

# Family Homelessness Continues to Grow

From March 2002 to December 2014, the number of families with children living in New York City shelters increased by roughly 4,800, while the number of children increased by over twice that, or by close to 10,500 (62%).

Young children age five and under continue to make up the largest age group of people living in City shelters. Over 12,000 children aged five or younger stayed in shelter in December 2014.

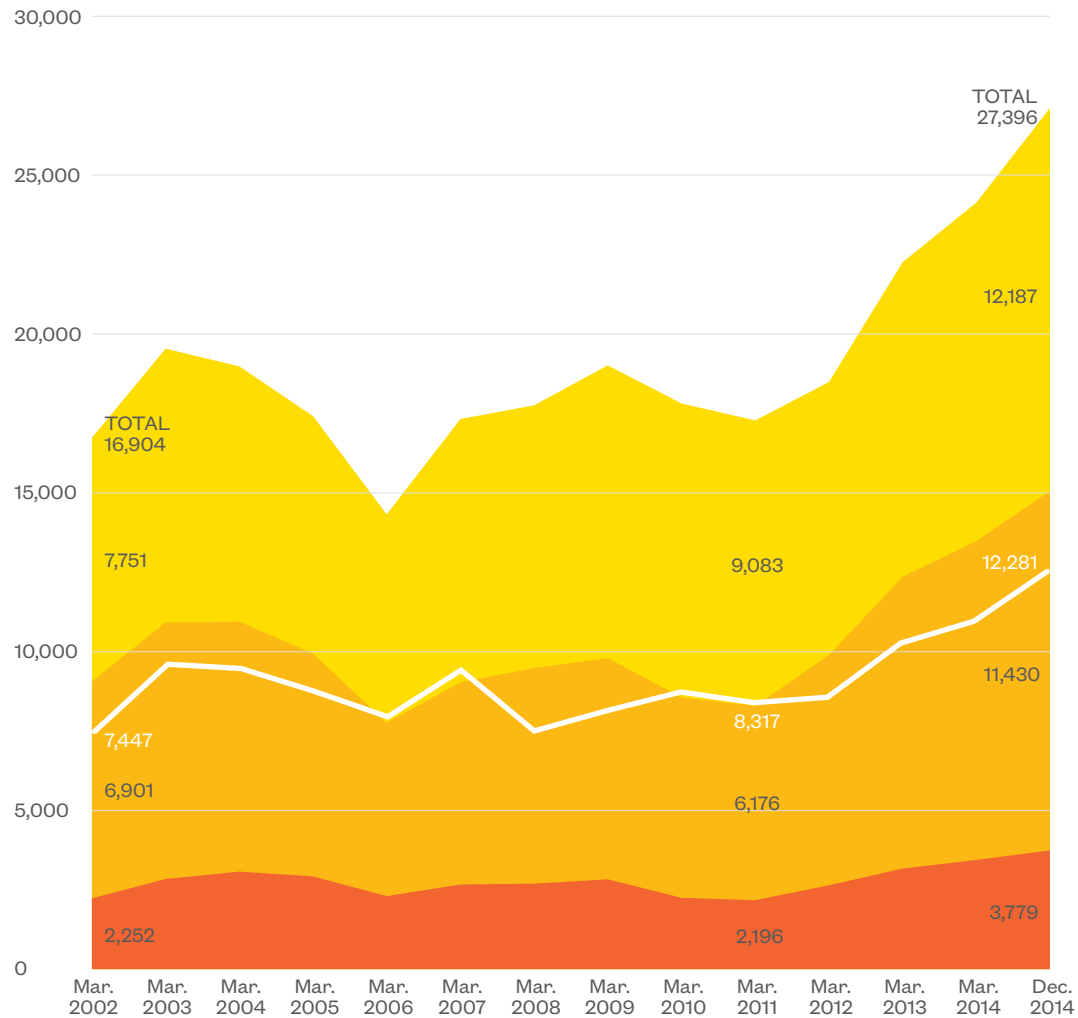
Since March 2011, family shelters have seen a rapid increase in the number of children aged 6 through 13. This group increased by 85% in less than four years (March 2011–December 2014).

**Both community factors and shelter policies contribute to the reasons why many families enter shelter more than once.**

## Families and Children Living in New York City Shelters

March 2002–December 2014, by Month and Year

■ Ages 0–5 ■ Ages 6–13 ■ Ages 14–17 □ Families



Note: "Families" years 2002–2007 are sourced from New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Critical Activities Reports; years 2008–2014 are sourced from DHS Daily Report monthly averages. Number of children by age reflects the total count of individual children served in DHS family shelters per month, while "Families" reflects the daily average number of families served in the shelters during that month. Prior to 2008, family counts included both families with children and adult families. Beginning in 2008, DHS began counting families with children and adult families separately, and the graph for those years shows only families with children.

Source: New York City Department of Homeless Services, *Critical Activities Report*, FY 2002–FY 2011; New York City Department of Homeless Services, *Daily Report*, 2008–2014; New York City Department of Homeless Services, *DHS Data Dashboard Charts*, FY 2012–FY 2015.