

Single Adult Homelessness in NYC

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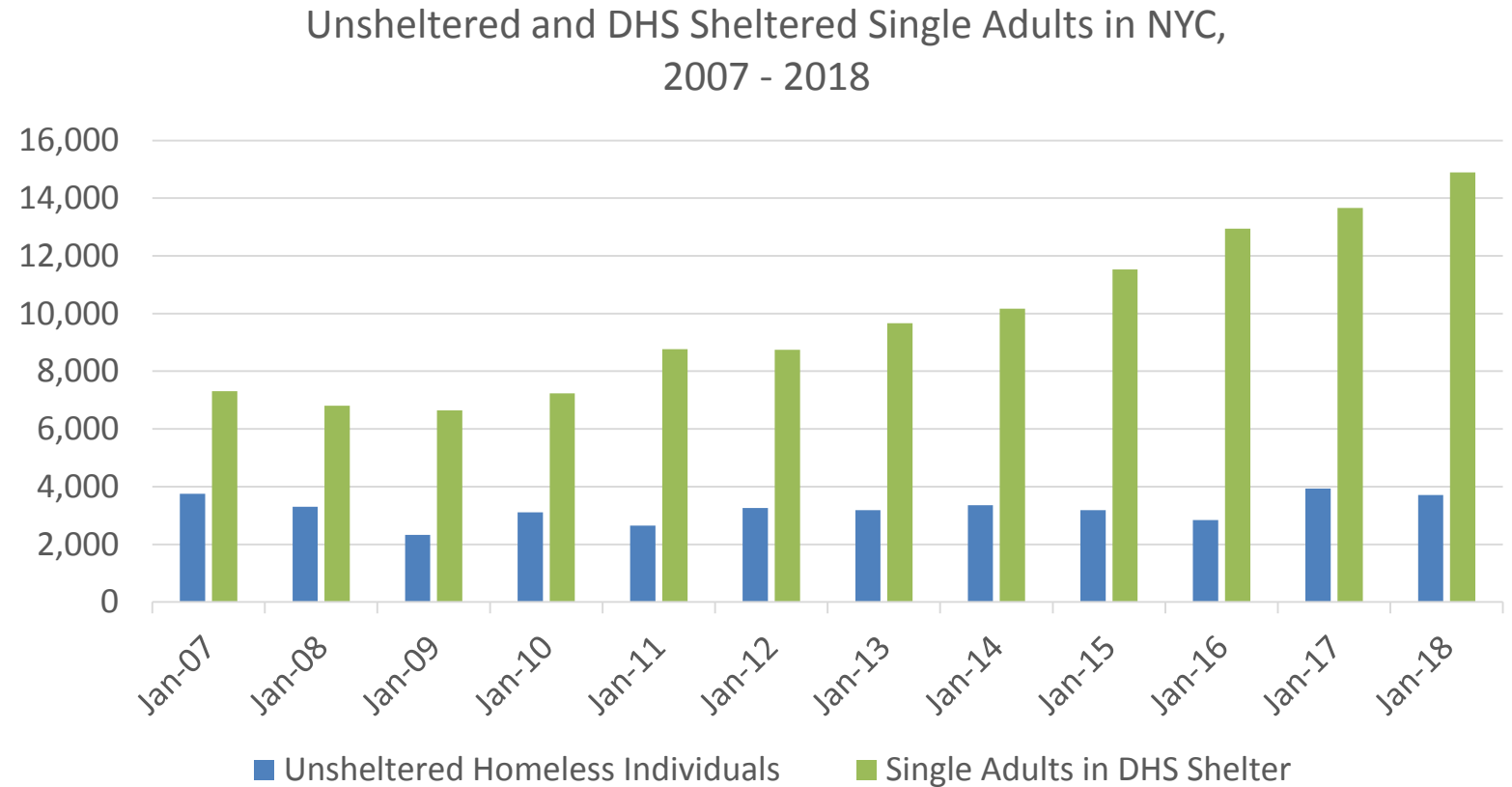
Key Findings

- Increasing shelter capacity and housing opportunities has kept the unsheltered count stable even as single adult homelessness in NYC continues to grow.
- More than 70% of single adults in shelter are men; women have notably higher rate of mental health issues and slightly longer length of stay.
- There's substantial racial disparity in adults entering shelter—as compared to the composition of NYC residents in poverty—but not in shelter outcomes (length of stay; placements).
- Length of stay is increasing, with long-term stayers the primary driver of NYC's nightly single adult shelter census increase.
- Age matters for length of stay in shelter and housing placements—in particular older adults are more likely to be long term stayers and young adults short term.
- Need more housing opportunities; individuals who exit shelter on their own commonly come back, but housing placements (especially subsidized) lead to far lower rates of returns to shelter.

