COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

State of the Homeless 2002

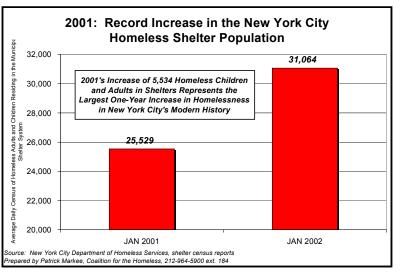
Record Increase in New York City Homelessness Over Past Year

Over the past year, New York City has seen the *largest one-year increase in homelessness since the Great* **Depression**. In January 2002 more than 31,000 homeless children and adults slept each night in the municipal shelter system, the largest recorded shelter population in New York City history. And in the wake of years of cutbacks in housing investments by the Pataki and Giuliani Administrations as well as rising unemployment, homelessness will

continue to rise without new initiatives by the State and City governments.

Record Increase in the Homeless

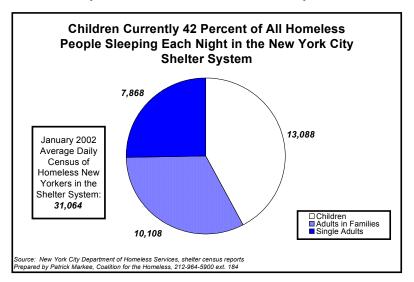
Shelter Population: From January 2001 to January 2002, the number of homeless adults and children sleeping in the New York City shelter system *rose by 5,534 persons*, from 25,529 to 31,064 people per night. This represents the *largest one-year increase in homelessness of the modern era*. The New York City *homeless shelter population is now at an all-time high*, and is expected to continue rising. Since January 1998, *nearly 10,000 more New Yorkers* bed down each night in shelters.



All-Time Record Number of Homeless

Children and Families: Homeless children and their families, who comprise three-quarters of the New York City shelter population, are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Over the past year the number of homeless children sleeping each night in shelters and welfare hotels *increased by 29 percent to 13,088 children* per night in January 2002. Homeless children now make up *42 percent* of the New York City homeless shelter population.

Number of Homeless Single Adults at Highest Levels Since 1991: The number of homeless single adults in New York City shelters, which had fallen in the early 1990s as a result of State-City supportive-housing initiatives, has



now risen to *the highest levels since 1991*. Reports from outreach teams, community groups, and City officials also confirm a *rise in street homelessness*, particularly among mentally-ill New Yorkers.

Skyrocketing Increase in City's Use of Private Apartments for Temporary

Shelter: The past year also witnessed an alarming increase in the number of private apartments (called "scattered-site" units) used by the City to lodge homeless families on a temporary basis. In January 2002 the Department of Homeless Services paid nearly \$100 per night to private landlords for 1,224 "scattered-site" apartments, up from 61 such units in January 2001.

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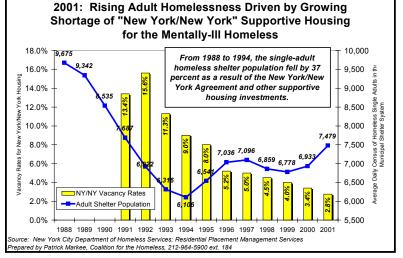
A Call to Action for the Governor and Mayor: Invest in Proven, Cost-Effective Initiatives to Reduce Homelessness

In the midst of all-time record homelessness in New York City, and the risk of further increases in the homeless population in the coming months, Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg must work together to invest in the proven, cost-effective initiatives that have been successful in reducing homelessness in the past. These include *supportive*

housing for homeless individuals living with mental illness, *rental assistance* for homeless families and individuals, and a long-term commitment to expanding *public investments in affordable housing* for homeless and lowincome New Yorkers. The price of doing nothing is abundantly clear: Years of cutbacks in affordable and supportive housing programs by the Pataki and Giuliani Administrations have resulted in record homelessness and skyrocketing shelter expenses.

Cutbacks in Housing Initiatives Result in Rising Homelessness: Years of

cutbacks in the City's housing capital budget by the Giuliani Administration dramatically



reduced the number of affordable apartments provided for homeless children and their families. Compared to Fiscal Year 1990, when the City provided 2,071 apartments to homeless families, in FY 2001 the City provided only 184 such apartments, a *reduction of 91 percent*. Accounting for both City and Federal housing programs, in FY 2001 only 3,349 homeless families were relocated from shelters to permanent housing, 39 percent fewer than in FY 1994.

