

# First-Time Homeless Are the Smallest Proportion of Families in Shelter

Over 17,000 families lived in shelter at some point between July 2014 and December 2014. Fewer than 3,000 (16%) entered shelter for the first time in the 2014 calendar year.

The majority (56%) of families with children in shelter between July 2014 and December 2014 entered shelter for the first time during the Bloomberg administration.

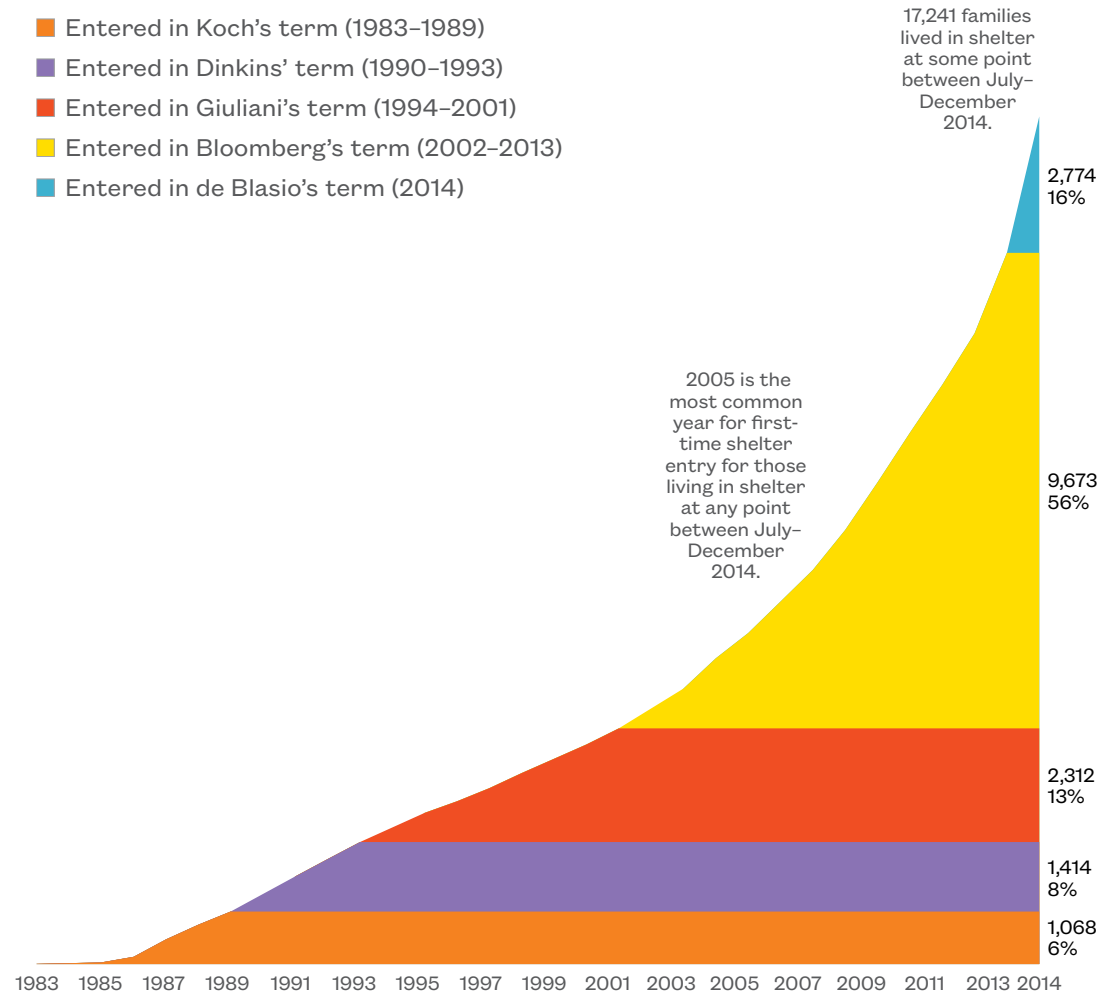
Growth in the shelter system is not due to new homeless families with children entering shelter, but to long-term stayers—families who have remained in shelter longer than one year or returned to shelter repeatedly. Eighty-four percent of families had entered shelter for the first time prior to the 2014 calendar year.

**In order to reduce family homelessness, the reasons families return to shelter must be addressed. A policy focus on long-term family stability is key.**

## First Date of Entry into the New York City Shelter System

Number and Percent of Families with Children Living in Shelters During July–December 2014, by Year of First Ever Entry into the New York City Shelter System

- Entered in Koch’s term (1983–1989)
- Entered in Dinkins’ term (1990–1993)
- Entered in Giuliani’s term (1994–2001)
- Entered in Bloomberg’s term (2002–2013)
- Entered in de Blasio’s term (2014)



Note: Chart depicts only families that were in shelter during July–December 2014. Families are unduplicated in each year. Years refer to calendar years. Data presented here do not provide information on the length of a family’s stay in shelter or the total number of times a family stayed in shelter.

Source: New York City Department of Homeless Services, unpublished data tabulated by the Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness, FY 2015.