

## **Testimony to the New York City Rent Guidelines Board: May 2026**

### **The Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University**

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#### **Introduction and Key Findings**

Thank you to the Rent Guidelines Board for the opportunity to submit testimony on experiences of poverty and hardship in New York City in 2024. The Center on Poverty & Social Policy at the Columbia University School of Social Work (CPSP) produces research to advance our understanding of poverty and the role of social policy in reducing poverty and promoting economic security and wellbeing. For more than a decade, CPSP has partnered with the Robin Hood foundation to administer the Poverty Tracker, a longitudinal study of the dynamics of poverty and disadvantage in New York City.

The most recent Poverty Tracker annual report, [The State of Poverty and Disadvantage in New York City, Vol 8](#), reveals the widespread reach of economic hardship in the city.<sup>1</sup> **Findings show that more New Yorkers were living in poverty in 2024 than at any other point since 2015, and many more were struggling with material hardship and affordability concerns.**<sup>2</sup> Building on this analysis, the following testimony hones in on the experiences of families living in rent-stabilized housing, examining the impacts of poverty, material hardship, health problems, and inflation on this population.

**In 2024, poverty in New York City rose to its highest rate since the Poverty Tracker began collecting data more than a decade ago.** More specifically, our most recent annual report shows:

- Between 2023 and 2024, the poverty rate in New York City rose from 25% to 26%, representing 2.2 million people in poverty, 450,000 of which are children.
- More than 1 in 4 children in New York City lived in poverty in 2024, as child poverty rates remained at a high of 27% for the second consecutive year.
- Half of adult New Yorkers (50%) experienced at least one form of disadvantage in 2024, defined as living in poverty, experiencing severe material hardship, and/or having severe health problems. Roughly 340,000 adult New Yorkers experienced all three forms of disadvantage together.

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<sup>1</sup> Poverty Tracker Research Group at Columbia University (2026). The State of Poverty and Disadvantage in New York City, Volume 8. Robin Hood. [Access here](#).

<sup>2</sup> The study does not have reliable poverty estimates for years before 2015. While the Poverty Tracker began collecting data in 2012, the sample was not robust enough to produce single-year poverty rates until calendar year 2015.

- Racial inequities in the data persisted: Black, Latino, and Asian New Yorkers were about twice as likely to experience poverty compared to White New Yorkers.
- Recent federal cuts to SNAP food assistance programs are projected to push roughly 70,000 additional New Yorkers into poverty in each year between 2028 and 2034.<sup>3</sup>

**Poverty Tracker data also show that rates of disadvantage were equally pronounced among New Yorkers living in rent-stabilized housing units, and that rates would have been even higher absent this policy.**<sup>4,5</sup> Key findings presented in the following testimony include:

- Rent stabilization is a unique and under-appreciated antipoverty tool. We estimate that across 2022-2024, approximately 140,000 adults and children were moved out of poverty by rent stabilization.
- Even so, an average of 27% of tenants in rent-stabilized units lived in poverty across 2022-2024 and 67% were low-income (i.e., lived below 200% of the poverty threshold).
- Among low-income rent-stabilized tenants, other forms of disadvantage were common: 38% experienced severe material hardship, 29% reported a health problem, and 24% reported serious psychological distress.
- Zeroing in on tenants who resided in rent-stabilized units for three consecutive years, nearly two-thirds (65%) experienced some form of disadvantage (poverty, severe material hardship, health problems or serious psychological distress) in at least one year.
- 81% of rent-stabilized tenants had to change their spending habits in response to inflation, with more than half reporting reductions in food purchases and/or money in savings.
- Rent burden – defined as spending more than 30% of household income on rent – is widespread, afflicting 43% of all rent-stabilized households and 80% of rent-stabilized households living in poverty.

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<sup>3</sup> These estimates are presented in the annual Poverty Tracker report cited in footnote (1). For methodological details, see: Wimer, C. and Gorzig, M. (2026). How many New Yorkers will be pushed into poverty by federal cuts to the SNAP program? Estimates from a new methodology in the face of policy uncertainty. New York: Robin Hood. [Access here](#).

<sup>4</sup> For information on how the Poverty Tracker identifies residents of rent-stabilized housing, see the “Identifying Residents in Rent-Stabilized Units” section of the Technical Appendix.

<sup>5</sup> Statistics presented in prior testimonies submitted to the Rent Guidelines Board in 2024 and 2025 examined results (and weighted the underlying data) at the family level. This year, for ease of interpretation and consistency with the Poverty Tracker results cited in the Board’s [2026 Income and Affordability Study](#), we present statistics (and weight the underlying data) at the individual tenant level.