Three State and City Initiatives that Will Reduce Homelessness

- A New "New York/New York Agreement": The landmark New York/New York Agreement of 1990 was largely responsible for the dramatic reductions in homelessness among single adults in the early 1990s. This State-City initiative provided supportive housing for mentally-ill homeless individuals, and alongside other supportive and affordable housing programs it *reduced the adult shelter population by 37 percent* between 1988 and 1994. Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg must negotiate a new NY/NY Agreement to develop 9,000 units of supportive housing (7,500 units for mentally-ill individuals and 1,500 units for the neediest homeless families).
- 2. Rental Assistance for Homeless Families and Individuals: Compared to the exorbitant cost of emergency shelter \$36,000 for a homeless family, \$23,000 per year for an individual *rental assistance* can cost as little as \$7,700 per year. The State and City must expand rental assistance programs to help the *rising number of working homeless households* move from shelters to permanent homes, and expand homelessness prevention efforts. The Governor and Mayor must combine efforts to provide rental assistance to help 3,000 families and 2,000 single adults to move to permanent apartments, and invest \$12 million in Federal TANF funds in homelessness prevention.
- 3. A Ten-Year Affordable Housing Investment Plan: The success of the City's last ten-year housing initiative in creating jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods, producing 150,000 affordable apartments, and reducing homelessness has been well-documented. In the midst of rising homelessness and the urgent need to rebuild New York, the City must embark on *a new ten-year initiative as outlined by the <u>Housing First!</u> coalition. In the short term, the City must preserve existing commitments to affordable housing investments.*

Prepared February 12, 2002. For more information, please contact Patrick Markee, Senior Policy Analyst, Coalition for the Homeless, 212-964-5900 ext. 184.

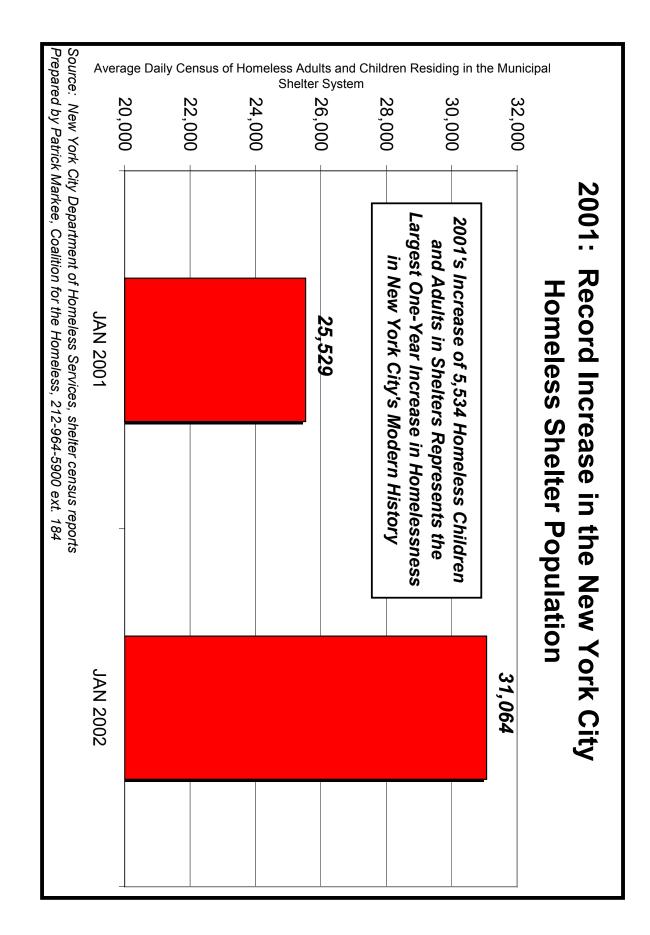
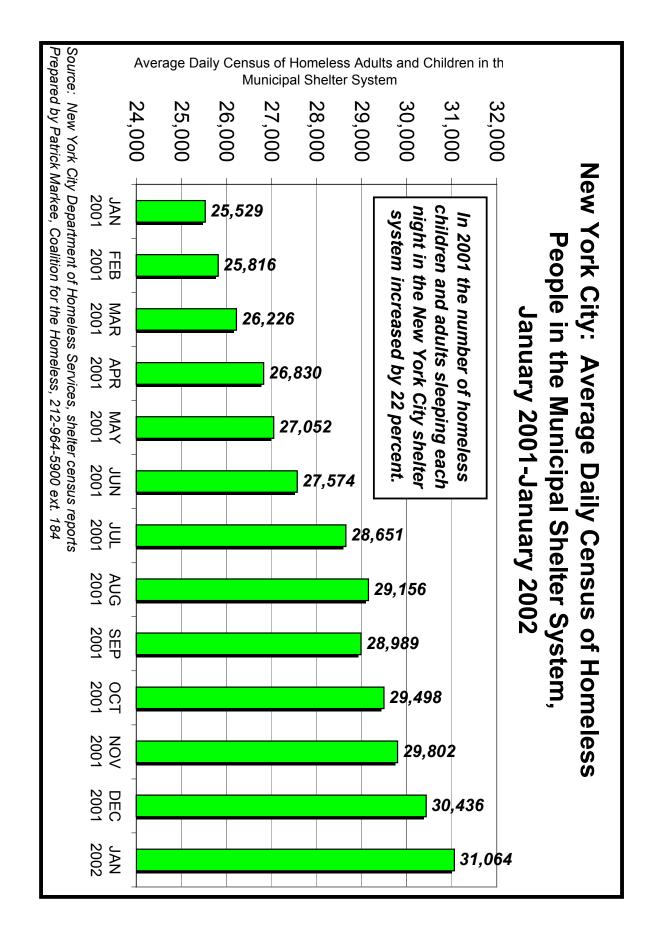


