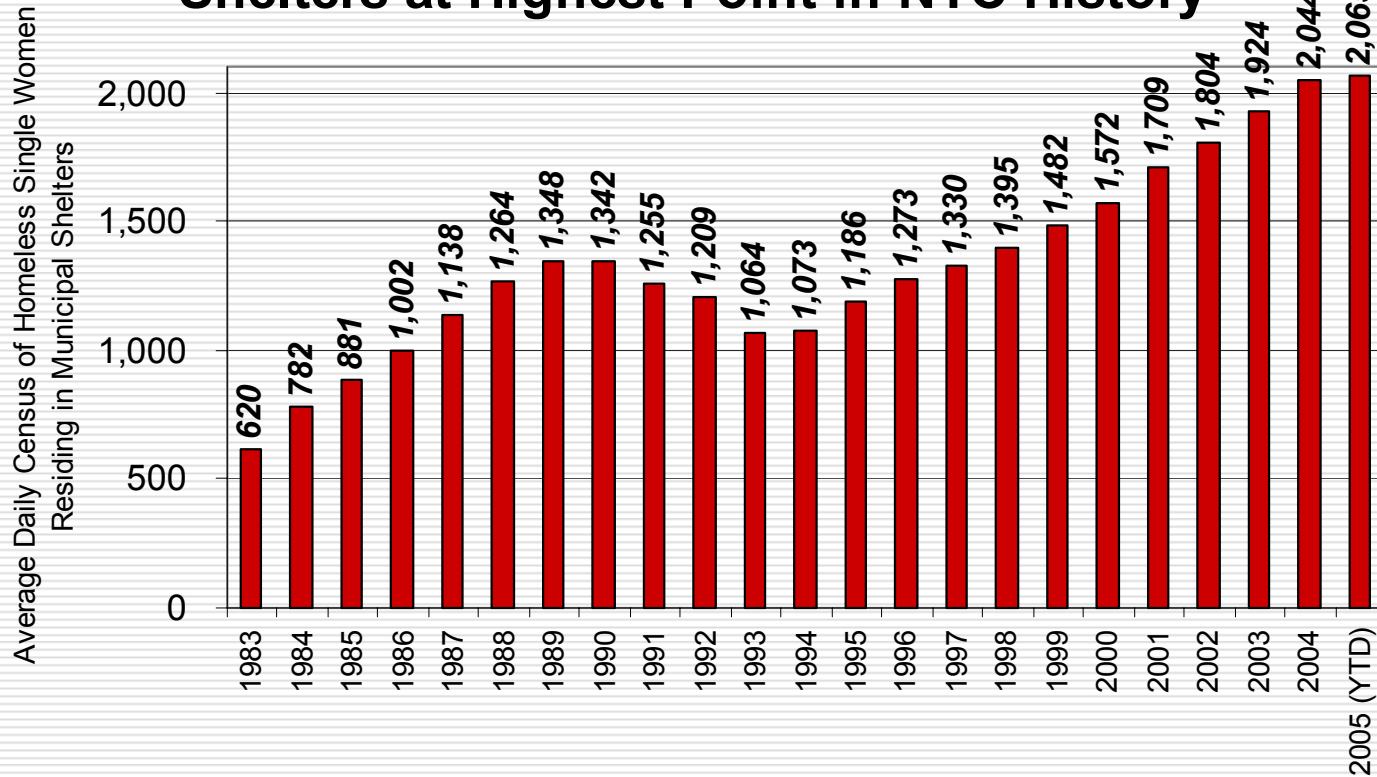




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Record Number of Homeless Women

