

Key Findings

Growth in the shelter system is not due to new homeless families with children entering shelter, but to long-term stayers and repeat entrants.

Only 16% of families with children living in shelter in the last half of 2014 entered for the first time during the 2014 calendar year. The remaining 84% entered for the first time prior to 2014.

Even in the short term, more families are returning to shelter. In FY 2015, 17% of all families with children exiting shelter to permanent housing returned to shelter in less than one year. In FY 2005 the one-year return to shelter rate was less than 1%.

Close to half (46%) of all homeless parents and children lived in either a cluster site apartment or hotel in December 2014.

Domestic violence, not eviction, was the leading cause of shelter entry in New York City from July to December 2014.

One out of every five (18%) people living in a New York City shelter in December 2014 was a child age five or younger.

In under four years, the number of children aged 6–13 living in shelter grew by 85% (March 2011–December 2014).