Chart 1







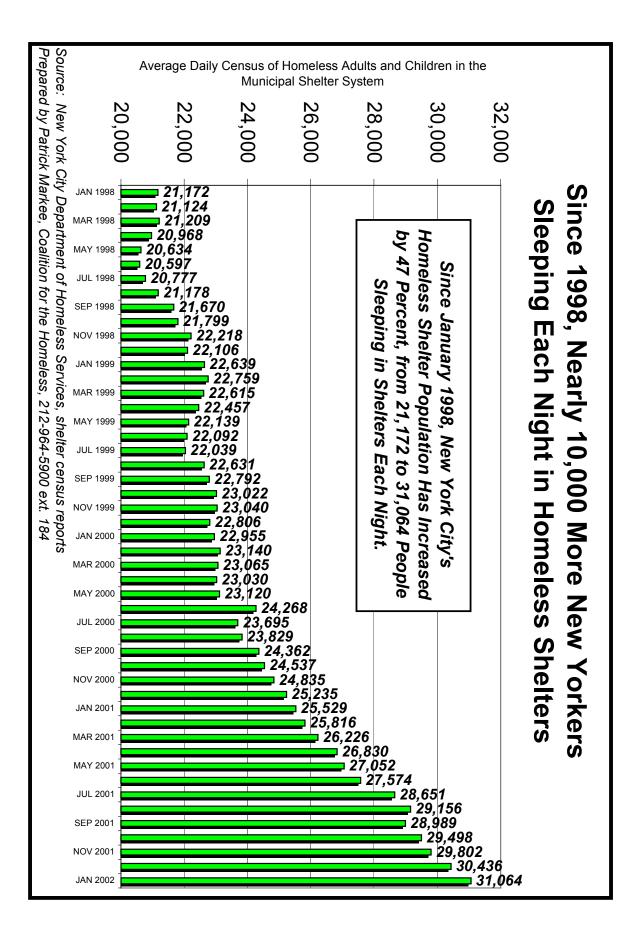


Chart 3



Chart 4

Coalition for the Homeless

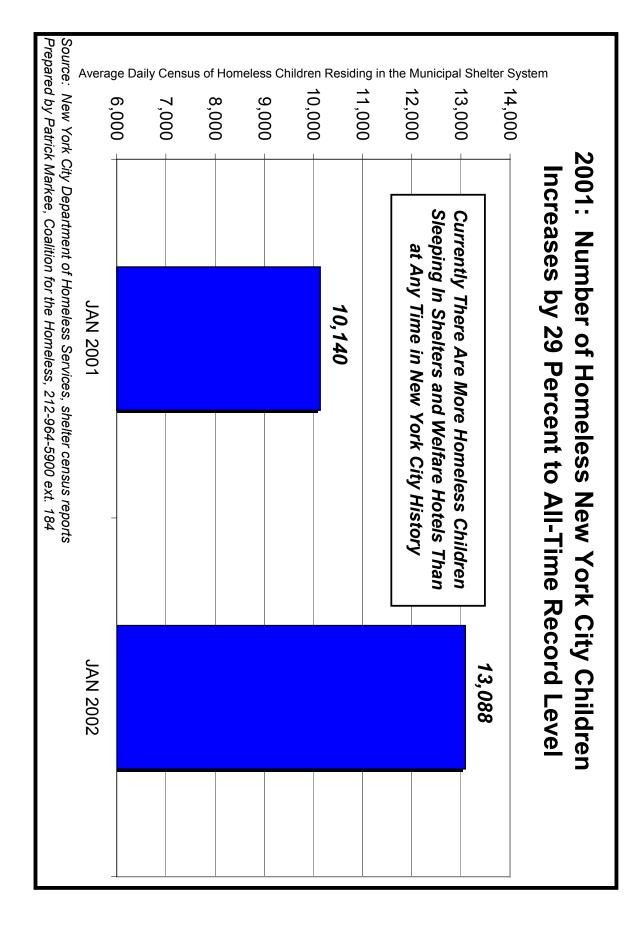
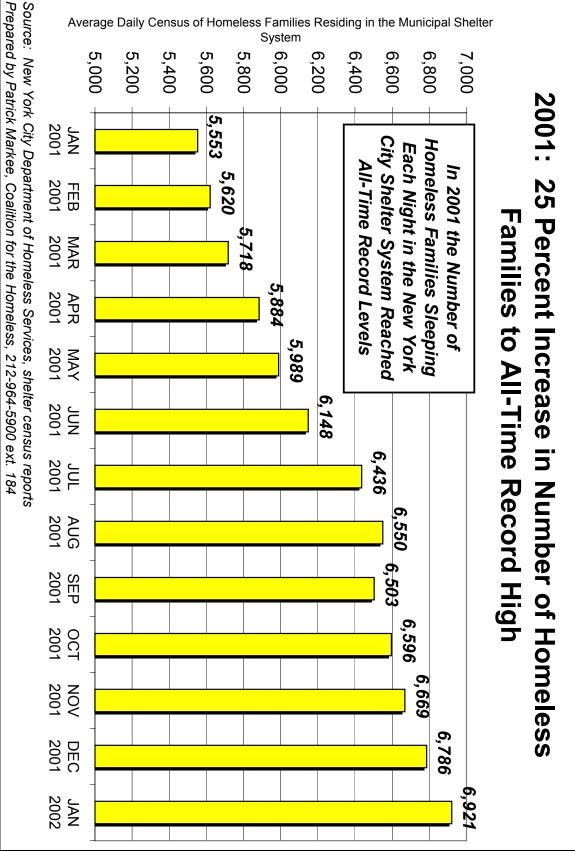