Background

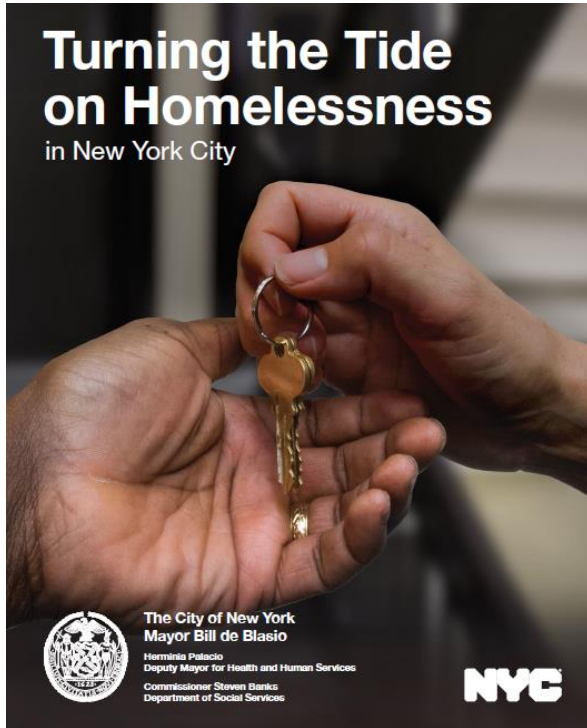
Increasing Adult Homelessness

- Single Adults in DHS Emergency Shelter have more than doubled (+104%), while unsheltered homelessness has stayed roughly the same from 2007 to 2018.
- NYC has a Right to Shelter law and operates ~140 Single Adult shelters across the city.



Source: NYC Department of Social Services, Office of Planning and Performance Management (OPPM)

NYC Plan: Turning the Tide



Published 2017

Single Adult-related plans:

- Adding specialized shelters, beds and services (e.g. Marsha's House LGBTQI shelter, specialized shelters for adults over 50)
- Adding safe havens, stabilization and respite beds
- Drop-in-Centers operating 24/7 in all boroughs
- Creating a system wide coordinated entry system (CAPS) for housing
- Adding supportive housing and creating housing opportunities for those who don't quite qualify for supportive housing

NYC Shelter System

HOW SHELTER WORKS IN NYC

Intake / Assessment

- Front Door Diversion
- Comprehensive Assessment



Program Shelter

- Special Populations
- Mental Health
- Employment
- Substance Use
- General Population