## **Rent Stabilization Plays a Critical Role in Reducing Poverty in New York City**

Poverty is an important indicator of economic well-being and the ability to meet basic needs. The Poverty Tracker calculates poverty in New York City using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), an improvement on the Census Bureau’s Official Poverty Measure (OPM) that accounts for geographic variation in costs of living and the value of government taxes and transfers.<sup>6</sup> **Unfortunately, our data show that a sizable proportion of tenants in rent-stabilized units are living below the SPM poverty line: an average of 27% across 2022, 2023, and 2024.**

Yet the rent stabilization program is also a unique and under-appreciated antipoverty tool. It plays an essential role in alleviating poverty, helping to bring down a rate that would otherwise be significantly higher. Rent stabilization has an implicit value that can be conceptualized as the difference between a tenant’s actual housing costs and the value of their housing needs, which can be estimated using market-rate prices and the shelter/utilities portion of the SPM poverty threshold.<sup>7</sup> When determining a rent-stabilized tenant’s poverty status, we calculate this difference and then add the calculated value to their financial resources. Thus, we can also “remove” the value of rent stabilization to approximate the poverty rate without it, allowing us to quantify the extent to which the program keeps tenants above the poverty line.

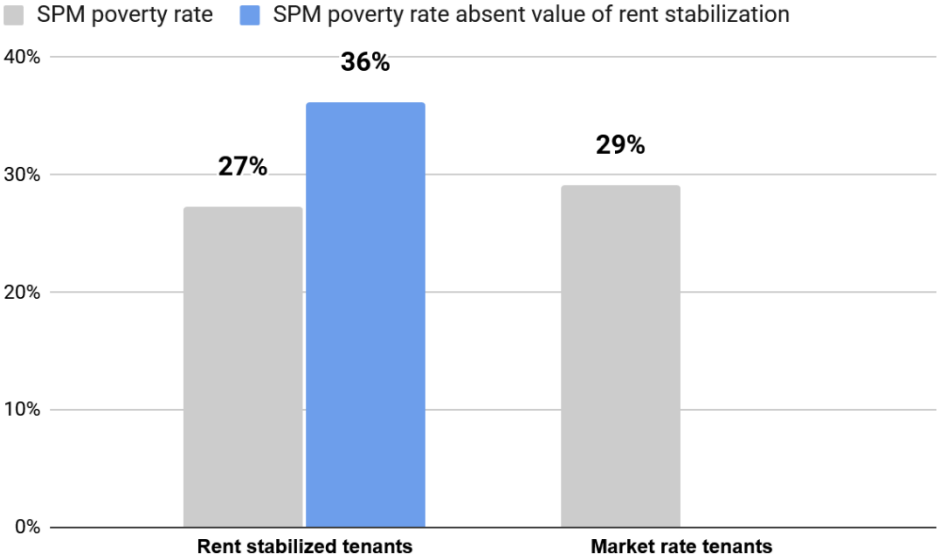
Figure 1 depicts the poverty rate among rent-stabilized tenants before and after accounting for the value of rent stabilization, and also compares it to the poverty rate among market-rate tenants. Notably, when accounting for the value of rent stabilization, poverty rates appear relatively comparable across tenant types, with more than 1 in 4 tenants living in poverty across both housing types. **However, the poverty rate among rent-stabilized tenants would be substantially higher absent the value of rent stabilization, increasing from 27% to 36%. This represents roughly 140,000 more adults and children who would be living in poverty without rent stabilization.**

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<sup>6</sup> For more details on the study’s poverty calculation methodology, see the “Poverty Calculation & Housing Subsidies” section of the Technical Appendix.

<sup>7</sup> For more details on the study’s rent stabilization valuation methodology, see the “Poverty Calculation & Housing Subsidies” section of the Technical Appendix.

**Figure 1: Poverty rate by tenant type before and after accounting for the value of rent stabilization**

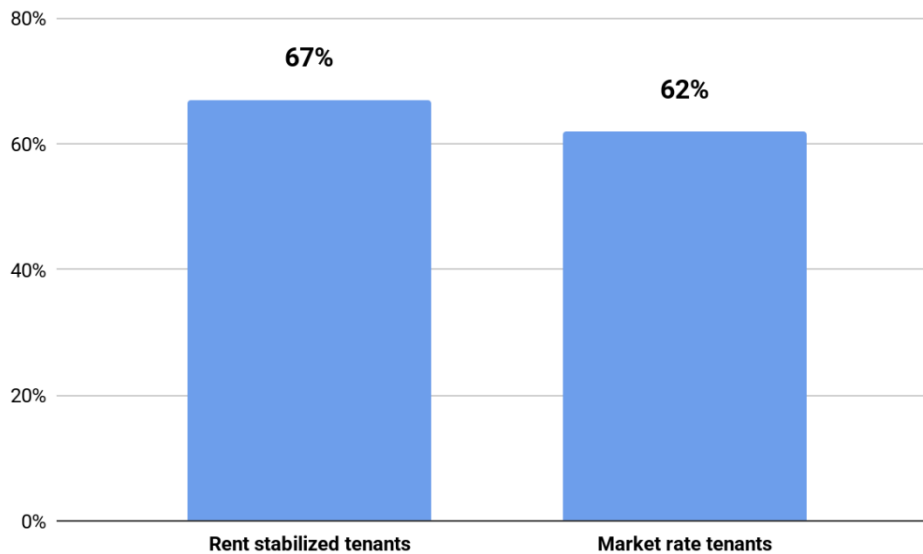


**Source: Poverty Tracker annual survey data from the second through sixth cohorts, presented at the individual tenant level. We present averages across calendar years 2022-2024.**

