



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

Research on Emerging Homeless Subpopulations

Homeless Shelter Census and Overflow Data Initiative

*MHSA is a statewide homeless advocacy alliance of 80 agencies serving homeless people throughout Massachusetts.
For more information please contact MHSA at 617/367-6447.*



Census = Advocacy Tool

From Anecdote to Evidence

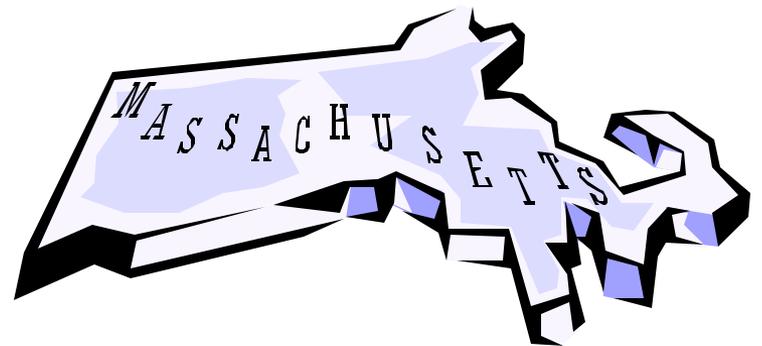


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Census Measures

- Male and Female Occupancy
- Emergency and Transitional Beds
- Boston, Greater Boston, Massachusetts
- Overflow
- Average Percent Full
(occupancy v. capacity)



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Census Does Not Provide

- Client – specific data
- Unduplicated Numbers of users
- Data on Unmet Demand in System



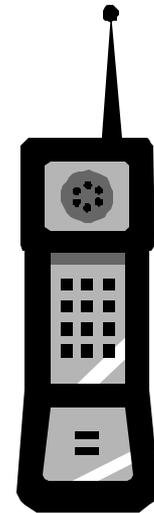
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Data Collection Tools

- ✓ Phone
- ✓ Fax
- ✓ E-mail

- ✓ Nightly
- ✓ Weekly
- ✓ Bi-weekly



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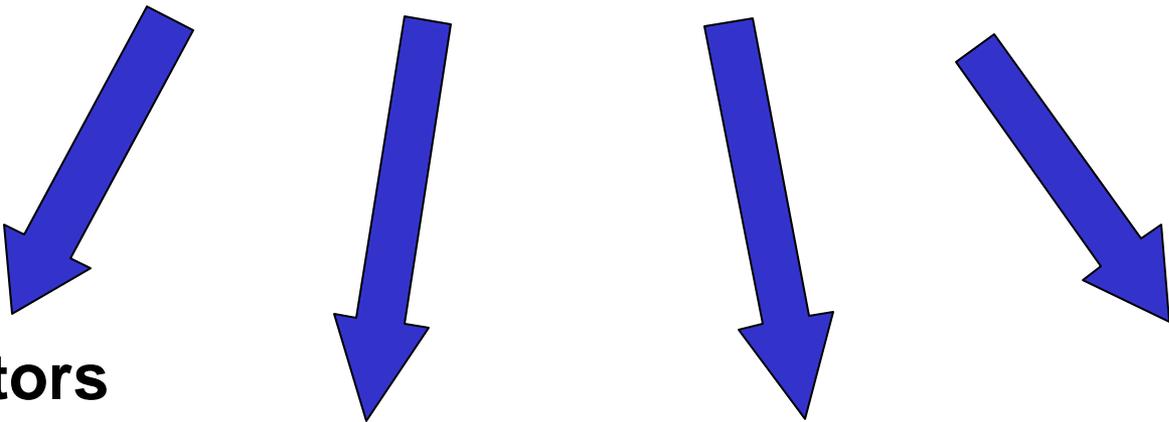
Nightly Census

- Creates Front Door Data
- Provides Information Pool
- Supports Policy Planning



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Legislators

State Agencies

Members

Media

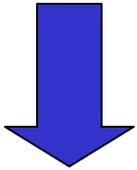
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MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE
FIVE PARK STREET
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EMAIL: abolition@mhsa.net

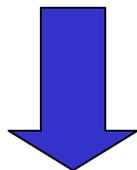


MHSA

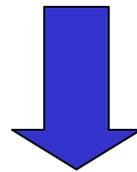
- ✓ **Compiles and analyzes data**
- ✓ **Compares occupancy to capacity**
- ✓ **Maintains historic record of overflow**