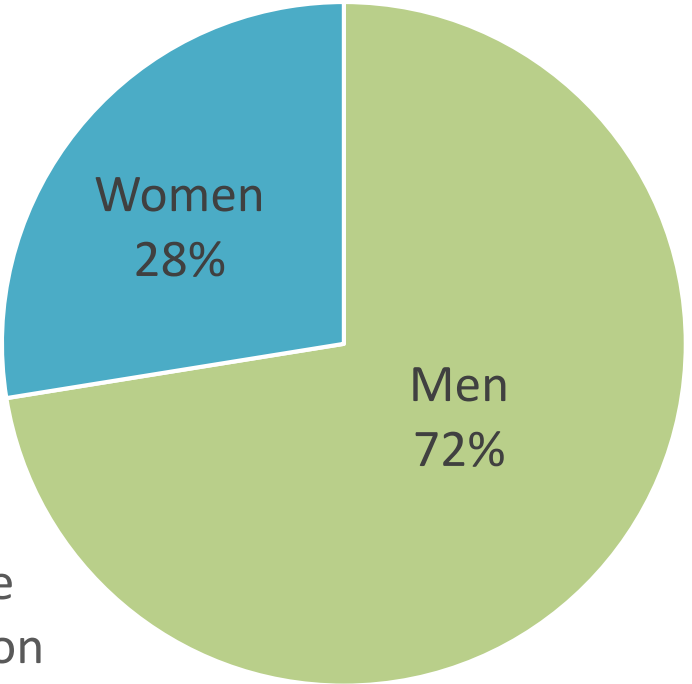


Permanent Housing

- Subsidy
- Supportive Housing
- Unsubsidized Housing

Composition and Trends in NYC Single Adult Shelters

Single Adults in Shelter by Sex

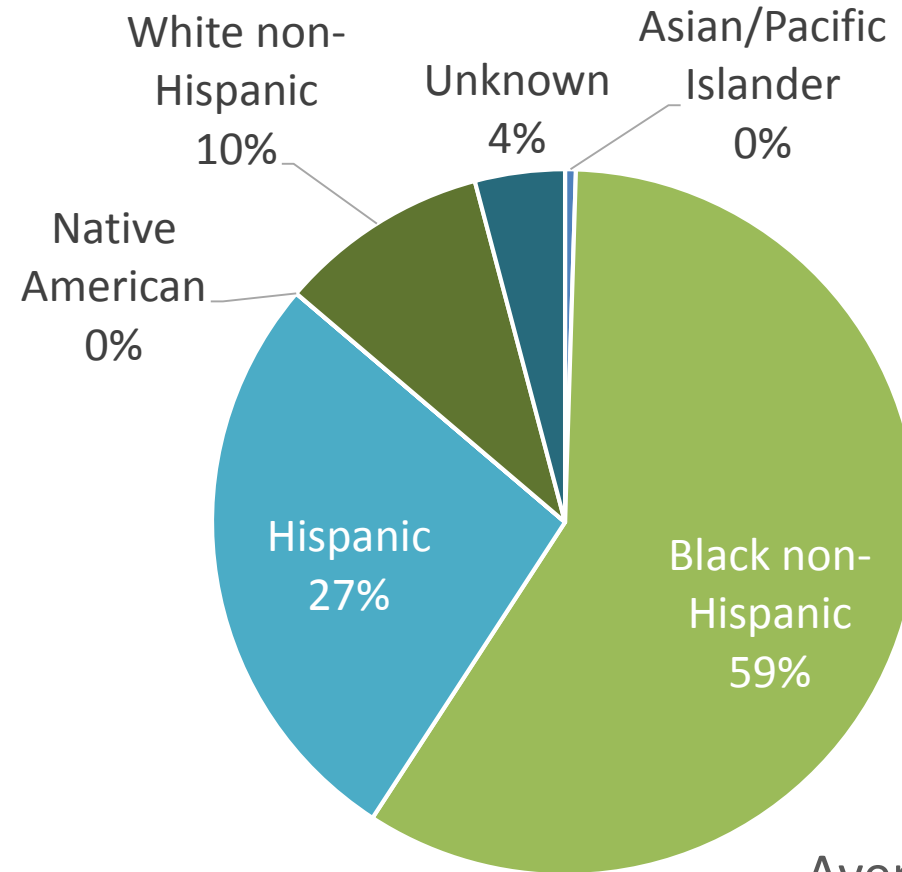


Average
Proportion
2018

	% with Mental Health Condition	Average Nights in Shelter in Prior 4 Years
Women	48%	341 days
Men	33%	325 days

Single Adults in Shelter by Race/Ethnicity

- 21% of NYC's poor are non-Hispanic African American, compared to 59% of single adults in shelter.
- 24% of NYC's poor are Hispanic compared to 27% of SA in shelter.
- Proportions have remained consistent for many years.