Chart 5

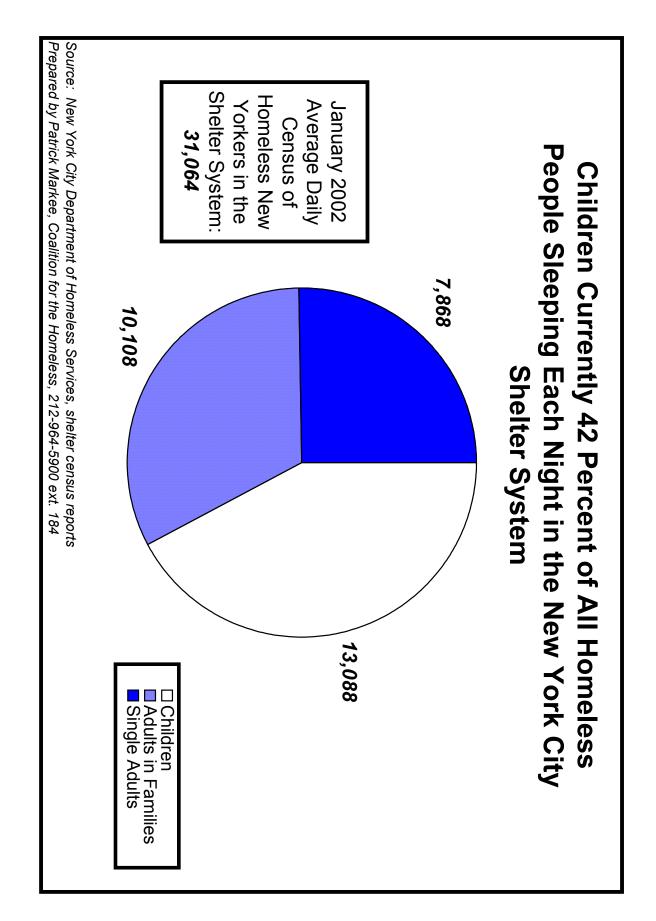




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Chart 6

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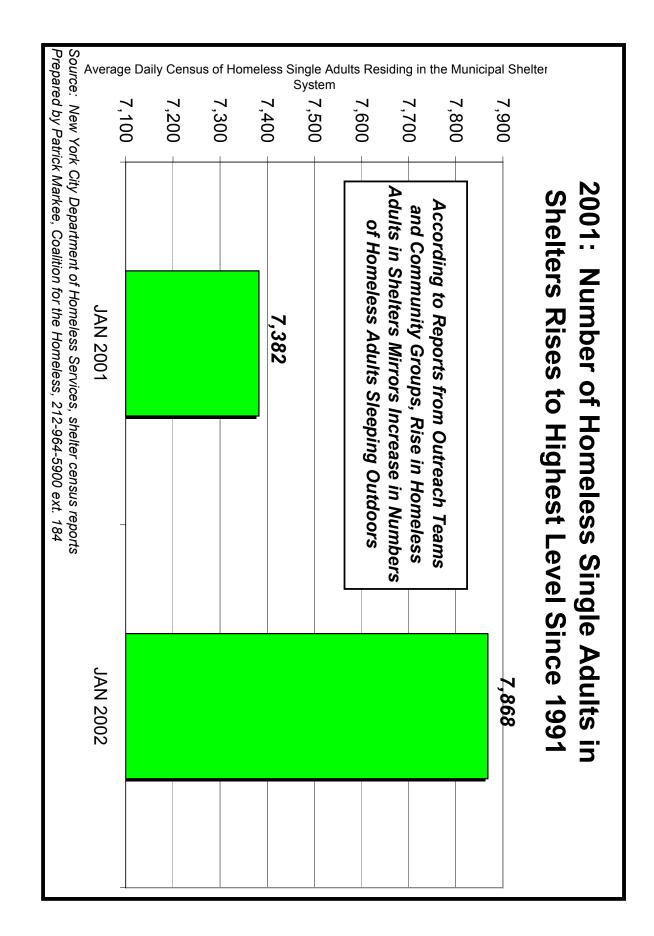