## **Despite the Benefits of Rent Stabilization, Tenants are Still Struggling to Make Ends Meet**

Rent stabilization clearly plays an important role in keeping many New York City families out of poverty; yet living above the poverty line does not guarantee economic well-being. For a two-adult, two-child family living in rental housing in the city, the poverty line in 2024 was \$50,283. While this threshold provides an approximation of economic deprivation, it does not fully capture the experience of individuals whose incomes surpass the threshold, but who still experience other forms of disadvantage. We find that 200% of the SPM threshold is a more representative inflection point in terms of where New Yorkers' experiences of hardship, health problems, and challenges with affordability begin to decline.<sup>8</sup> **As Figure 2 shows, over two-thirds (67%) of rent-stabilized tenants are in this low-income group, living below 200% of the poverty line.** This compares to 62% of market rate tenants.

**Figure 2: Percent of low-income tenants by renter type**



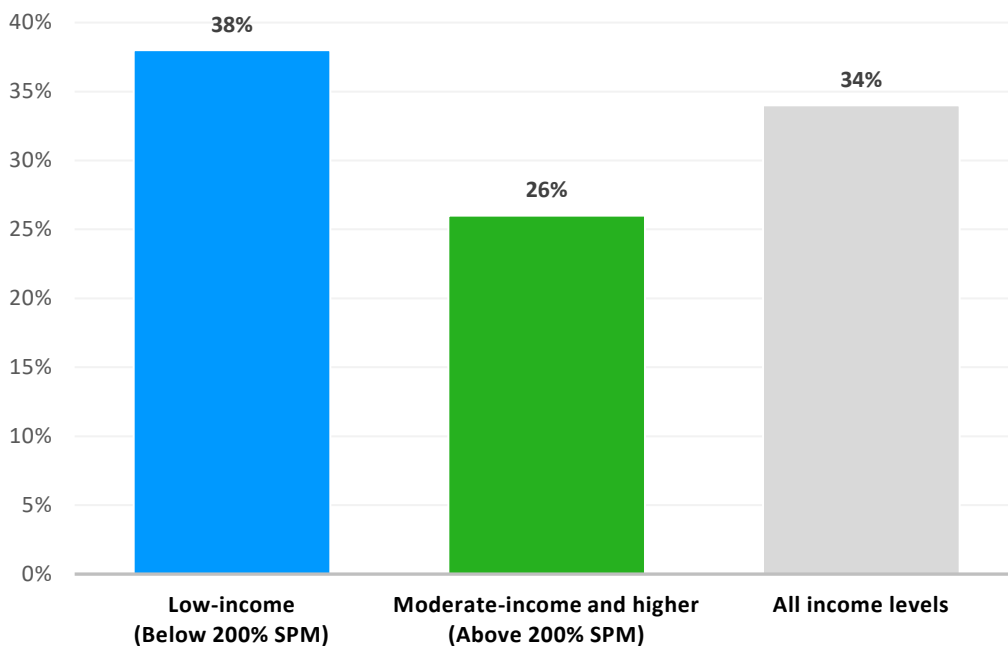
**Source: Poverty Tracker annual survey data from the second through sixth cohorts, presented at the individual tenant level. We present averages across calendar years 2022-2024.**

<sup>8</sup> Because of this, many of the figures that follow divide the rent-stabilized population into low-income (less than 200% of the SPM threshold) and moderate-/higher-income (above 200% of the SPM threshold) groups.

Given the large share of low-income rent-stabilized tenants in the city, it is important to examine how this group is faring in terms of other dimensions of disadvantage. The Poverty Tracker also measures respondents' experience of severe material hardship, defined as the inability to meet basic needs due to financial constraints. Material hardship is tracked across the five domains of food, housing, bills, general finances, and medical care.<sup>9</sup>

Figure 3 illustrates that many rent-stabilized tenants living below 200% of the poverty line are also facing severe material hardship. **In the same pooled sample across 2022-2024, 38% of low-income rent-stabilized tenants experienced at least one form of severe material hardship.** And notably, over one-fourth (26%) of moderate-income and higher-income tenants also experienced severe hardship, suggesting that financial strain affects a broader segment of rent-stabilized tenants than income-based measures alone might indicate.

