



Preventing Homelessness in New York City

Community Summit to End Homelessness

Fairfax County, Virginia
April 7, 2006

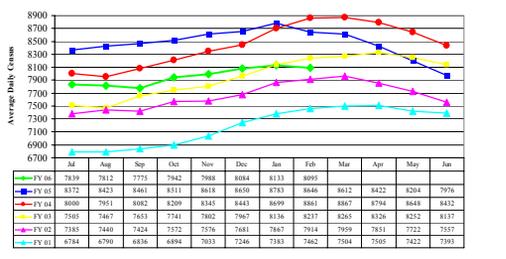
Carine Barometre
Deputy Commissioner, Prevention Services

Families with Children Census



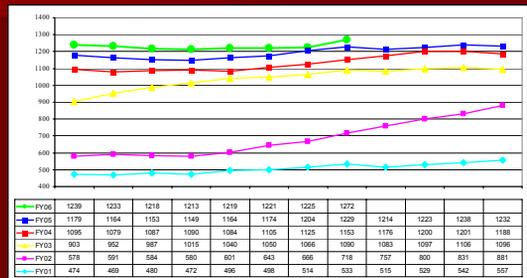
Indicates a 12.2% reduction in census in February 2006 when compared to February 2005

Single Adult Shelter Census



Indicates a 6.4% reduction in census in February 2006 when compared to February 2005

Adult Family Census



Indicates a 3.5% increase in census in February 2006 when compared to February 2005

Mission Statement NYC Department of Homeless Services

OLD:

The DHS Mission, in partnership with public and private agencies, is "to provide temporary emergency shelter for eligible people in a safe, supportive environment. In an atmosphere of cooperation and respect, we deliver services through a continuum of care, where the client assumes the responsibility for achieving the goal of independent living."

NEW (as of July 27, 2005):

DHS prevents homelessness wherever possible and provides short-term emergency shelter and re-housing support whenever needed. These goals are best achieved through partnerships with those we serve, public agencies, and the business and nonprofit communities.

Uniting For Solutions Beyond Shelter A 5-Year Action Plan for New York City

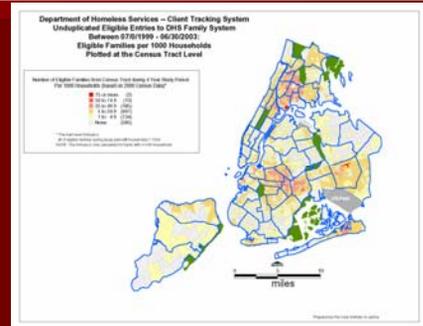
- 9-part plan with a goal of reducing homelessness by 2/3 in 5 years
- Guiding principle is that homelessness is solvable:
 - Prevention
 - Improved shelter services
 - Permanency
 - Accountability
- Homelessness prevention is one of the 9 major components of the 5-year action plan

Homelessness Prevention in New York City

- 5-year plan initiatives
 - Community-based homelessness prevention services through "HomeBase"
 - Family anti-eviction legal services
 - Aftercare services
 - Decentralization of shelter intake for adult males
 - Housing first
- Other Agency initiatives/programs
 - Community resource room
 - Productivity measures for DHS contractors

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Geographic Analysis



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HomeBase Locations

- **CD 1 – Bronx**
(South Bronx/Mott Haven)
- **CD 6 – Bronx**
(East Tremont/Belmont)
- **CD 3 – Brooklyn**
(Bedford Stuyvesant)
- **CD 4 – Brooklyn**
(Bushwick)
- **CD 11 – Manhattan**
(East Harlem)
- **CD 12 – Queens**
(Jamaica/Hollis)



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Data-Driven Approach to HomeBase Program Development

- Informing program design:
 - Partnered with Vera to identify prior housing sources, conditions and precipitating events that lead to family homelessness
 - Geographic Analysis: shelter entrants, poverty, public assistance
- Vera survey conclusions
 - Families enter shelter with a history of precarious connections to jobs and benefits
 - Outreach: Families often do not seek help
- Informing program implementation and targeting
 - Data sharing: daily, weekly, monthly program and entrant data
- Ensuring accountability
 - Client outcomes
 - Community impact