Chart 7

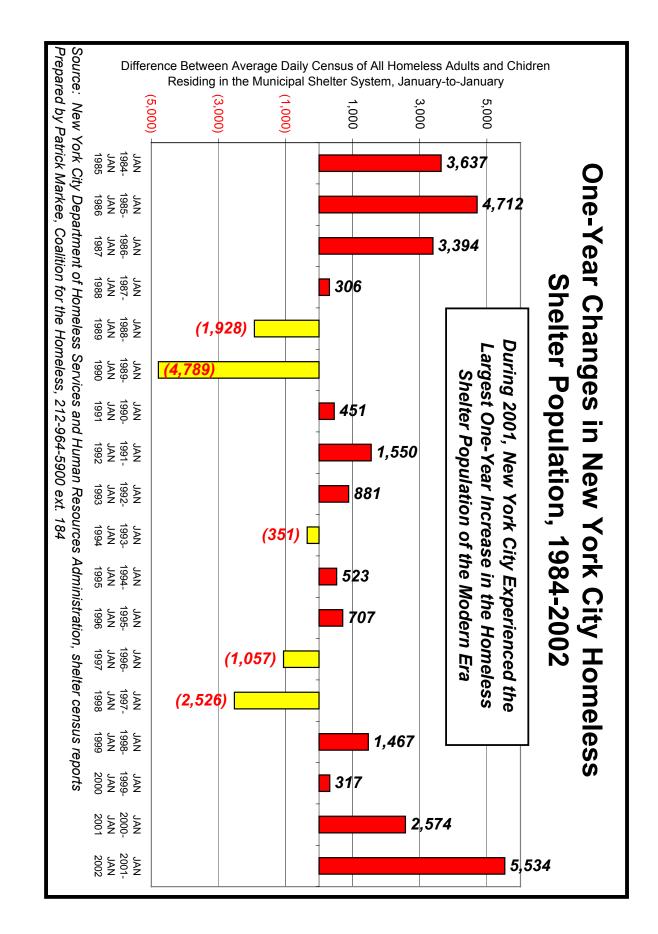


Chart 8

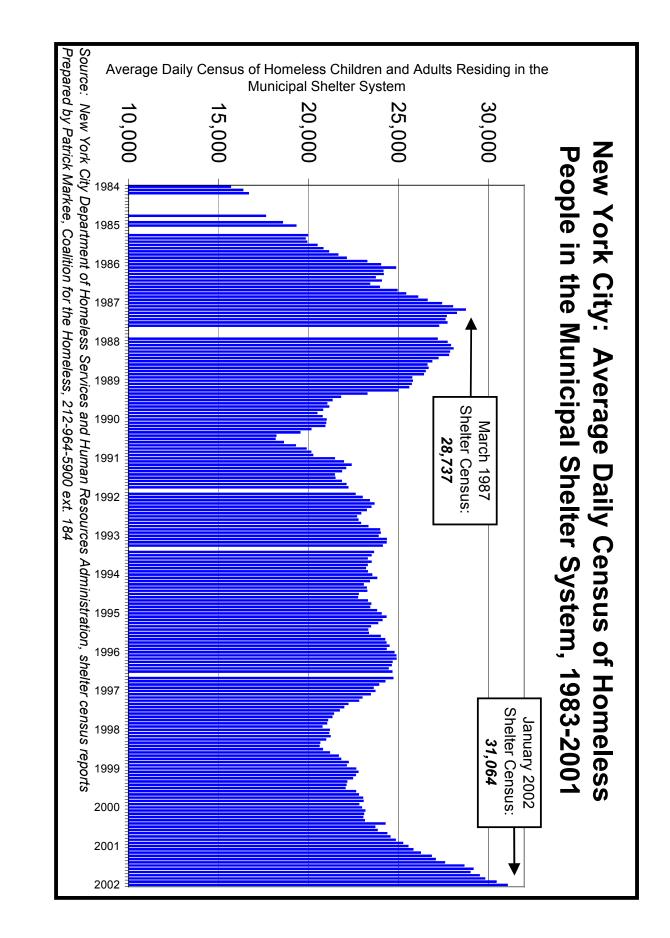


Chart 9

