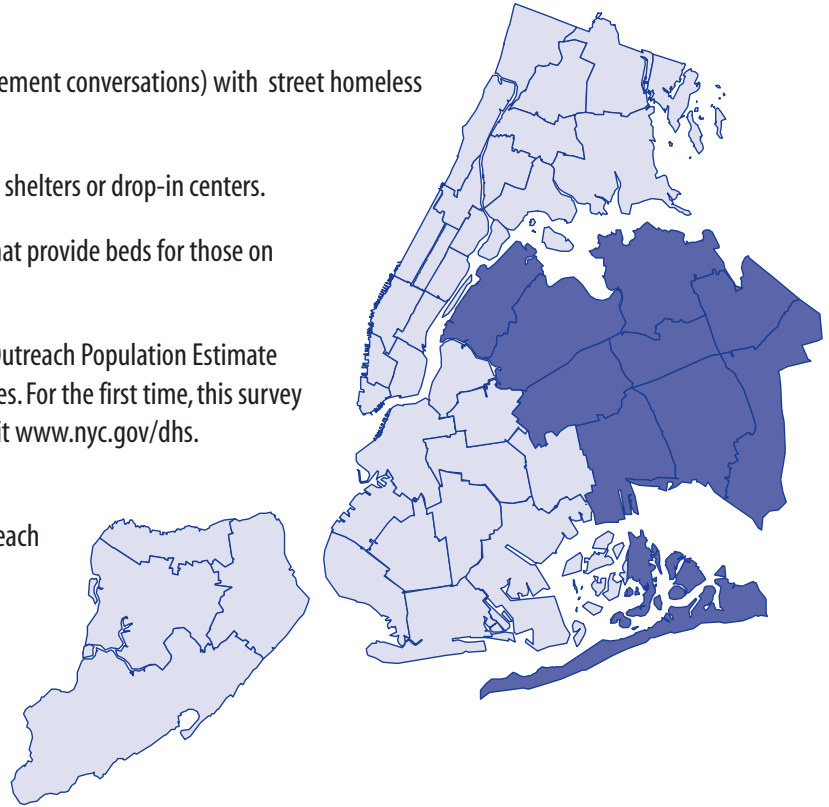
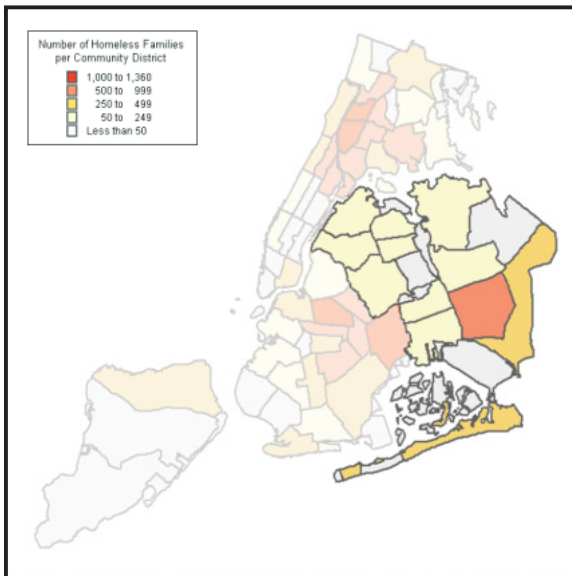


## Street Homelessness in Queens

- Queens outreach teams have an average of 1,219 contacts (engagement conversations) with street homeless people every month.
- These contacts result in an average of 78 monthly placements into shelters or drop-in centers.
- In addition to shelters, Queens has 18 faith-based organizations that provide beds for those on the streets.
- In February 2005, the city will conduct its third annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) to estimate the number of individuals living in public spaces. For the first time, this survey will be conducted in Queens. To volunteer for this event, please visit [www.nyc.gov/dhs](http://www.nyc.gov/dhs).
- There is no official estimate of the number of individuals living on the streets and in other public spaces in Queens. However, outreach teams report higher concentrations of street homeless individuals in Jamaica, Astoria, and Corona.



## Family Homelessness in Queens



- Jamaica is one of the 10 communities citywide that experience the highest incidences of family homelessness.
- In total, 12% of all families eligible for shelter services come from Queens.
- The average size of families entering shelter from Queens is 2.96. The citywide average is 2.90.

**If you see someone in need on the street, dial 311 and a mobile outreach response team will be dispatched to visit the person and assist them into shelter.**

The Department of Homeless Services worked with the Vera Institute of Justice to understand where homeless families are coming from.

## Contributing Factors

Studies have shown that factors such as poverty, unemployment rates, and mental illness, among others, affect rates of homelessness. Here's a snapshot of how Queens compares to the rest of the city on these factors.

Factor	Queens	Citywide	Percent of Citywide
Population <sup>2</sup>	2,229,379	8,008,278	28%
Persons Living Below Poverty Level <sup>2</sup>	321,102	1,668,938	19%
Persons Living Below 200% of Poverty Level <sup>2</sup>	720,655	3,124,894	23%
Persons on Public Assistance <sup>3</sup>	53,083	438,062	12%
Female Heads of Household <sup>2</sup>	125,089	576,354	22%
Children in Foster Care <sup>4</sup>	2,855	18,723	15%
No. of Adults with Emotional Distress Consistent with Mental Illness <sup>5</sup>	107,500	385,300	28%
Prevalence of Alcohol or Drug Abuse <sup>6</sup>	209,311	746,985	28%
Median Rent <sup>2</sup>	\$775	\$705	N/A
Percent of Renter-Households that spend 50% of Household Income on Rent <sup>2</sup>	20.73%	22.31%	N/A
Median Household Income <sup>7</sup>	\$42,439	\$38,293	N/A
Unemployment Rates <sup>6</sup>	6.5%	7.9%	N/A

To get involved in *Uniting for Solutions Beyond Shelter*, visit [www.nyc.gov/endinghomelessness](http://www.nyc.gov/endinghomelessness).

Sources:

- 1: Homeless Outreach Population Estimate, a point-in-time estimate of the number of unsheltered individuals, February 2004
- 2: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census
- 3: HRA Facts Quarterly Supplement, April 2004
- 4: Administration for Children's Services, May 2004
- 5: Estimate based on the NYC DOHMH, Community Health Survey, 2002
- 6: NYS OASAS, alcohol and non-opiate prevalence based on 1994 NYS Household Survey applied to 2002 U.S. Census, age 18+; opiate prevalence based on 1998 NYS Heroin Study applied to 2002 U.S. Census, age 16+.
- 7: U.S. Dept of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2002