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HomeBase Program Model

- Program participants can receive services for up to two years
- Eligibility
 - Low income (below 200% of poverty)
 - Imminent risk of homelessness
 - Residence in a HomeBase community district or returning to such a residence after residing in an institution
- HomeBase Target Population
 - Young heads of household (under 25 years of age, and particularly those under 21 years of age)
 - Previous episode of homelessness or out of home care (e.g. foster care as child)
 - Living in a doubled-up or over-crowded housing environment
 - Lack of high school diploma or GED
 - Limited work experience
 - Active and/or history of substance abuse
 - Mental illness
 - Being pregnant or having recently given birth

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HomeBase Community Shelter Entrant Trends

- In 2005, HomeBase neighborhoods saw a 12 percent decline in shelter entry compared to 2004, while the rest of the city experienced only a 7% decline
- The most recent quarter looks even more favorable; from January to March 2006, the HomeBase community districts saw a 3% decline compared to the same period in 2004, while the rest of the city has seen a 24% increase in entrants
- Similarly, shelter applications have been increasing in many communities across the city. HomeBase community districts, however, have actually experienced a 13% decline over the past three months compared to the first quarter of 2004, and the rest of the city has seen a 10% increase in applications over the same period

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Family Shelter Eligibles 2004 to 2006 Comparison**

| | Jan-Mar 2004 | Jan-Mar 2005 | Jan-Mar 2006 | % Change 2004-2005 | % Change 2005-2006 | % Change 2004-2006 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Prevention CDs | 535 | 467 | 517 | -12.71% | 10.71% | -3.36% |
| Control CDs | 881 | 754 | 992 | -14.42% | 31.56% | 12.60% |
| All Other CDs* | 1707 | 1455 | 2116 | -14.76% | 45.43% | 23.96% |
| Manhattan CD11 | 90 | 71 | 79 | -21.11% | 11.27% | -12.22% |
| Bronx CD1 | 67 | 76 | 77 | 13.43% | 1.32% | 14.93% |
| Bronx CD6 | 68 | 83 | 81 | 22.06% | -2.41% | 19.12% |
| Brooklyn CD3 | 144 | 106 | 142 | -26.39% | 33.96% | -1.39% |
| Brooklyn CD4 | 76 | 67 | 70 | -11.84% | 4.48% | -7.89% |
| Queens CD12 | 90 | 64 | 63 | -28.89% | -1.56% | -30.00% |

*All Other CDs are city-wide CDs subtracting the prevention CDs
**March data is preliminary

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Homelessness Prevention in New York City

- Family Anti-Eviction Legal Services (FALS)
 - At-risk families facing eviction receive full legal representation, related services like benefits advocacy and repairs, or brief services such as legal counseling or advice
 - Approximately 6,000 families receive services annually
 - 97% of families that received services since July 2003 have not entered the shelter system
- Aftercare services for the formerly homeless
 - From March 2004 through March 2006, over 6,516 families were referred to state-administered aftercare service providers
 - Approximately 2,886 families engaged in these voluntary services
 - 1% recidivism rate for those engaged in services

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Homelessness Prevention in New York City

- Enhanced Aftercare
 - Enhanced aftercare services are being developed to increase program capacity and the scope of services
 - 100% of clients (families or adults) would be assessed to determine the level and type of services to be provided
 - Aftercare providers would be held accountable for recidivism
 - Some of the services that aftercare providers will provide to prevent recidivism include:
 - Employment training and job retention
 - Family mediation services
 - Tenant rights and responsibilities
 - Financial management
 - Domestic violence assessment
 - Substance abuse services and mental health services

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Homelessness Prevention in New York City

- Decentralization of shelter intake for adult males
 - New centers will provide increased accessibility
 - User-friendly design
 - Enhanced staffing models with clinically trained staff
 - Diversion options
- Housing First
 - Proven effective in engaging chronically street homeless individuals
 - Expansion of low threshold/progressive demand programs

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Homelessness Prevention in New York City

- Community resource room
 - Clinical services to shelter applicants
 - Brief case management services for clients flagged with mental health issues
 - Resource development and community referrals
 - Bridge services for ineligible clients
- Productivity measures tied to cost-of-living increases for DHS contractors
 - Enhanced prevention services for new family shelter applicants
 - Alternative housing option planning for eligible clients

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