**Figure 3: Severe material hardship rates among rent-stabilized tenants by income**

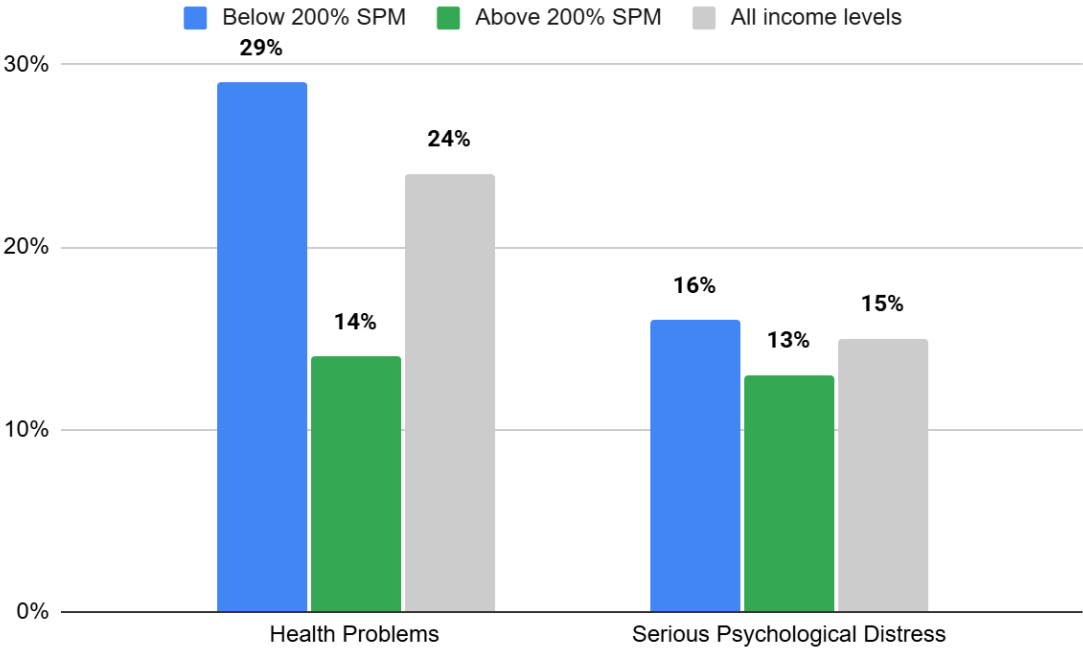


**Source: Poverty Tracker annual survey data from the second through sixth cohorts, presented at the individual tenant level. We present averages across calendar years 2022-2024.**

<sup>9</sup> The Poverty Tracker defines *severe food hardship* as running out of food or often worrying that food would run out without enough money to buy more; *severe housing hardship* as having to stay in a shelter or other place not meant for regular housing, or having to move in with others due to cost; *severe bills hardship* as having utilities cut off due to lack of money; *severe financial hardship* as often running out of money between paychecks or pay cycles; and *medical hardship* as not being able to see a medical professional due to cost. Severe material hardship is an aggregate measure defined as facing any of these five forms of hardship.

The final domain of disadvantage measured by the Poverty Tracker is health-related challenges, including both physical health problems and serious psychological distress.<sup>10</sup> Figure 4 shows that, similar to material hardship, health challenges afflict a significant portion of rent-stabilized tenants who live below 200% of the poverty threshold. **Nearly one in three (29%) low-income tenants in rent-stabilized housing reported living with a health problem, and nearly one in six (16%) reported experiencing serious psychological distress.** Health challenges also exist among higher-income rent-stabilized tenants, though the rates are demonstrably lower.

**Figure 4: Health problems and serious psychological distress among rent-stabilized tenants by income**



**Source: Poverty Tracker annual survey data from the second through sixth cohorts, presented at the individual tenant level. We present averages across calendar years 2022-2024.**

<sup>10</sup> The Poverty Tracker considers both physical and mental health challenges to better understand how health-related hardships intersect with economic insecurity. Health problems are defined as either having a work-limiting health condition or self-rating one’s overall health as “poor.” To assess mental health, the Tracker uses the Kessler-6 scale, a standardized screening tool also used by the U.S. National Health Interview Survey. It identifies symptoms of serious psychological distress, including depression, anxiety, and other mental health concerns.