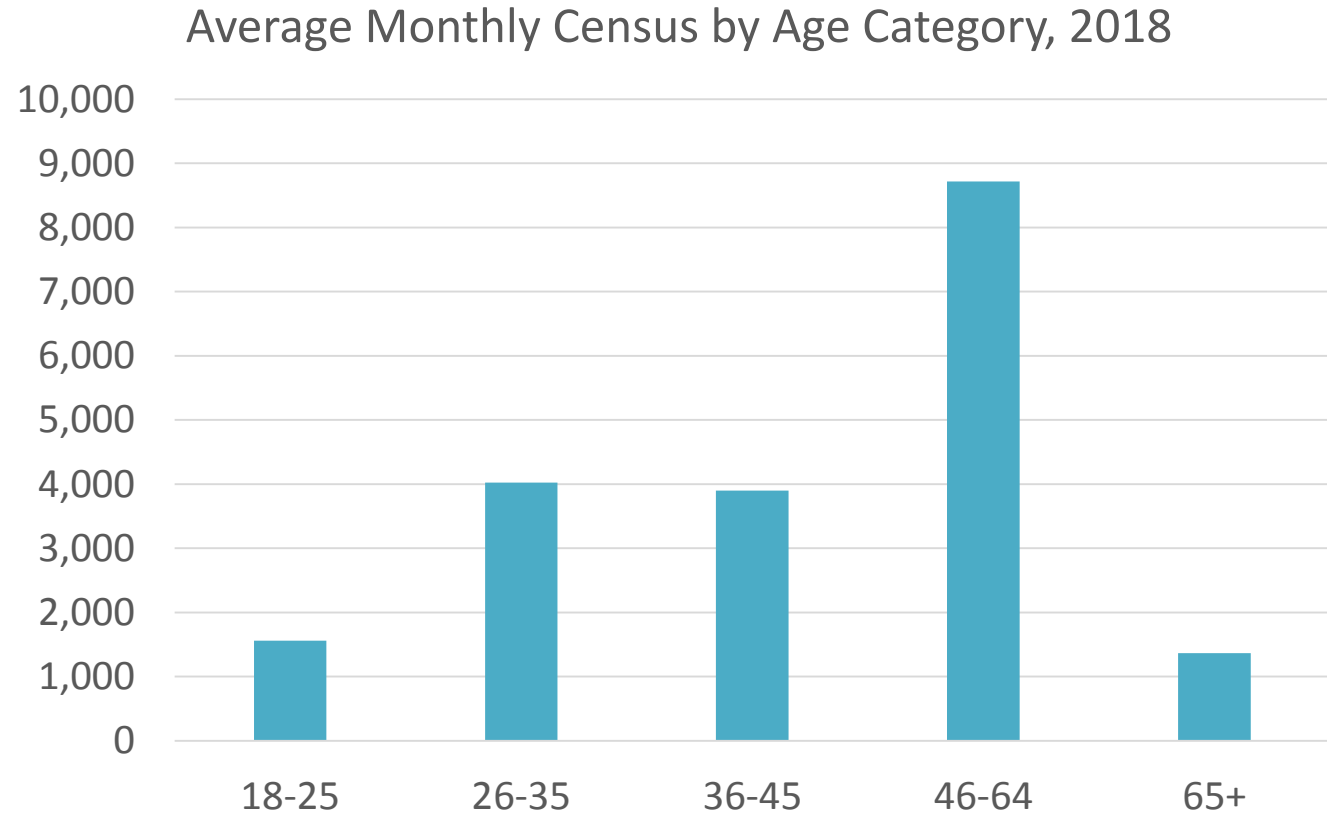


Average Proportion 2018

Sources: 2017 US Census ACS, OPPM

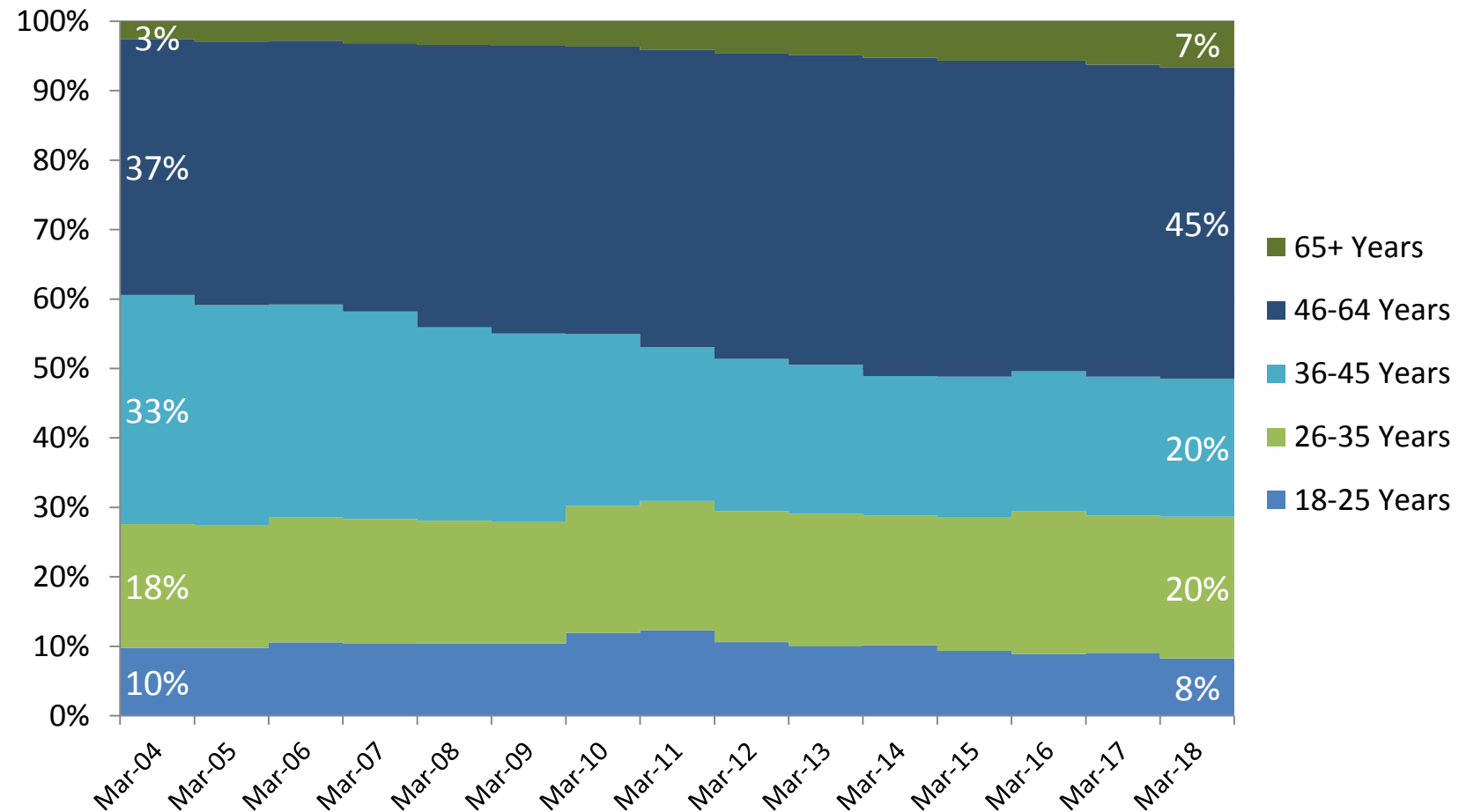
Single Adults in Shelter by Age

- 45% of single adults are between ages 46 and 64.
- Older adults (65+) and youth (18-25) make up 15% of the single adults in shelter. (*Note: non-DHS youth shelter data not included.*)