Number of Homeless Single Women in Shelters at Highest Point in NYC History

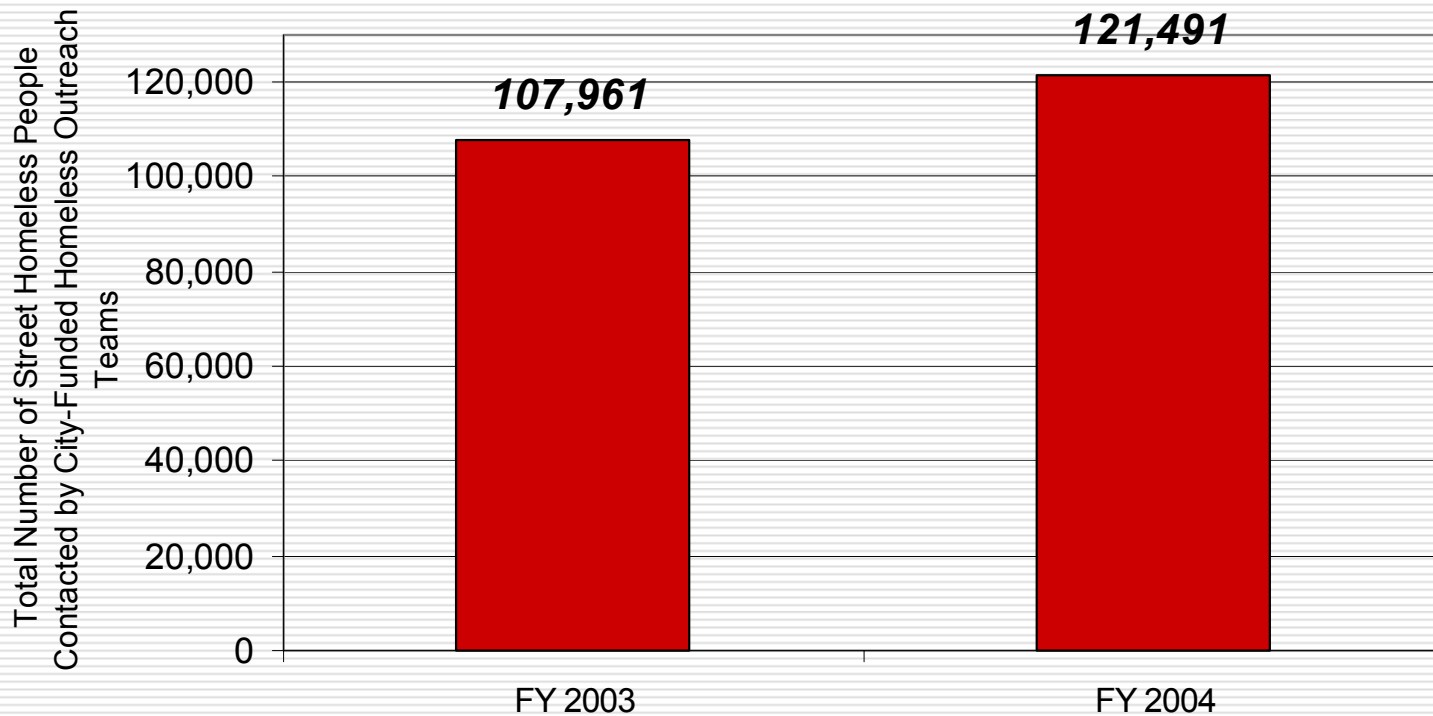




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Street Homelessness on the Rise