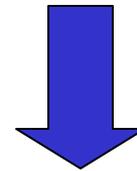
Members



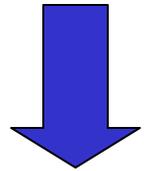
State Agencies



Funders



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MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

INITIATING SOLUTIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

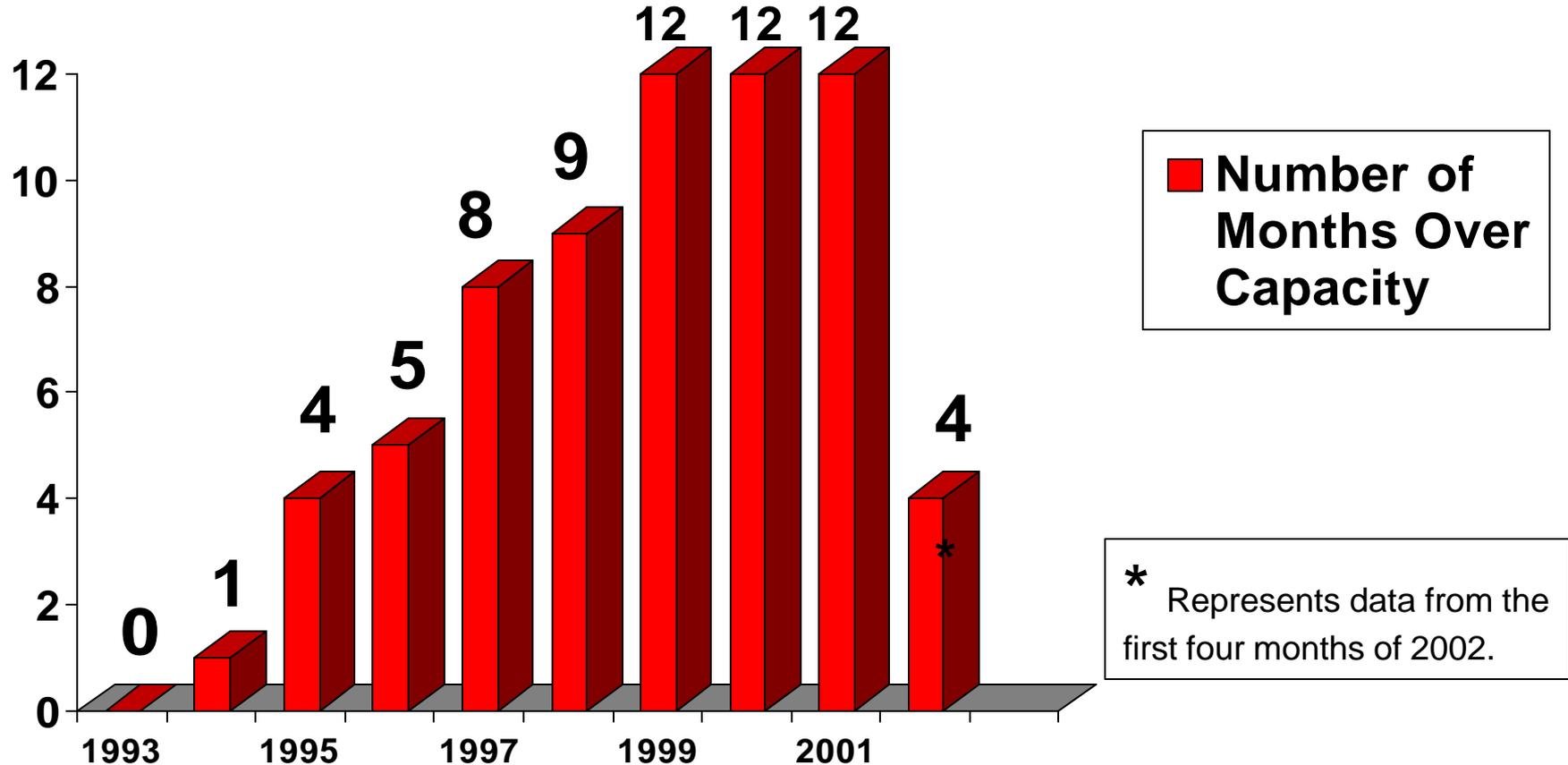
NIGHTLY CENSUS OF EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS