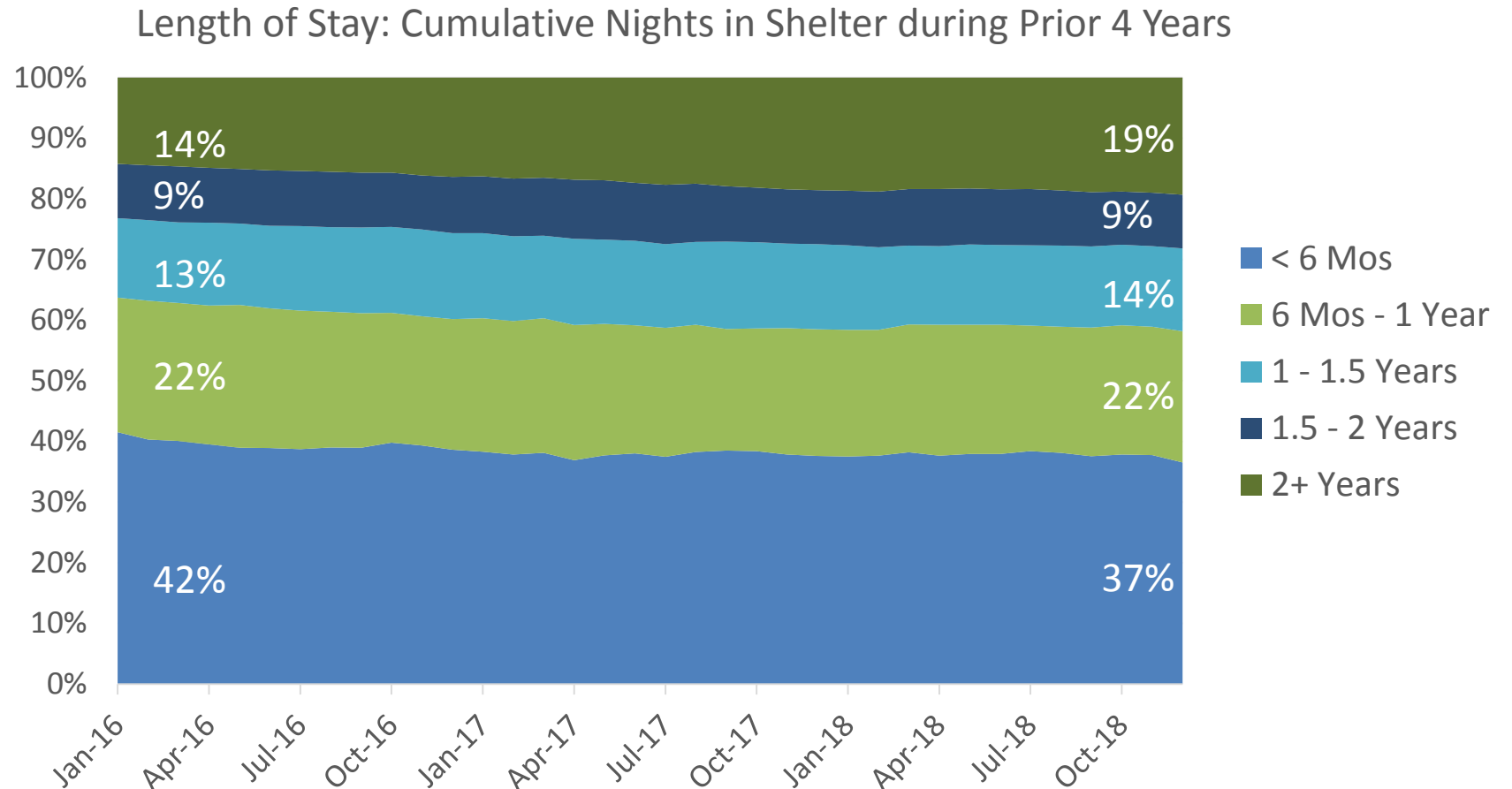
Trends in Single Adults in Shelter by Age, 2004-2018

- Populations ages 46-64 and 65+ are growing as a proportion of single adults in shelter.
- The 65+ group is projected to grow by 165% by 2030 (Culhane et al. 2019. *The Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness*).



Trends in Single Adults' Length of Stay, 2016-2018

- Length of stay is increasing: Proportion with 2+ years in shelter out of prior 4 years increased 5 percentage points (an increase of ~1,500).
- Proportion staying in shelter <6 months decreased 5 percentage points (grew by only ~500).