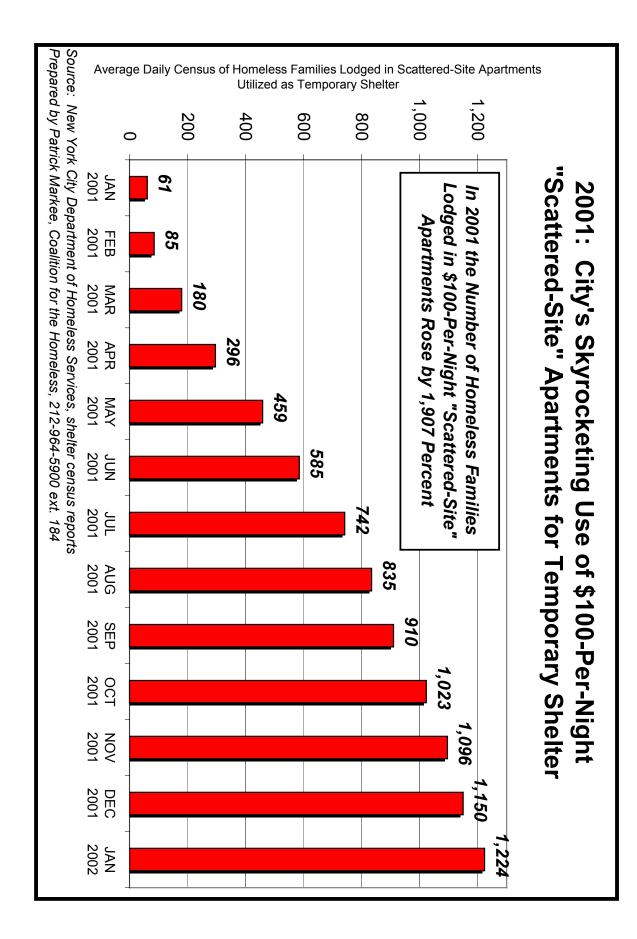


Chart 10

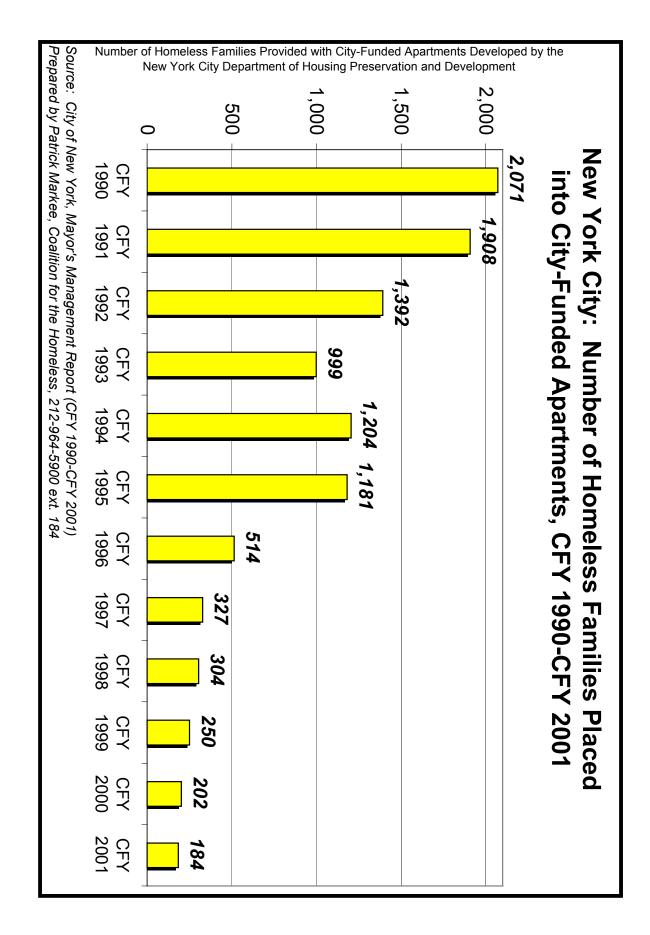