Homeless Outreach Teams Made Contact with More Street Homeless People

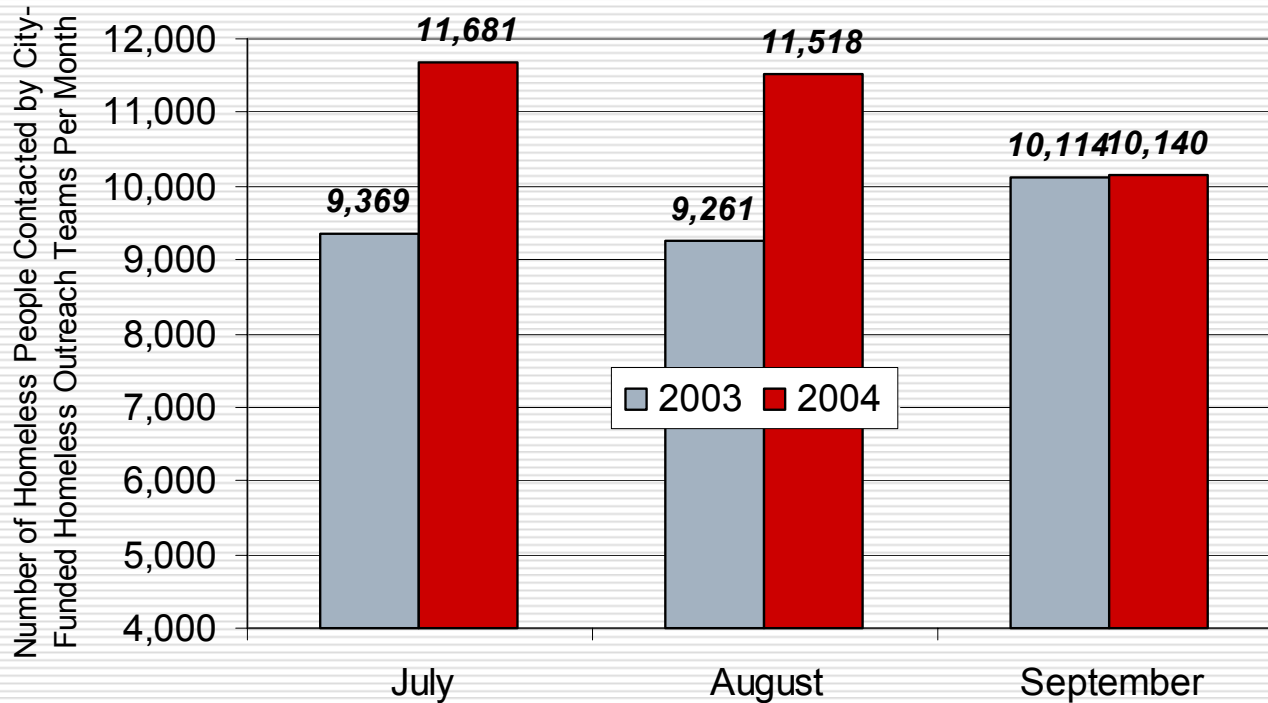




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Rising Street Homelessness

Rising Number of Outreach Contacts with Street Homeless People Over Past Year





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Action Plan to Reduce NYC Homelessness

An Immediate Action Plan to Reduce Homelessness

- ◆ **Create Supportive Housing for Homeless New Yorkers**
- ◆ **Repair the Flaws in the City's New Homeless Rent Subsidy Program**
- ◆ **Fulfill the Promise of Battery Park City – Use Revenues to Create and Preserve Housing for Homeless and Low-Income New Yorkers**
- ◆ **Improve Shelter Access for the Street Homeless and Homeless Families**
- ◆ **Target Resources to Address the Record Numbers of Homeless Women**



State of the Homeless 2005

Action Plan to Reduce NYC Homelessness

Create Supportive Housing for Homeless New Yorkers

- ◆ In June 2004, as part of his plan to address chronic homelessness, Mayor Bloomberg pledged to create 12,000 units of supportive housing for homeless New Yorkers.
 - ◆ Unfortunately, Mayor Bloomberg's FY 2006 budget plan fails to include sufficient resources to fulfill this commitment. The Mayor's budget plan includes financing for only 4,260 units of supportive housing over the next decade, and only a small increase in funding for supportive housing over the next four years.
- ⇒ Mayor Bloomberg should include sufficient funding in his April executive budget to fulfill his commitment to 12,000 supportive housing units for homeless New Yorkers. As part of that plan, the Mayor should negotiate a third "New York/New York Agreement" with Governor Pataki to provide 9,000 units of supportive housing for homeless individuals and families.***