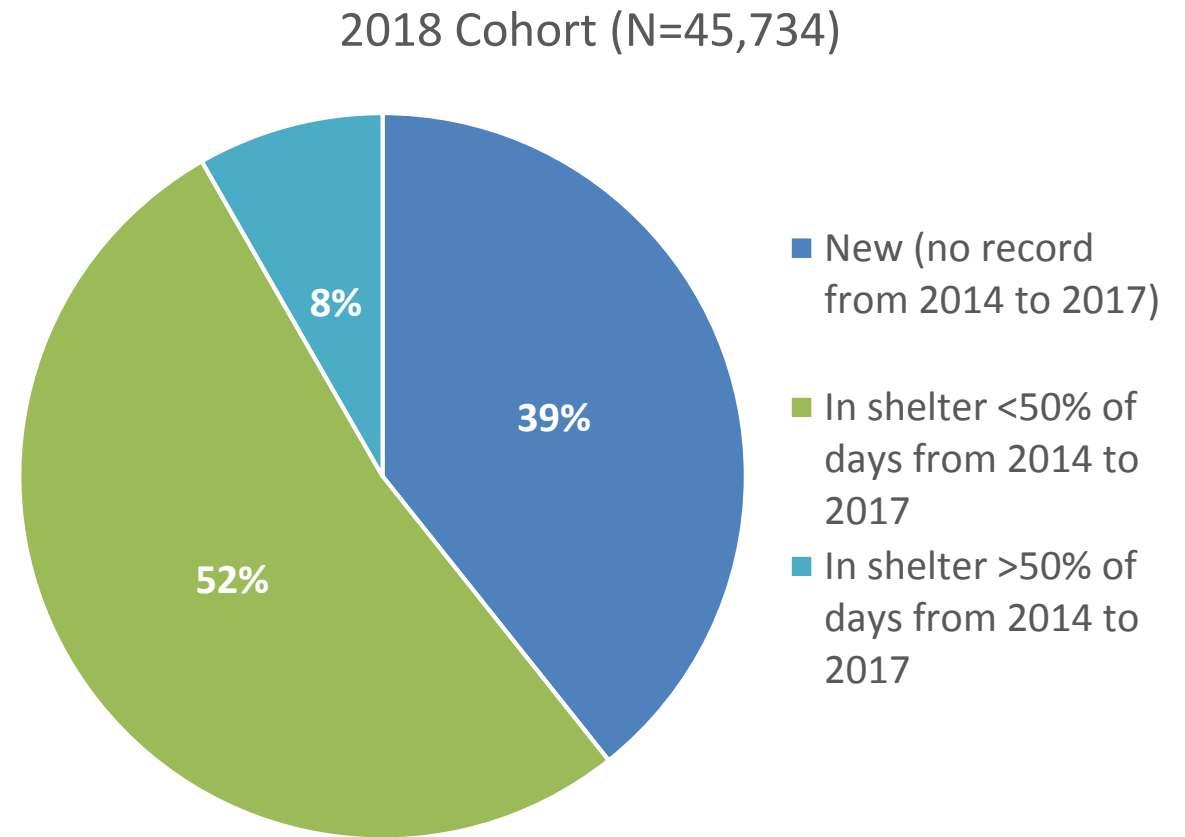
Shelter Trends for Single Adults, 2016 -2018

	Monthly Total Jan 2016	Monthly Total Dec 2018	# Difference	% Change
Single Adult DHS Monthly Total	16,343	20,174	+3,831	+23%
# New Cases (<i>no record in the prior year</i>)	1,678	1,593	-85	-5%
# Returning within one year of last stay (<i>after exit of at least 30 days</i>)	959	1,052	+93	+10%
# Long-term Stayers (<i>in shelter > 2 years in 4 years</i>)	2,319	3,848	+1,529	+66%

