



NYC CHILDREN: Homeless for the Holidays

This holiday season, more children will be living in homeless shelters* than any other time in recent history.

More than
20,000
children will live in homeless shelters this holiday season

That's
20%
more children sleeping in shelters than this time last year

The average homeless family will spend
355
days - nearly a year - in shelter



Compared to other children, homeless children are...

2X
more likely to experience anxiety, depression or withdrawal

4X
more likely to suffer from asthma or respiratory infections

missing
15
more days of school

The cost of housing a family in a shelter is 3X the cost of a rent subsidy.



While shelters are critical for providing emergency housing to homeless individuals and families, they are not a cost-effective, long-term solution. Rent subsidies and preventative services are critical.

The cost of one-month rent subsidy:
\$1,000

The cost of one month in a family shelter:
\$3,000

Sources: The National Center on Family Homelessness, *The Characteristics and Needs of Families Experiencing Homelessness*, December 2011; The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, *Facts on Trauma and Homeless Children*, 2005; New York City Department of Homeless Services, *DHS Daily Reports*, 2012; New York City Department of Homeless Services, *Critical Performance Report*, 2012; New York City Mayor's Office of Operations, *Fiscal 2012 Mayor's Management Report*, 2012.



* Statistics related to homeless shelter populations refer to family shelters administered by the New York City Department of Homeless Services.