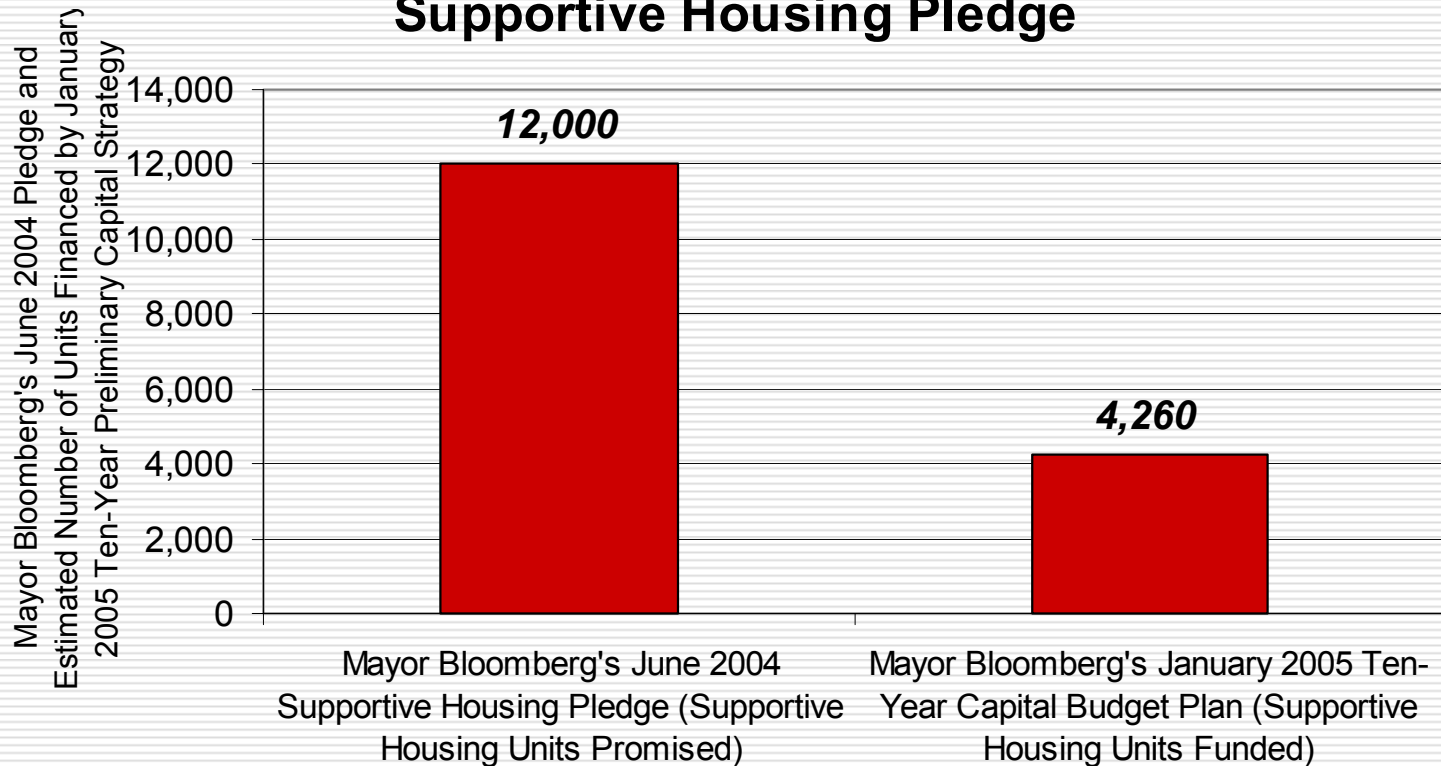


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Mayor's Budget Fails to Fulfill Housing Promise