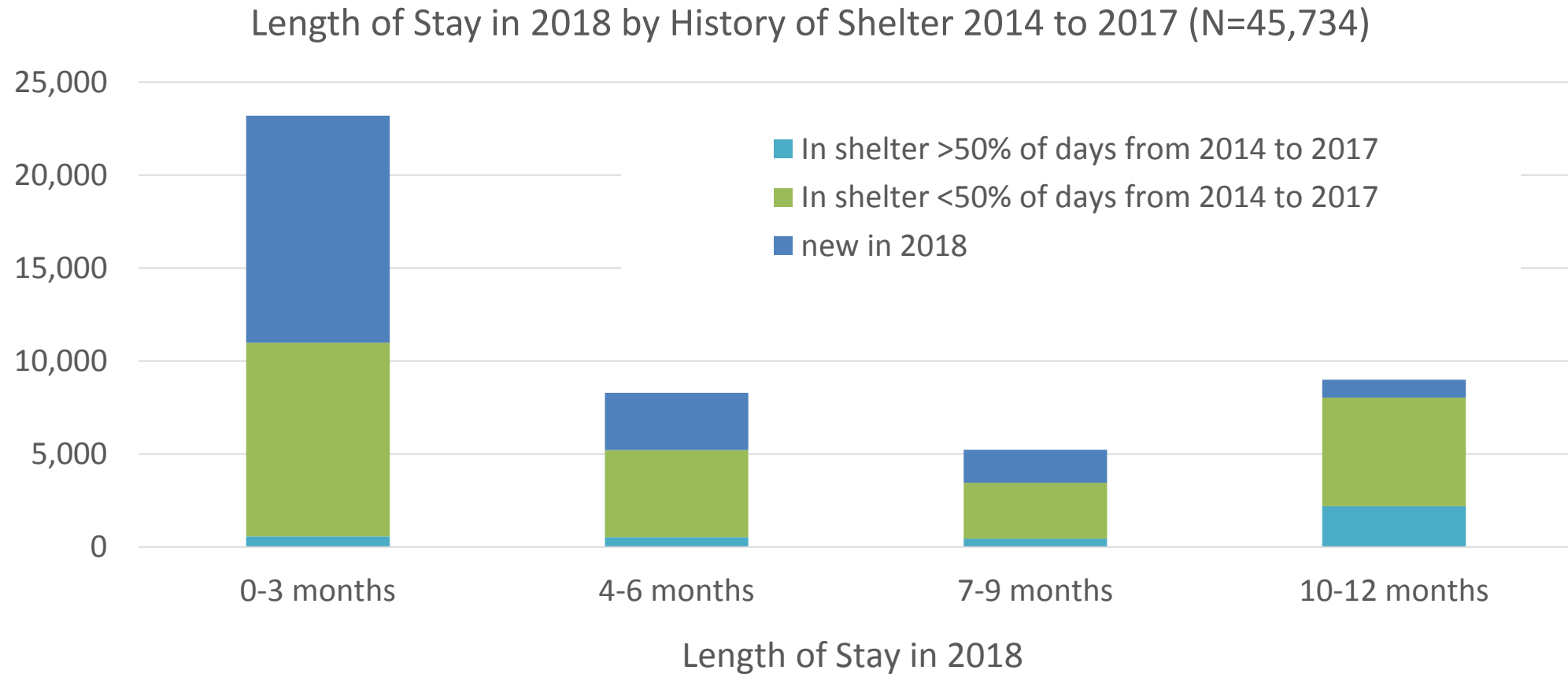
2018 Adult Shelter Cohort Study

2018 Shelter Residents: 2014-17 Shelter History

- In 2018, 45,734 adults spent at least one night in DHS Single Adult shelters.
 - Average of 20,175 individuals per month; 15,470 per day
- Analysis going back to Jan 2014 finds:
 - **39% (~18,000) were new in 2018**—*i.e., no stay in 2014-2017*.
 - **8% (~3,700) had extensive prior shelter experience**, spending more than 50% of the 2014-2017 period (>730 days) in shelter.
- Length of stay *in* 2018 varied, in part due to date of entrance, median of ~90 days



2018 Shelter Residents: 2014-17 Shelter History

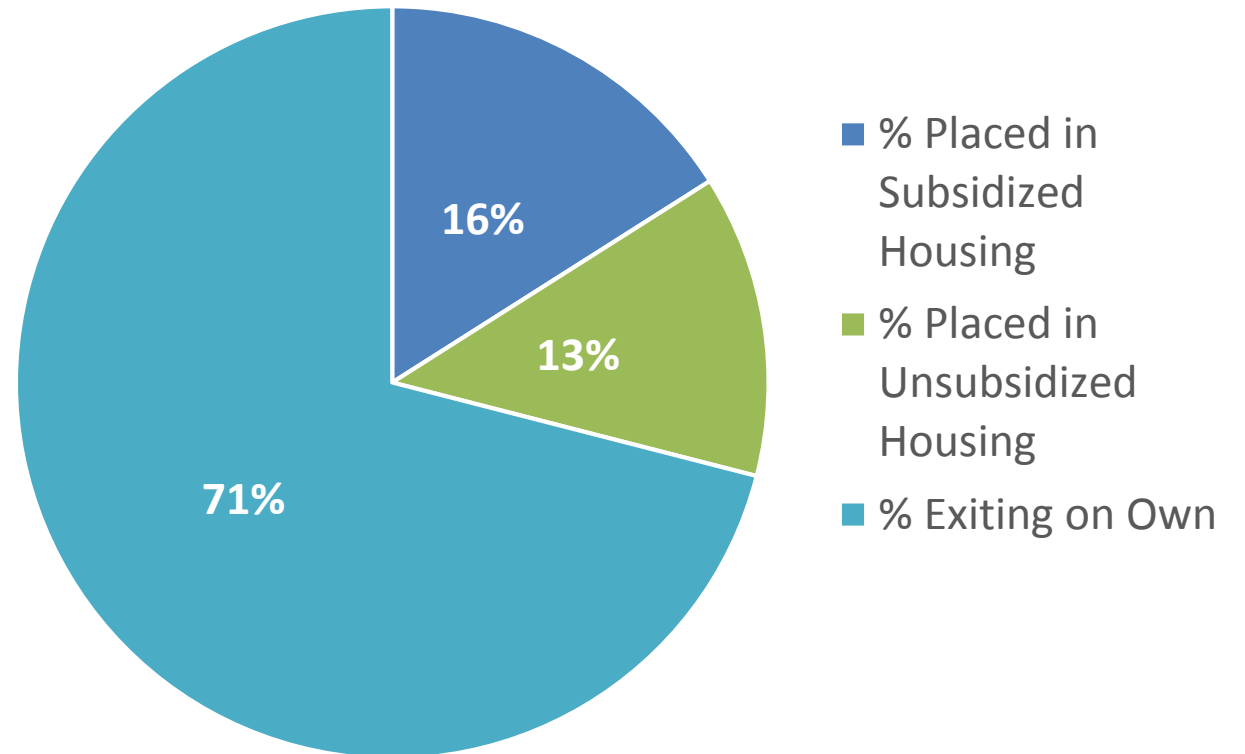


2018 Shelter Residents: Exits and Placements

- **More than half of all single adults** in shelter in 2018 (62%; ~28,000) had at least one exit that lasted 30+ days.
- Most of these individuals (~20,000) “exited on own”—likelihood of return is high.
- **29% of exits (~8,000) were housing placements.**
 - 16% placed in subsidized housing; 6.9% 1-year return rate.*
 - 13% placed in unsubsidized housing; 24.5% 1-year return rate.*