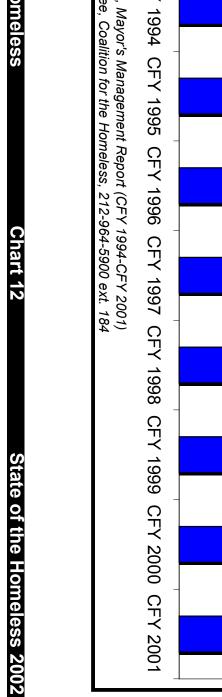
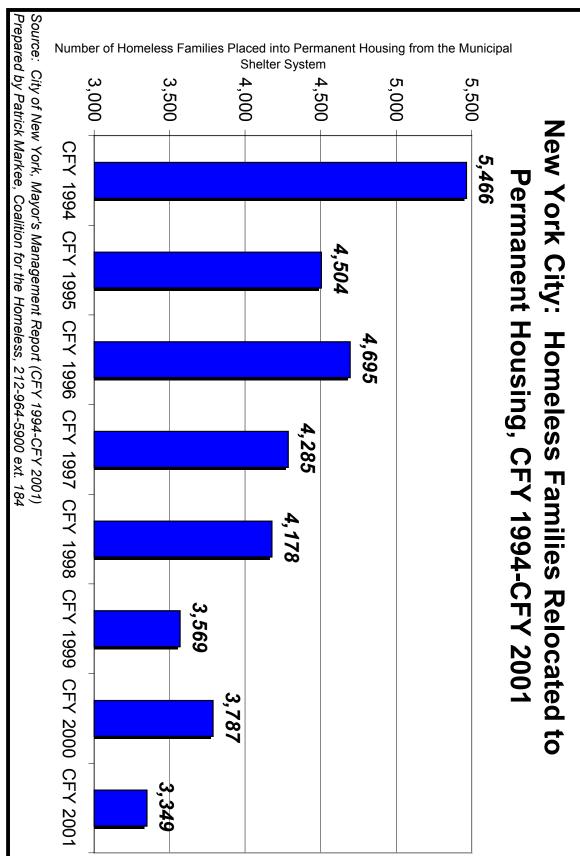
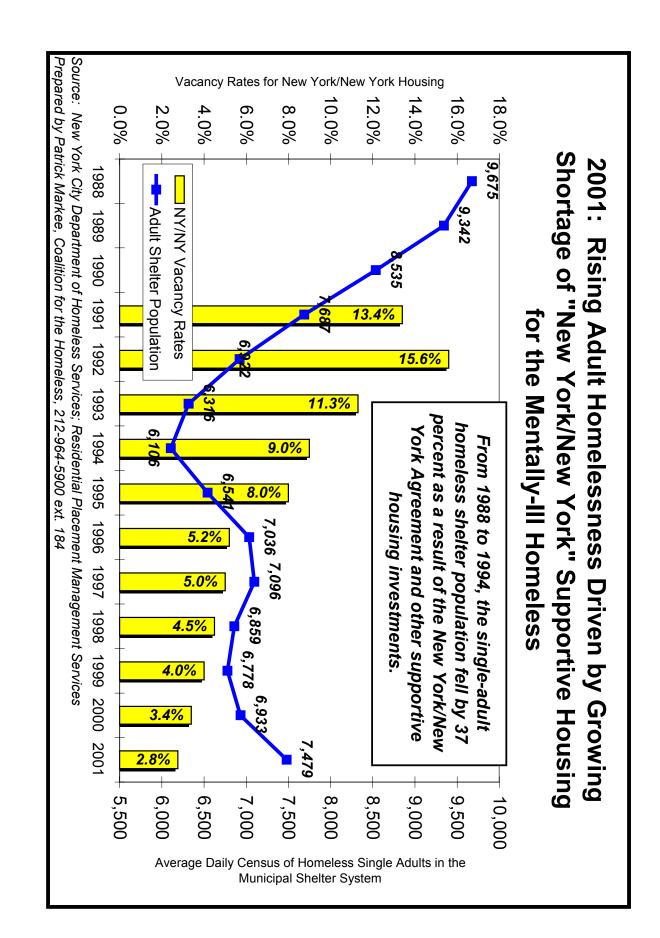