Bloomberg Budget Plan Fails to Match Supportive Housing Pledge

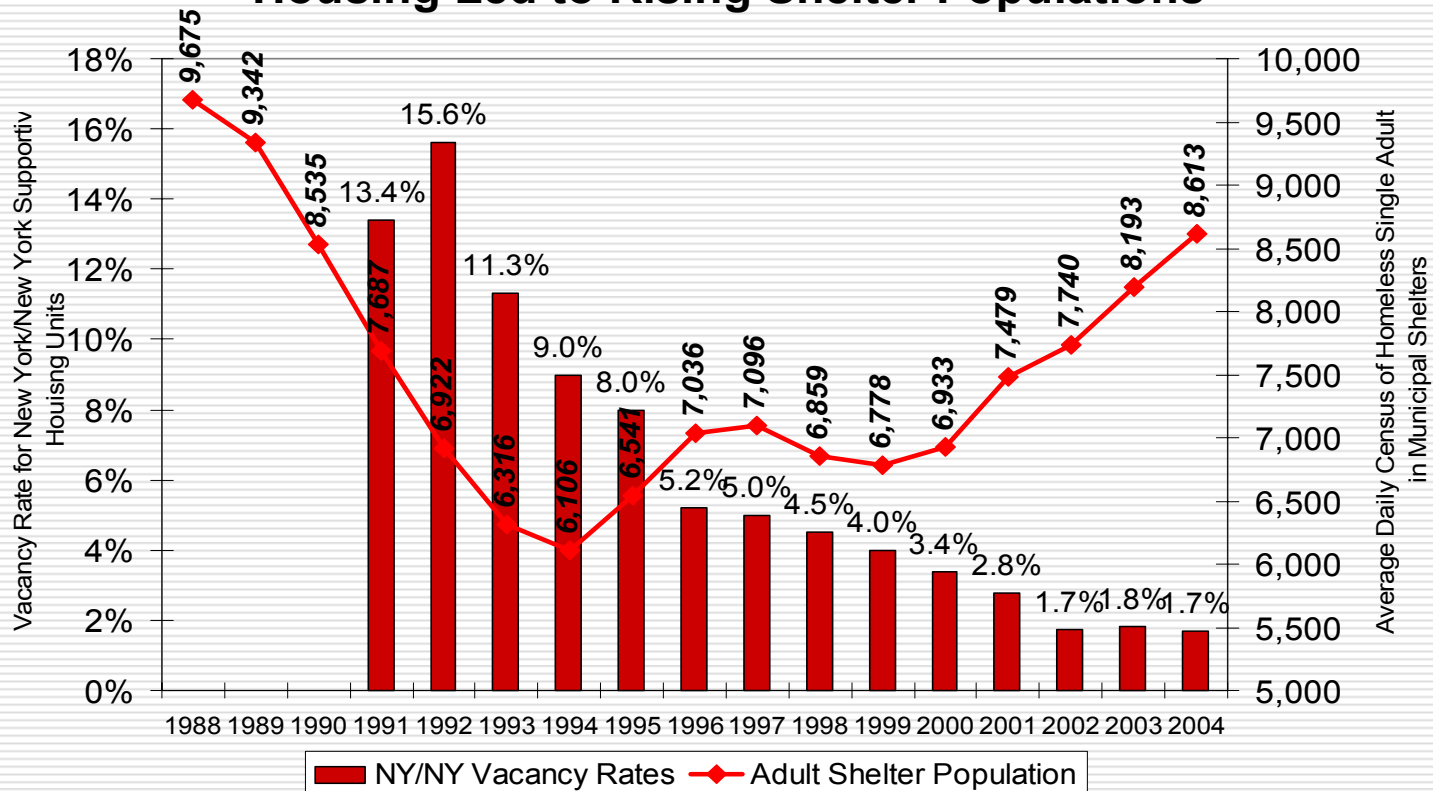




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Supportive Housing and Homelessness

Falling Vacancy Rates for "New York/New York" Housing Led to Rising Shelter Populations





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Action Plan to Reduce NYC Homelessness

Repair Flaws in New Homeless Rent Subsidy Program

- ◆ In late 2004 the City began implementing “Housing StabilityPlus,” a new rent subsidy program for homeless New Yorkers. Mayor Bloomberg also reversed two decades of City homeless policy by denying priority access to Federal housing aid to homeless families.
- ◆ Providers and advocates citywide criticized flaws in the “Housing StabilityPlus” program, including arbitrary five-year time limits, 20 percent annual reductions in the rent supplement, and the requirement that recipients maintain active welfare cases.

