

April 16, 2012 clear sky | 71.1°F

SUPPORT WNYC & PLEDGE TODAY!

WNYC News Blog

Evictions on the Rise in the City

Monday, April 16, 2012 - 12:00 AM

By [Cindy Rodriguez](#)

Recommend

Share

Tweet

2

Like



Patterson Houses public housing in the Bronx (Stephen Nessen/WNYC)

Eviction rates increased in all boroughs except Manhattan in 2011, but nowhere was the problem as bad as in the Bronx.

There were 10,140 evictions carried out in the Bronx in 2011, a 17 percent increase over the prior year, according to data from city marshal reports. Citywide, evictions rose 7 percent during that same period. The exception was Manhattan, which saw a 13 percent decline.

Advocates who work with people facing eviction say the economic downturn is far from over in the borough. More people were evicted last year than in 2008, when the recession began. Howard Baum, a supervising attorney at Legal Aid's Bronx office, said he's seen an increase in the unemployed.

"They were some of the most vulnerable people in the jobs they did have," Baum said. "And now that so many of them have lost their employment, it's just not possible for them to keep to their homes."

As of January, the Bronx's unemployment rate was 13.8 percent, the highest rate in the city, and in some in neighborhoods of the borough the rate is much higher.

Sally Dunford directs an anti-eviction program at West Bronx Housing and Neighborhood Resource Center. She said her office has more work than it can handle. "I don't even advertise our services," Dunford said, "because I'm too afraid of what would happen if we actually started advertising."

The median monthly rent in the Bronx was \$1,008 in 2010, according to the Furman Center for Real Estate at NYU.

Landlords say the problem is not good for them either. "The last thing owners want to do is go through the time and expense of housing court," said Frank Ricci from the Rent Stabilization Association, a landlord group. "It affects the bottom line of the building which in turn affects all the other tenants."

Both Legal Aid and Dunford's office said they are also seeing families who recently lost the Advantage housing subsidy from the city this year. The subsidy provided rental assistance for people so they could leave the city's shelter system. But the state cut funding for the program and the city followed suit, not wanting to foot the bill on its own. According to the Department of Homeless Services, 40 percent of the families receiving this subsidy were living in the Bronx.

Lauren Donnelly, another Legal Aid attorney, said that means the eviction problem is only going to grow worse. "That's absolutely going to happen. A lot of those people will go back to shelters," Donnelly said.

The city is well aware of the problem. Homeless Services Commissioner Seth Daimond brought up the rising eviction rate at a recent hearing and said the city is working on an eviction prevention program to be piloted in Bronx housing court.

TAGS: [eviction](#), [homeless](#), [housing](#)MORE IN: [WNYC News Blog](#) »

CINDY RODRIGUEZ

Cindy Rodriguez has been a staff reporter at WNYC, New York Public Radio since July of 2002. As the station's urban policy reporter she covers the impacts of poverty on communities in all five boroughs. ...

< 10:00

12:00 On Air Now

1:00 >



The Leonard Lopate Show - Unexpected Turns

On today's show, Eric Alterman looks at how the idea of liberalism has changed from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Barack Obama. Benjamin Busch talks about his memoir Dust to Dust. Today's installment of A History of ...

Other Formats

A History of the World in 100 Objects -

Hoa Hakananai'a Easter Island Statue

From Mexico to Easter Island, the followers

...

1:00

FM 93.9

AM 820



The Leonard Lopate Show - Unexpected Turns

On today's show, Eric Alterman...

1:15

FM 93.9

AM 820

SPONSORED

FEEDS

[WNYC News Blog Feed](#) (Atom)[eviction Feed](#) (Atom)[homeless Feed](#) (Atom)[housing Feed](#) (Atom)[All WNYC Stories](#) (Atom)

SUPPORTED BY

Related



WNYC NEWS BLOG
Health Care
Record Homelessness in New York, Report Finds



WNYC NEWS BLOG
Visual Arts
City to Stop Paying Rent for Thousands of Formerly Homeless



WNYC NEWS
Concert Series
As Subsidies Dry Up, Homeless Families Struggle to Find Housing

Leave a Comment

Register for your own account so you can vote on comments, save your favorites, and more. [Learn more.](#)
Please stay on topic, be civil, and be brief.
Email addresses are never displayed, but they are required to confirm your comments. Names are displayed with all comments. We reserve the right to edit any comments posted on this site. Please read the [Comment Guidelines](#) before posting. By leaving a comment, you agree to New York Public Radio's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms Of Use](#).

Name*
Email address*
Comment*

Location

Post Comment * Denotes a required field

- Events calendar
- Book an Event
- Directions
- In the Community
- Giveaways
- Schedule
- Video
- Archives & Preservation
- Jobs - We're hiring!
- The Empire
- It's A Free Country
- New Jersey Public Radio
- On The Media
- Radiolab
- Radio Rookies
- SchoolBook
- Studio 360
- The Takeaway
- Transportation Nation