## **Looking across a Span of Multiple Years, Challenges Facing Rent-Stabilized Tenants Mount**

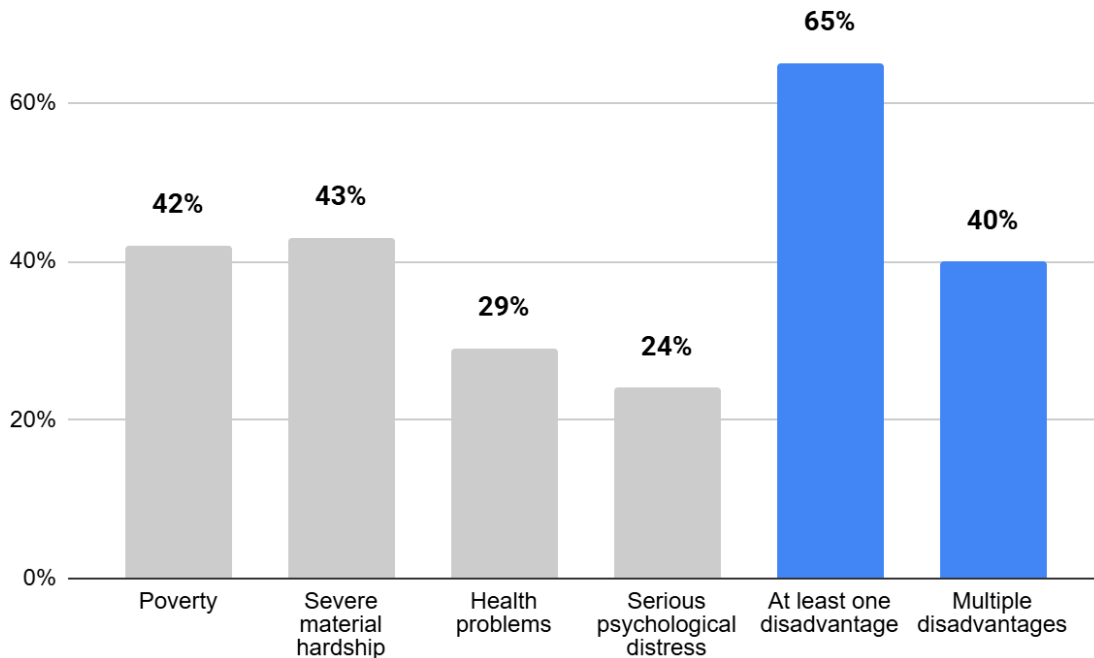
Taken together, Figures 2-4 reveal that New Yorkers living in rent-stabilized housing are facing a trifecta of income-related, hardship-related, and health-related challenges – with low-income renters being impacted the most. (As a reminder, 67% of tenants in rent stabilized units are low-income.) Yet the question remains of how these renters are faring over extended periods of time. The Poverty Tracker is uniquely well-suited to answering such longer-term questions, as it follows and surveys the same respondents across multiple years.

Whereas the results presented thus far are averages of single-year estimates from 2022, 2023, and 2024, Figure 5 hones in on the experiences of tenants who lived in rent-stabilized housing for all three years. The numbers presented are proportions of these tenants who experienced each form of disadvantage in at least one of the three years. A concerning 42% of longer-term rent-stabilized tenants lived below the poverty line in at least one year, while 43% experienced severe material hardship, 29% reported a health problem, and 24% reported serious psychological distress at least once.<sup>11</sup> When looking across time, experiences of every form of disadvantage become noticeably more common. **Overall, nearly two-thirds (65%) of longer-term rent-stabilized tenants experienced at least one form of disadvantage over the three years, and 40% experienced more than one form.**

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<sup>11</sup> Rates of poverty and hardship persistence previously presented to the Board, in an April 2026 memo titled “Data on Selected Experiences of Different Tenant Groups,” differed slightly (45% poverty, 42% hardship). Previous rates were weighted to the aggregate New York City population across 2022-2024, while current rates are weighted to the 2024 population alone. We believe that the latter approach is a methodological improvement that better reflects the city’s composition in 2024, the most recent calendar year for which we have representative data.

**Figure 5: Rates of disadvantage over a three-year period among rent-stabilized tenants**



**Source: Poverty Tracker annual survey data from the second through sixth cohorts, presented at the individual tenant level. The sample is limited to individuals who lived in rent-stabilized housing each year between 2022-2024 and responded to our surveys every year.**

### **Tenants of Rent Stabilized Housing have been Acutely Affected by the Affordability Crisis**

Moving on from the Poverty Tracker’s core measures of disadvantage, the study also collects data about a topic that has increasingly come to dominate the current political and economic landscape: affordability. Using a new set of questions first developed in 2024, we are able to quantify New Yorkers’ responses to an ever-increasing cost of living.<sup>12</sup>