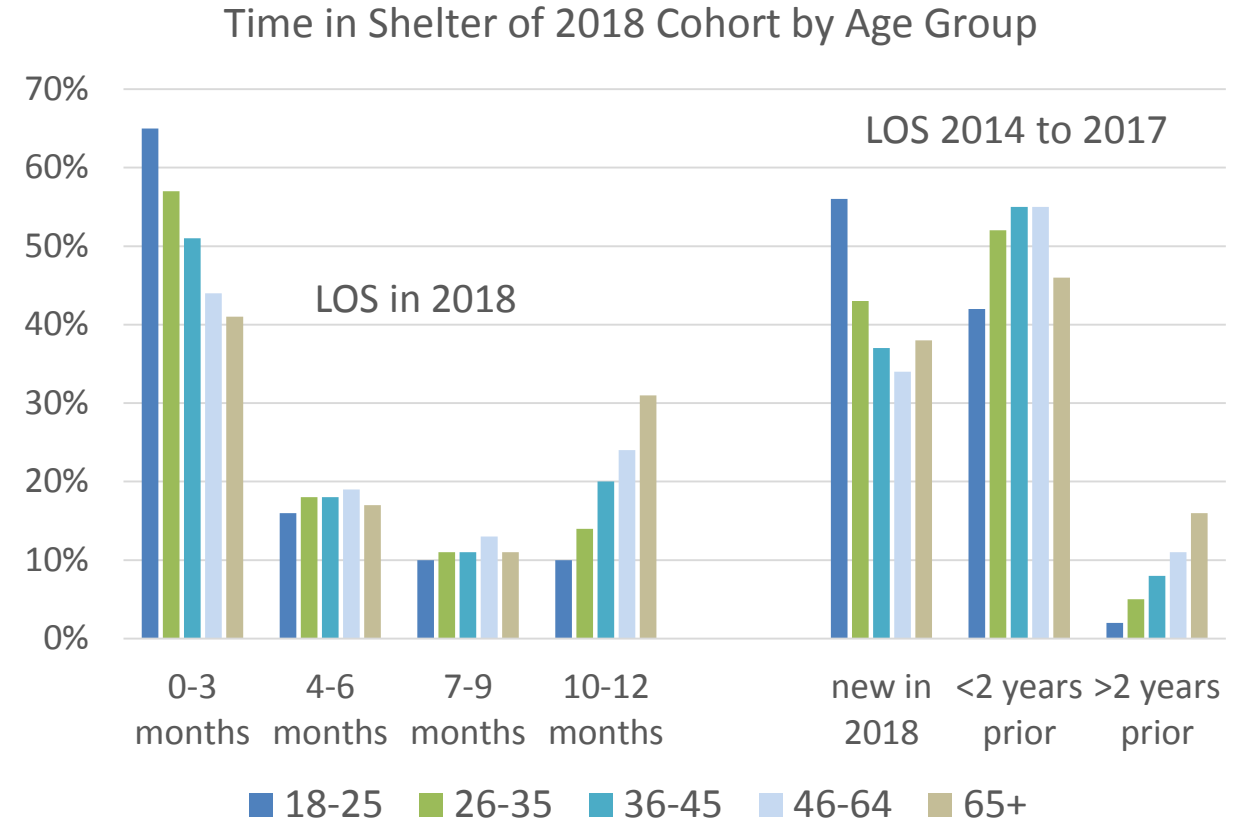
*Return rates based on FY2018 analysis (source: 2019 NYC Mayor’s Management Report).

Distribution of Shelter Exits (30+ Days) in 2018
(n=28,464)



2018 Shelter Residents: Analysis of Patterns by Individual Characteristics

- Shelter stay patterns and shelter exits/placements are largely consistent across sex and race/ethnicity.
- Differences are substantial by age group, however, and generally follow a gradient. Compared to overall trends:
 - Youth (<25 years) tended to have shortest stays in 2018, and less shelter history; they were also less likely to be placed in subsidized housing.
 - Older adults (65+ years) had longer stays with more shelter history—and a higher rate of subsidized housing placement.



Questions of Interest

- Are the sources/causes of single adult homelessness changing?
- What demographic groups are growing / returning / staying for long periods of time?
- What characteristics matter for housing placements?
- As coordinated entry (CAPS) is implemented, what effect will we see on length of stay (LOS) and subsidized exits?
- What type and scale of housing solutions are needed to reduce entry, LOS, and returns to homelessness?

Questions / Comments

Thank you!