

## **Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter Outcomes since the Elimination of Advantage: Key Findings**

### **The shelter system has become more volatile in terms of utilization and exit patterns.**

- There was a 9% increase in residents exiting shelter to unknown destinations suggesting volatility in the system.
- The length of stay in 2011 for April -July was 67 days compared to 82 days in 2010.
  - Residents are continuing to leave in large numbers at the end of the maximum time allowed in shelter (day 135) but, there is also an increase in residents leaving earlier in their stay which is perhaps indicative of residents deciding to return to unsafe or unstable situations rather than remain in shelter for lack of long-term supports available upon the end of the shelter stay (see charts below).

### **Housing outcomes are less stable since Advantage was eliminated**

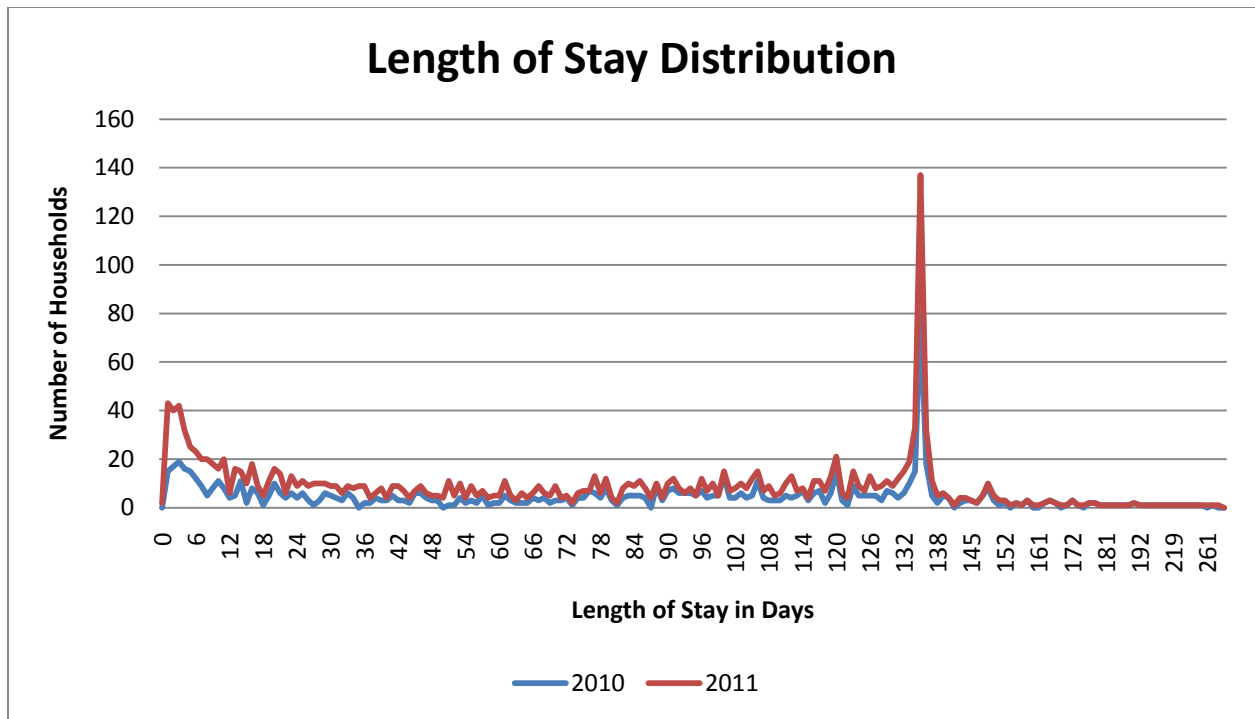
While at first glance, it appears that the permanent housing placement rate has not changed much since Advantage was eliminated, drilling down into housing types tells a different story.

Residents accessing federal housing resources did so largely by securing emergency transfers – meaning they fled a NYCHA/Section 8 apartment and were able to locate to a new unit in a safe location.

There was a substantial increase (14%) in the number of residents reporting returning to an old apartment without their batterers. There is no way to verify whether or not the batterer did in fact vacate the former residence and if so, no way to guarantee that he or she would not return to attempt to harm the victim. According to the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence nearly 40% of battered women are victimized again within 6 months.

There was a 44% increase in reports of going to "Other Permanent Housing" – such housing is not subsidized or government controlled which alludes to the following potential problems with stability:

- DV shelter residents placed in Advantage, NYCHA or Section 8 Housing are subject to "zip codes of exclusion rules" disallowing moves to areas deemed unsafe or known to the batterer. In the absence of government assistance, residents locating housing on their own are likely to rely on social networks and seek housing in familiar neighborhoods which may be easily identifiable by a batterer.
- Unlike the Advantage or Section 8 Programs, un-assisted housing units are not subject to any inspection standards such that conditions may be unsafe in these units including overcrowding, lack of appropriate fire exits (such as in illegal basement units which are often most affordable) or may contain other housing code violations (mold, vermin, etc.).



	April -July 2011 (82% response rate)		April -July 2010 (92% response rate)		
<b>Destination After Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Permanent Housing	90	12%	116	13%	-1%
Doubled-up with Family/Friends	131	17%	186	21%	-4%
Returned to Batterer	6	1%	13	1%	0%
Other Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter	20	3%	24	3%	0%
Domestic Violence Tier II Shelter	80	11%	120	14%	-2%
Referred to DHS (PATH)	223	29%	254	29%	0%
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>+9%</b>
Other	10	1%	16	2%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>758</b>		<b>879</b>		

Prepared by New Destiny Housing on 9/19/11 based on the Statistics for Advocacy Project of the Coalition of Domestic Violence Residential Providers for the months of April - July 2010 & 2011

Types of Permanent Housing	April - July 2011		April - July 2010		Difference
	Number of Households	%	Number of Households	%	
NYCHA	9*	10%	8*	7%	+3%
Section 8 Housing	4**	4%	1**	1%	+3%
Advantage- unspecified	0	0%	1	1%	-1%
DV Advantage	0	0%	62	53%	-53%
Work Advantage	0	0%	8	7%	-7%
Fixed Income Advantage	0	0%	5	4%	-4%
Other Permanent Housing	58	64%	23	20%	+44%
Returned to Own Apt (reportedly without batterer)	19	21%	8	7%	+14%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>		<b>116</b>		

\* The application process for NYCHA Public Housing can take up to 1 year even with the emergency DV priority. Some of these residents may have filed the application prior to entering shelter or were replaced in NYCHA housing post-shelter after securing an emergency transfer from their former NYCHA apartments to another unit in a safe location.

\*\*The Section 8 waiting list is closed. These resident entered shelter fleeing an abuser from a Section 8 apartment and was able to secure a transfer