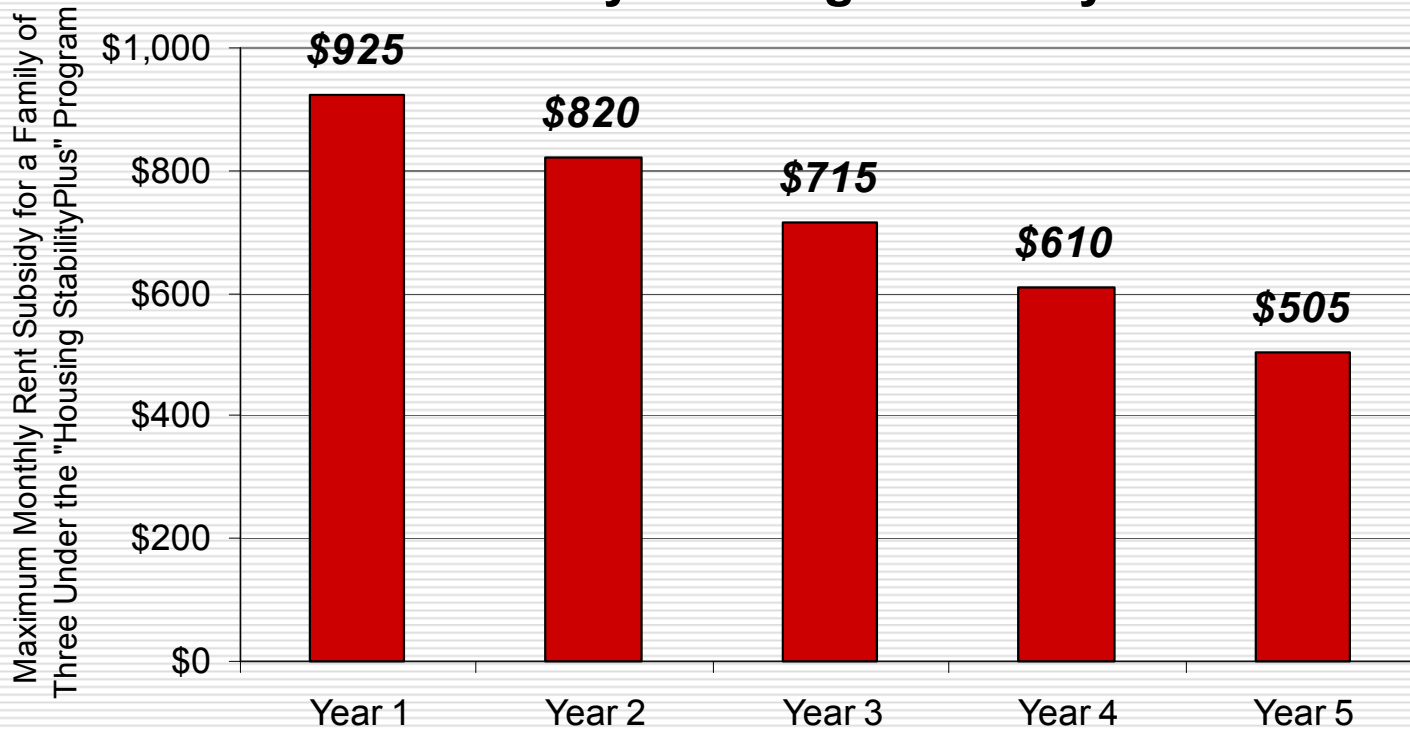
⇒ City and State officials should repair the flaws in the program by removing arbitrary time limits, eliminating the 20 percent reduction, and ensuring that working and disabled households can receive assistance. Mayor Bloomberg should also restore the priority for Federal housing aid to families in shelters.



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Declining Rental Assistance in City's Program

City's New Homeless Rent Subsidy Program Reduces Monthly Housing Aid Every Year





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Action Plan to Reduce NYC Homelessness

Fulfill the Promise of Battery Park City: Use BPC Revenues to Create and Preserve Housing for Homeless and Low-Income New Yorkers

