



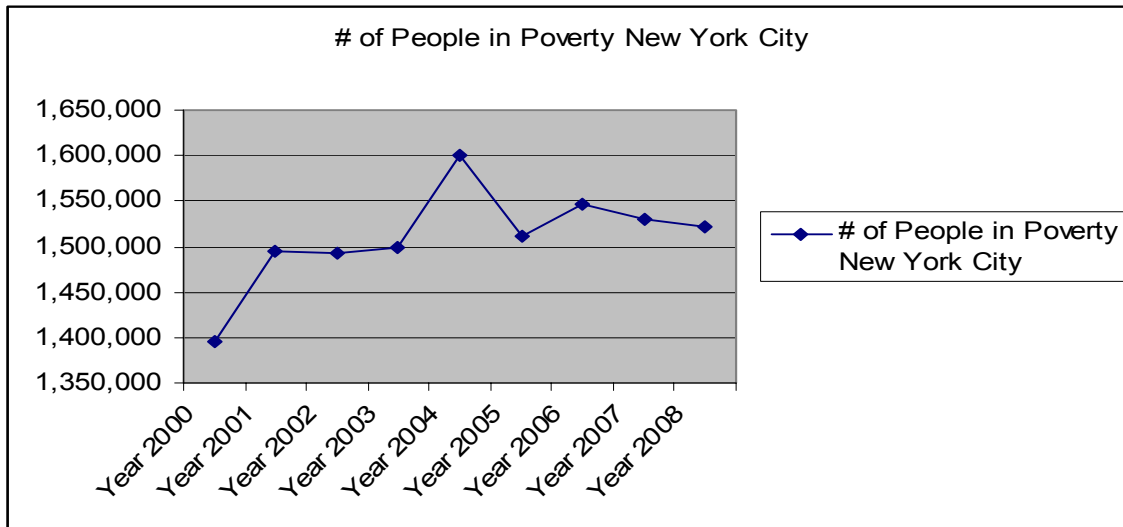
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## City and State Poverty Still Soared in 2008, Even Before Full Downturn; Advocates, Elected Officials Cite Failures of State and City Policies

### New Analysis: Only 3% of Poor New Yorkers Aided by Bloomberg Poverty Effort; New York Still Leads States in Income Inequality

More than 1.5 million New Yorkers – enough to fill Yankee Stadium 25 times over – lived in poverty in 2008, even before the full brunt of the economic downturn, according to U.S Census Bureau data released today. The number of New York City residents living below the meager federal poverty line - \$17,600 for a family of three – was 1,522,195 in 2008, fully 126,458 more people than in 2000.



Twenty-seven percent of city children – more than one out of four – lived in poverty. Statewide in New York, 2.643 million residents lived below the poverty line, 252,734 more than in 2000. Advocates said that the 2008 poverty numbers would have been even higher had the survey included the skyrocketing number of homeless New Yorkers who are not, by design, counted by the Census Bureau. According to the Coalition for the Homeless, in 2008, nearly 110,000 New Yorkers slept in municipal shelters at some point – 32 percent more than six years ago.

A new analysis conducted by the New York City Coalition Against Hunger found that all of the pilot anti-poverty programs initiated by Mayor Bloomberg's Center for Economic Opportunity combined involved approximately 42,000 people, which only equals about 3 percent -- or one in 33 New Yorkers – in poverty.

Said Joel Berg, Executive Director of the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, “Rhetoric, promises, and pilot initiatives aside, the fact that there are more people in poverty in the state and the city in 2008 than in 2000 proves that City and State policies are failing in fundamental ways. Given that our new analysis shows that only three out of every 100 poor people are even impacted by the Mayor’s much-vaunted poverty initiative, it is no wonder that the initiative has failed to reverse the reality that there are more people in poverty in the City today than eight years ago. City residents wouldn’t be satisfied if we had only miniscule anti-crime that protected only one in 33 New Yorkers from crime – likewise we shouldn’t find it acceptable that we are only aiding one in 33 New Yorkers in poverty. Much broader anti-poverty efforts are needed immediately at the federal, State, and City levels.

“The demand we’ve seen for our services at Cabrini Immigrant Services exemplifies the heightened need for food throughout New York City. Providing people with health care, food stamp benefits, and living wages would all help reduce poverty, and hunger, in the City,” said Director of Cabrini Immigrant Services, Christina Baal.

Said Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, “These poverty numbers are alarming, and they show us that local and state policies are in need of improvement. In the midst of the health care debate, anti-poverty and anti-hunger initiatives are critical to building a strong, healthy society.”

New York State had an inequality index of .503. The State continues to have the highest level of inequality in the country, with a rate higher than many nations in the developing world.

# of People in New York City in Poverty by Borough					
	# of people in poverty in the Bronx	# of people in poverty in Brooklyn	# of people in poverty in Manhattan	# of people in poverty in Queens	# of people in poverty in Staten Island
Year 2000	366,055	475,905	294,707	223,683	35,387
Year 2001	377,201	480,783	312,917	286,736	37,510
Year 2002	387,602	498,136	290,818	268,074	47,147
Year 2003	376,564	493,958	294,093	293,351	41,752
Year 2004	400,909	547,683	288,580	320,098	43,304
Year 2005	382,414	547,907	272,890	263,701	49,951
Year 2006	383,788	561,548	286,800	271,980	43,036
Year 2007	362,062	550,169	279,522	270,066	45,877
Year 2008	384,165	539,400	276,280	277,453	48,740

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