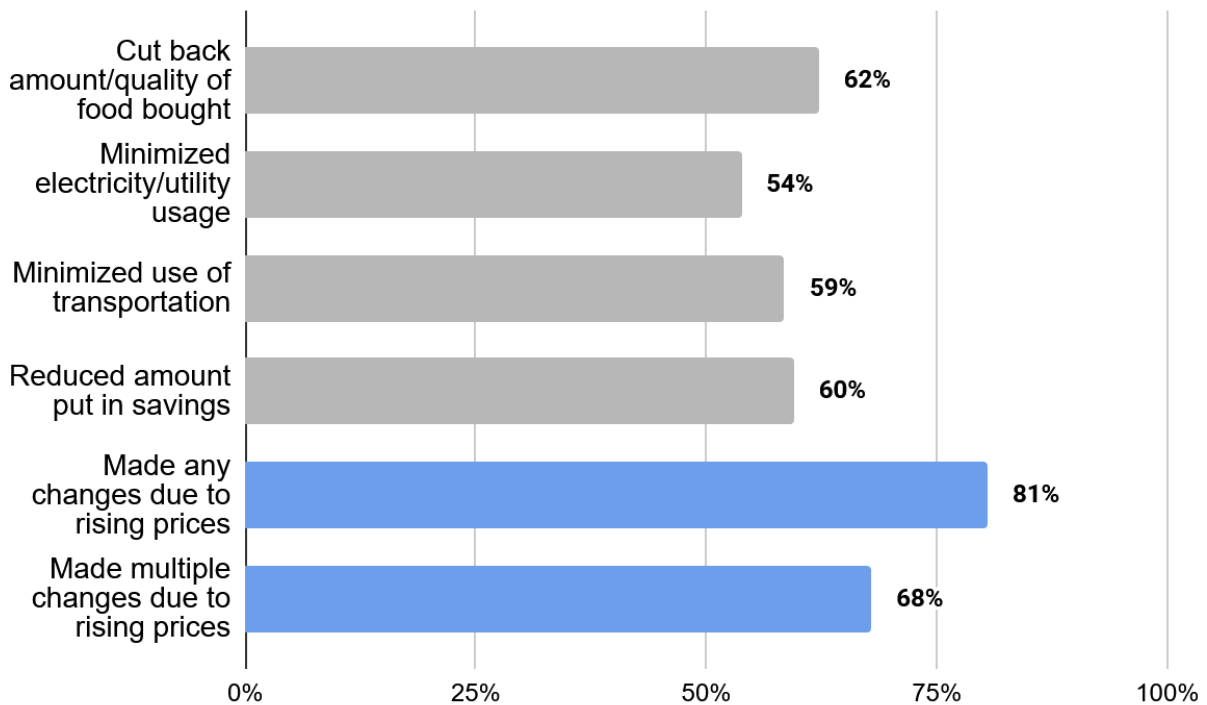
Results in Figure 6 suggest that the vast majority of tenants in rent-stabilized units are being pressed to make lifestyle changes to adjust to rising costs. Using pooled data from 2024 and 2025, we find that 81% of rent-stabilized tenants reported making at least one change to their spending

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<sup>12</sup> These questions were first added to Poverty Tracker survey instruments in 2024 and asked again in 2025. Because of this, the underlying data used to calculate the statistics in Figure 6 differ slightly from the data used in Figures 1-5. The affordability data are drawn only from the fifth and sixth Poverty Tracker cohorts and are weighted back to the years of these cohorts’ recruitment into the study (2022 and 2024, respectively). Therefore, the statistics reported here are an approximation of New Yorkers’ experiences in 2024-2025 based on individuals we have tracked since the year of recruitment. Other statistics presented elsewhere in this testimony are based on a larger sample of data that are weighted directly to the given calendar years, and thus provide a fully representative snapshot of New Yorkers’ experiences in those years.

and saving patterns, with over two-thirds (68%) reporting multiple adjustments. **Perhaps most striking is the fact that more than half of respondents reported reductions in spending across every essential domain, including food purchases (62%), electricity/utilities usage (54%), transportation usage (59%), and money in savings (60%).**<sup>13</sup>

**Figure 6: Behavioral responses to rising costs of living among rent-stabilized tenants**



**Source: Poverty Tracker interim survey data from the fifth and sixth cohorts, presented at the individual tenant level. We present averages across calendar years 2024-2025.**

<sup>13</sup> The findings presented here are drawn from Poverty Tracker respondents’ answers to the following yes or no question: “Many people are concerned about the prices of goods and services these days. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following: Cut back on the quantity or quality of food you buy? Minimized use of electricity or other utilities? Reduced your use of public transit, taxis, car services or ride shares (Uber, Lyft, etc.)? Cut back the amount of money you put in savings?” Respondents were also asked whether they cut back on nonessential spending – namely, entertainment or eating out — in response to rising prices of goods and services. We find that 73% of New Yorkers in rent-stabilized units cut back on entertainment or eating out. This increases the share who made any changes to 84%, and increases the share who made multiple changes to 76%.

Affordability concerns also extend into the realm of housing directly. As we have shown, rent stabilization provides comparatively lower-cost housing and helps keep many New Yorkers out of poverty, but that does not mean that the cost of rent is truly within most families’ budgets. One useful way to gauge housing affordability is the measure of rent burden. The 2023 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey defines rent burden as spending more than 30% of household income on rent and finds that 43% of renters citywide are “burdened.”<sup>14</sup> Poverty Tracker data confirm this troubling trend among families in rent-stabilized units.<sup>15, 16</sup>

Table 1 shows that 43% of all rent-stabilized households were rent burdened, on average, across 2022-2024. The experience of rent burden was even more common toward the bottom of the income distribution: **over three-quarters (80%) of families living below the poverty line spent more than 30% of their income on rent.** Low-income renters also experienced significant financial strain, with almost half (45%) of families between 100-200% of the poverty line facing rent burden.