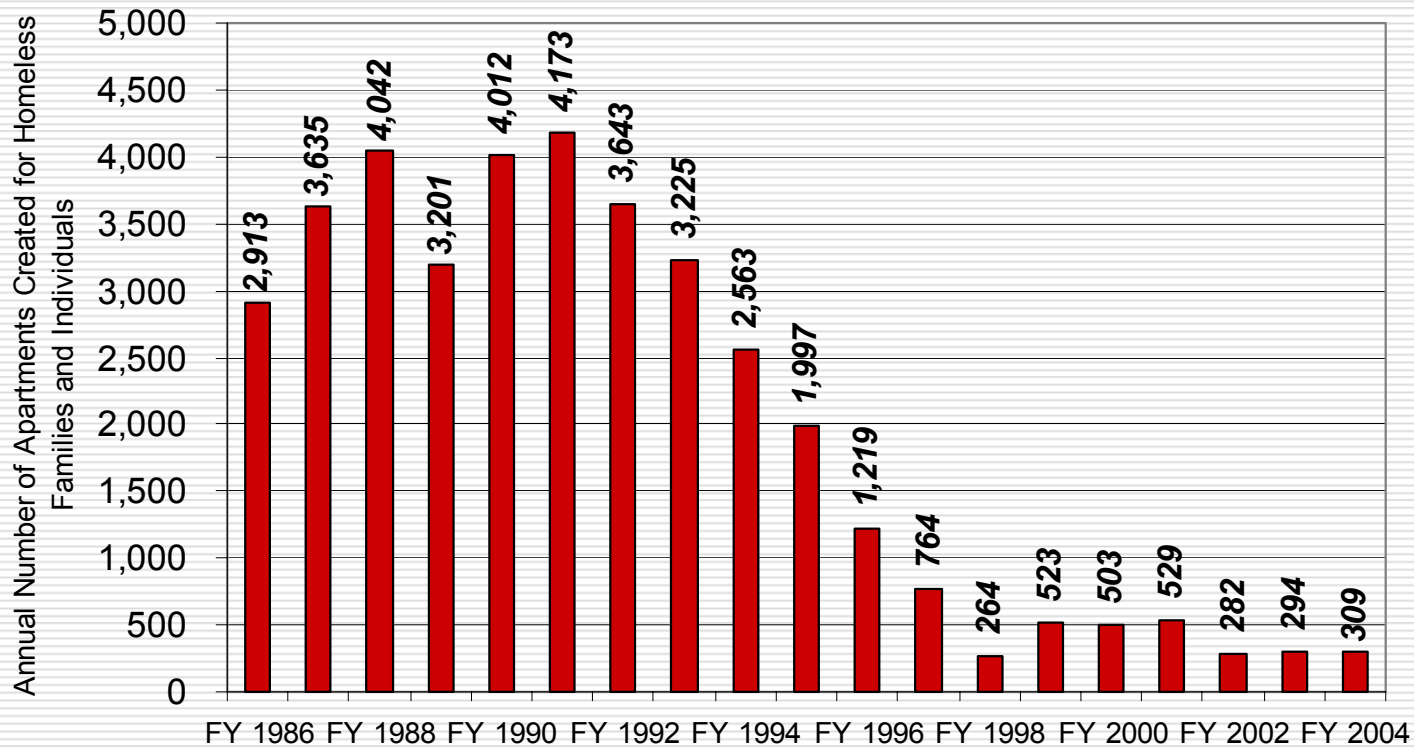
- ◆ In the 1980s, the City promised to commit \$1 billion in revenues from the Battery Park City Authority to create affordable housing citywide. Ultimately only a small portion of that money was ever spent on housing.
 - ◆ Today, the BPCA generates more than \$75 million annually in surplus revenues, which could finance \$1 billion to build and preserve housing for homeless and low-income New Yorkers.
- ⇒ *Fulfill the promise of Battery Park City. Use BPCA revenues to finance the construction and preservation of at least 15,000 housing units, with at least one of every five new homes created for homeless households.***



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Fewer New Apartments Created for the Homeless

Dramatic Reduction in the Number of New Apartments Created for Homeless Households





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Action Plan to Reduce NYC Homelessness

Improve Access to Shelter for Homeless New Yorkers (1)

- ◆ As street homelessness rises, the City continues to warehouse homeless individuals seeking shelter in large, congregate, chaotically-managed facilities. Service providers have urged the City to create smaller, low-threshold entry shelters to address the needs of the street homeless. Studies document that 75 percent of the street homeless suffer from severe and persistent mental illness.
- ◆ As documented in news reports last month, hundreds of homeless couples, including pregnant women, have been forced to sleep on the floors of a Manhattan intake office without food. City data also shows that one of every three homeless families with children is forced to apply for shelter at least twice, forced to endure hardships at overcrowded intake offices.
- ◆ Bloomberg Administration officials are planning to implement new rules denying shelter to families it deems “ineligible” for shelter, forcing many families to go without safe shelter.



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Action Plan to Reduce NYC Homelessness

Improve Access to Shelter for Homeless New Yorkers (2)

