



Statistics for Advocacy: NYCHA and Section 8 DV Priority Applications

In April 2006, NYCHA amended the DV documentation requirements for DV victims applying for the emergency priority for NYCHA public housing and Section 8 housing assistance. The New York City Coalition of Domestic Violence Residential Providers has been collecting data on residents discharged from the specialized domestic violence shelter system to track how the changes to the requirements have affected outcomes for those applying for NYCHA public housing and Section 8 assistance. The data discussed in this report represents survey data collected from domestic violence shelters on residents exiting the system in 2009.¹

	Qualified for DV Priority		Linked to NYCHA or Section 8 Apartments under DV priority at exit		Emergency Transfer approved at time of shelter exit	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Emergency Shelters	28%	639	4%	67	2%	30
Tier II – Transitional Shelters	30%	110	18%	52	1%	3

This data brings two key issues to light:

- 1) The length of stay in domestic violence shelters and the amount of time it takes for a NYCHA or Section 8 applications to be approved are grossly out of alignment. There is a substantial difference between the number of households who qualify for the DV priority and the number of those exiting from both Emergency and Tier II shelters with NYCHA or Section 8 housing. In 2009, **the average length of stay in a DV emergency shelter was 83 days overall. But, for those leaving shelter with NYCHA or Section 8 housing the average length of stay in the emergency shelter was 129 days.** For Tier II shelters, the average length of stay was 188 days overall and 198 for those linked to a NYCHA or Section 8 apartment under the DV priority at the time of their shelter exit.
- 2) The amended NYCHA Documentation requirements still eliminate a large number of domestic violence shelter residents. While all residents entering domestic violence shelters are screened for domestic violence, less than one third in both Emergency and Tier II shelters qualify for the emergency priority for NYCHA and Section 8 housing assistance.

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¹ Percentages and numbers reflect the percent of the total shelter population where DV priority status was known at the time of shelter exit.