**Table 1: Rent burden rates among families living in rent-stabilized housing by income**

Percentage of SPM threshold	Rent Burden Rate
Under 100% (in poverty)	80%
100 - 200%	45%
200 - 300%	15%
300%+	12%
Total	43%

**Source: Poverty Tracker annual survey data from the second through sixth cohorts, presented at the family level. We present averages across calendar years 2022-2024.**

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<sup>14</sup> The Housing and Vacancy Survey is only conducted every 3 (or so) years, and more recent data is not available at this time. For reference see: Gaumer, E. The 2023 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey: Selected Initial Findings. New York, NY: New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development; 2024. [Access here.](#)

<sup>15</sup> Rent burden trends are weighted and presented at the family level for ease of interpretation, in contrast to all other statistics presented in this testimony, which are weighted at the individual tenant level.

<sup>16</sup> Rent burden is calculated by dividing each family’s reported annual rent by its financial resources (respondent earnings, spouse/partner earnings, retirement, disability, welfare, unemployment, worker’s compensation, regular financial support from someone outside the household, income from other family members, and “other” income/benefits). The value of various subsidies, housing vouchers, and rent stabilization are thus accounted for in the calculations – families receiving these benefits report lower out-of-pocket rents. In other words, the rent burden rates presented here are post-application of subsidies.

## **Tying it All Together**

**In conclusion, the findings presented throughout this testimony demonstrate that tenants in rent-stabilized units experience high levels of disadvantage and consistently struggle to afford basic needs.** Rent stabilization is a highly effective antipoverty tool that functions to keep an average of 140,000 residents out of poverty each year. Yet in its current form, it is not fully mitigating the financial challenges facing the city’s most vulnerable renters. Low-income and impoverished rent-stabilized tenants continue to encounter the steepest hurdles, with various material and health-related hardships piling up on top of financial scarcity. Looking across time – and regardless of income status – a majority (65%) of rent-stabilized tenants found themselves facing poverty, material hardship, or health hardship in at least one year from 2022-2024. And as rent continues to consume a burdensome chunk of families’ income resources, many have found themselves making cuts to other basic needs.

We urge the members of the Board to consider these findings in your upcoming deliberations on changes to rent rates and thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.

## Technical Appendix

**Identifying Residents in Rent-Stabilized Units.** The Poverty Tracker research team identifies rent-stabilized tenants using a series of three survey questions. The rent-stabilized population consists of respondents who (1) indicated that they pay rent or live with a family member who pays rent in response to the question “What is your current housing situation?”; (2) answered “Yes” to the question “Is the place where you live under rent control or rent stabilization?”; and (3) indicated that they do not live in NYCHA housing, do not live in Mitchell Lama housing, and do not receive a senior citizen or disability rent increase exemption (SCRIE/DRIE). Tenants receiving rental assistance or housing vouchers while residing in rent-stabilized housing are included in this group.

One shortcoming of our survey structure is that we are unable to distinguish renters living in rent-stabilized units from those in rent-controlled units. However, we are confident that this is not a major issue, as data from the 2023 NYC Housing and Vacancy Survey suggest that individuals living in rent-controlled units account for less than 2% of the aggregate group.<sup>17</sup>

**Poverty Calculation & Housing Subsidies.** The Poverty Tracker assesses poverty in New York City using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The SPM poverty threshold is based on contemporary spending on food as well as on other necessities like clothing, shelter, and utilities. It is geographically adjusted, meaning that thresholds in places like New York City are higher given higher-than-average housing costs, and it is different for renters and homeowners. In 2024, the SPM threshold for a two-adult, two-child family of renters in New York City was \$50,283. In calculating the SPM, tax credits and noncash benefits are also counted as income, and for families who incur them, medical, work, and child care costs are subtracted from income. The Poverty Tracker collects all the requisite data necessary to directly calculate the SPM in its sample of New Yorkers, and this data forms the basis of the income poverty statistics presented here.

One of the “noncash benefits” included in the Poverty Tracker’s SPM resource calculation is housing subsidy values. All respondents who indicate that they live in rent-controlled or rent-stabilized units, who indicate that they live in a rental unit but report \$0 in monthly rent, or who answer “Yes” to the question “In the past 12 months, did you or your spouse/partner receive public housing or government rental assistance such as Section 8?”, are marked as eligible housing subsidy recipients. The following four-step protocol is then used to assign subsidy values to each “poverty unit” or family:

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<sup>17</sup> Gaumer, E. The 2023 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey: Selected Initial Findings. New York, NY: New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development; 2024. [Access here](#).