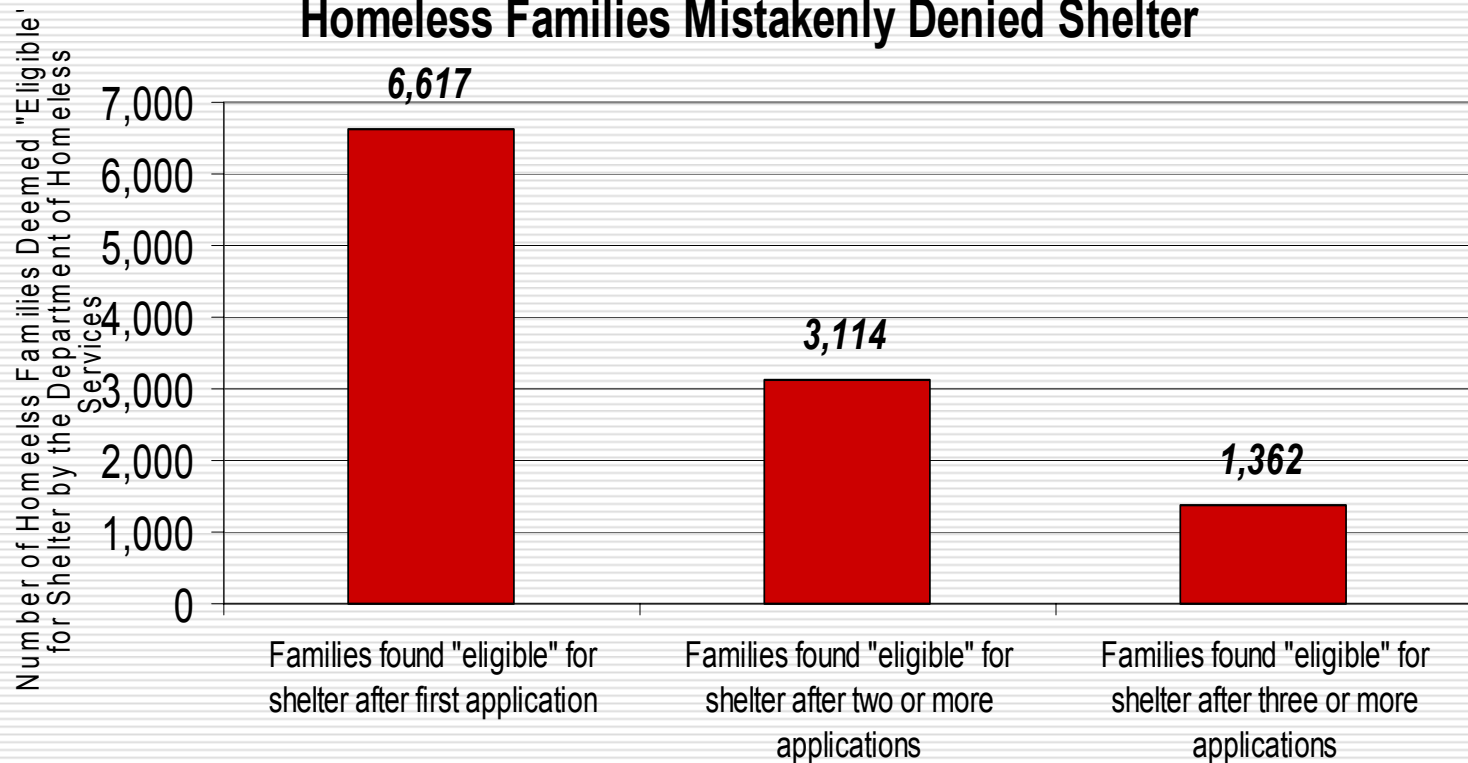
- ⇒ *City officials should open multiple, low-threshold intake shelters for homeless adults before next winter – current City plans call for new intake centers in 2006.*
- ⇒ *The Bloomberg Administration should abandon plans to deny shelter to families deemed “ineligible” and ensure that all families seeking shelter – including homeless couples – receive food and shelter placements.*



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Homeless Families Mistakenly Denied Shelter

Errors in City's Intake Procedures Led to Thousands of Homeless Families Mistakenly Denied Shelter





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Action Plan to Reduce NYC Homelessness

Target Resources to Record Numbers of Homeless Women

- ◆ The number of homeless single women residing in shelters is at the highest point since the City has kept records, and has increased by 14 percent over the past three years. When one counts homeless women who are members of families, the number of homeless women in New York City has reached the highest levels since the Great Depression.
- ◆ Many women become homeless fleeing domestic violence, but are unable to obtain appropriate emergency shelter and are forced to turn to the homeless shelter system. City rules limit stays in domestic violence shelters, and due to a lack of housing aid many women are relocated to the homeless shelter system, which lacks appropriate services and safety measures.

⇒ The City should target resources to expand domestic violence services, including emergency shelter and housing assistance. The City should invest in supportive housing for homeless women living with mental illness and other special needs.



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Data Sources and Acknowledgments

Data Sources

Shelter population data: Department of Homeless Services shelter census reports.

Housing data: Mayor's Management Report, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Center for Urban Community Services.

Budget data: NYC Independent Budget Office, NYC Office of Management and Budget.

Acknowledgments

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

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