Chart 11









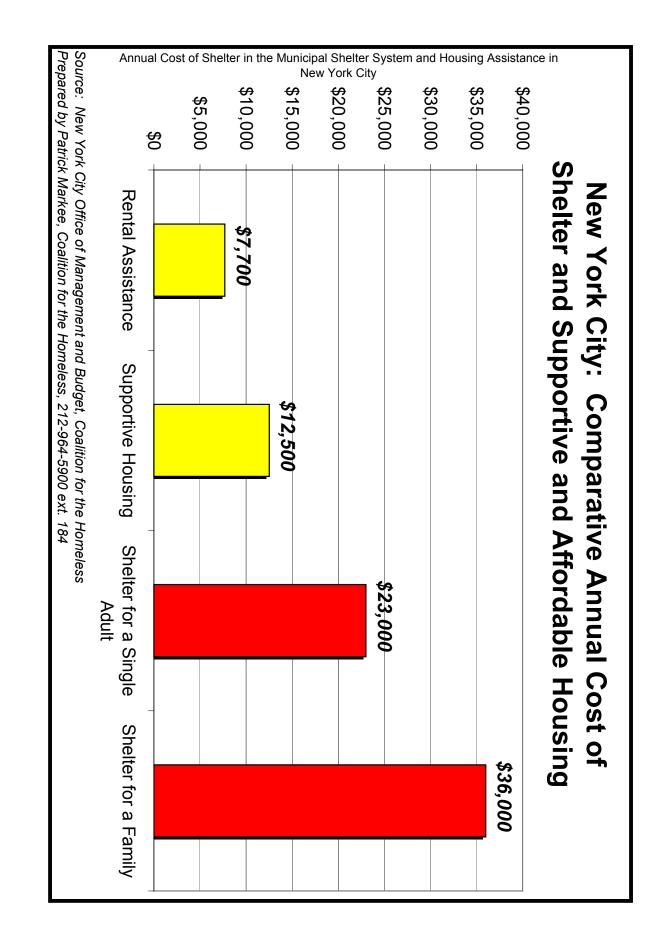


Chart 14