1. Determine the fair market rent value for the housing unit. This is based on number of bedrooms (a variable collected on Poverty Tracker surveys) and the county-level fair-market rent data provided by HUD at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html>.
2. Determine the NYC-adjusted shelter/utilities portion of the poverty threshold for the poverty unit (calculated by applying an equivalence scale to the NYC-adjusted two-adult, two-child shelter/utilities share, with the base share/threshold identified using data provided by BLS at <https://www.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm#threshold>).
3. Calculate a theoretical maximum annual rent value (or “cap”) for the poverty unit. The cap is set to either the fair market rent value or the shelter/utilities cost, whichever is lower.
4. Calculate the subsidy value by subtracting annual rent from the maximum rent cap.

Rent stabilization and rent control are treated as subsidies because they effectively lower the amount of out-of-pocket rent that families pay each year. In less technical terms, the value of a family’s rent-stabilization “subsidy” is the difference between what the family would be paying without rent stabilization (based on the assumptions and capping procedure described above) and what they are paying with it. This value is added to the family’s total financial resources, which are then compared to the SPM threshold to determine poverty status.

**Sampling Methodology & Response Rates.** Since its launch in 2012, the Poverty Tracker has recruited six distinct samples of New Yorkers, referred to as study Cohorts 1 through 6. For Cohorts 1-5, the study recruited a majority of the sample through a Random Digit Dial (RDD) methodology, and in cohort 6 introduced a split-methodology design using both RDD and Address-Based Sampling (ABS). To ensure that the data is representative of the diverse experiences of all New Yorkers, the Poverty Tracker periodically includes supplementary samples of subgroups of New Yorkers in addition to the main RDD/ABS sample. These subsamples of New Yorkers include those using social service agencies (Cohorts 1 and 2) and New Yorkers of Chinese origin (Cohorts 4, 5, and 6). Table A1 below contains more detailed information about each Cohort. For a more in-depth overview of the Poverty Tracker’s sampling procedures over time, please consult the [Poverty Tracker Data User Guide](#) available on CPSP’s website.

Table A1: Overview of Poverty Tracker Cohorts

Cohort	Initial recruitment year	Sample size at baseline	Subsamples	Notes
1	2012	2,228	2,002 RDD 226 social service user oversample	2-year design. Oversample of high-poverty zip codes.
2	2015	3,908	3,403 RDD (from NYC DOHMH Community Health Survey) 505 social service user oversample	6-year design introduced and carried forward for subsequent cohorts. Surveyed quarterly during the first 4 years and annually in the final 2 years.
3	2017	853	853 RDD	First rotating “refresher” cohort under rotating cohort design. Surveyed quarterly during the first 4 years and annually in the final 2 years.
4	2020	1,912	1,491 RDD 421 Chinese-origin oversample	Chinese-origin subsample introduced. Redesign changes made <b>after</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> year of study participation: ~ Survey schedules of active cohorts are harmonized (cohorts 4 and 5). ~ Respondents participate in three surveys per year instead of four.
5	2022	1,548	1,287 RDD 261 Chinese-origin oversample	Survey schedules of active cohorts are harmonized (Cohorts 4 and 5). Respondents participate in three surveys per year instead of four.
6	2024	2,020	703 RDD 1,144 ABS 173 Chinese-origin oversample	Split recruitment design introduced, utilizing both RDD and ABS. Chinese oversample recruited entirely using ABS.

**Imputation & Weighting.** Before the Poverty Tracker data can be analyzed as a representative sample, missing data for core annual measures must be imputed and the survey responses must be weighted. In any survey, some data will be missing due to subject non-response, unintentionally omitted due to subject or surveyor error (e.g., leaving a required question blank), or discarded due to error or implausibility in the response (e.g., saying that one's birth year was 1856). Imputation refers to retroactively filling in (“imputing”) the missing data using a model that relates non-respondents to respondents. For the Poverty Tracker datasets, the study only imputes a subset of essential variables: those concerning income (of any form), hardship, health, assets, debts, and key demographics. Following imputation, survey weights are created to account for the sampling, coverage, and non-response, and to calculate appropriate estimates of population parameters. Weighting is essential to ensure that statistical inferences drawn from the sample data apply to the general population. Poverty Tracker data is weighted to the American Community Survey (ACS) data to create a sample representative of all New Yorkers ages 18 and over<sup>18</sup>. Please consult the [Poverty Tracker Technical Notes](#), available on CPSP’s website, for additional information on the study’s imputation and weighting methods.

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<sup>18</sup> The ACS is an annual survey conducted nationwide by the Census Bureau. The ACS samples between 26,000 and 27,000 households in New York City alone, comprised of approximately 60,000 individuals. Each calendar year of cross-sectional Poverty Tracker data is weighted to the corresponding calendar year of ACS data.