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NUMBER OF MONTHS THE MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY SHELTER SYSTEM WAS OVER CAPACITY IN EACH OF THE LAST 10 YEARS

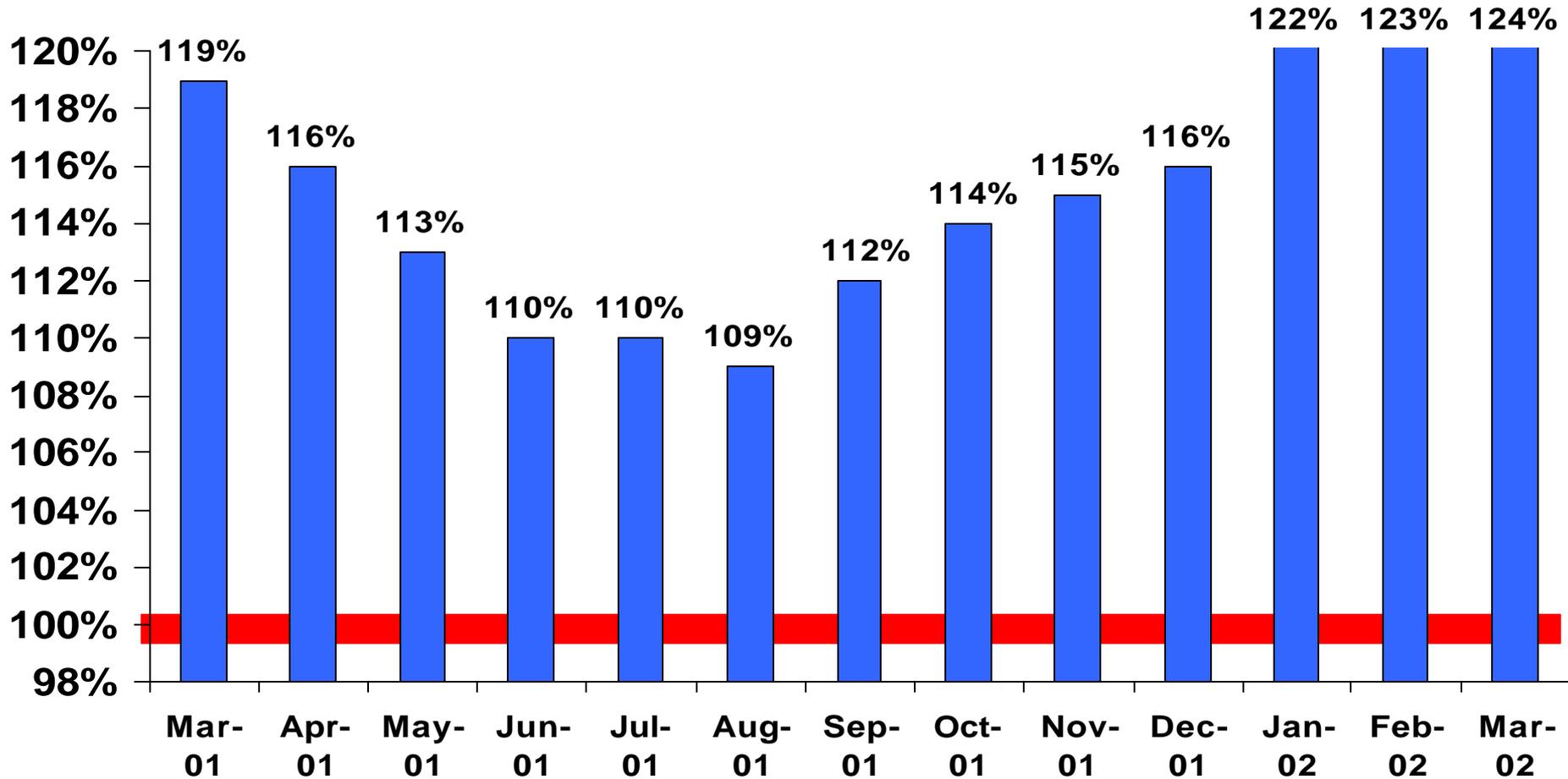


Source: Data is based on information reported from shelters statewide in Massachusetts.



Homeless Census Capacity vs. Occupancy

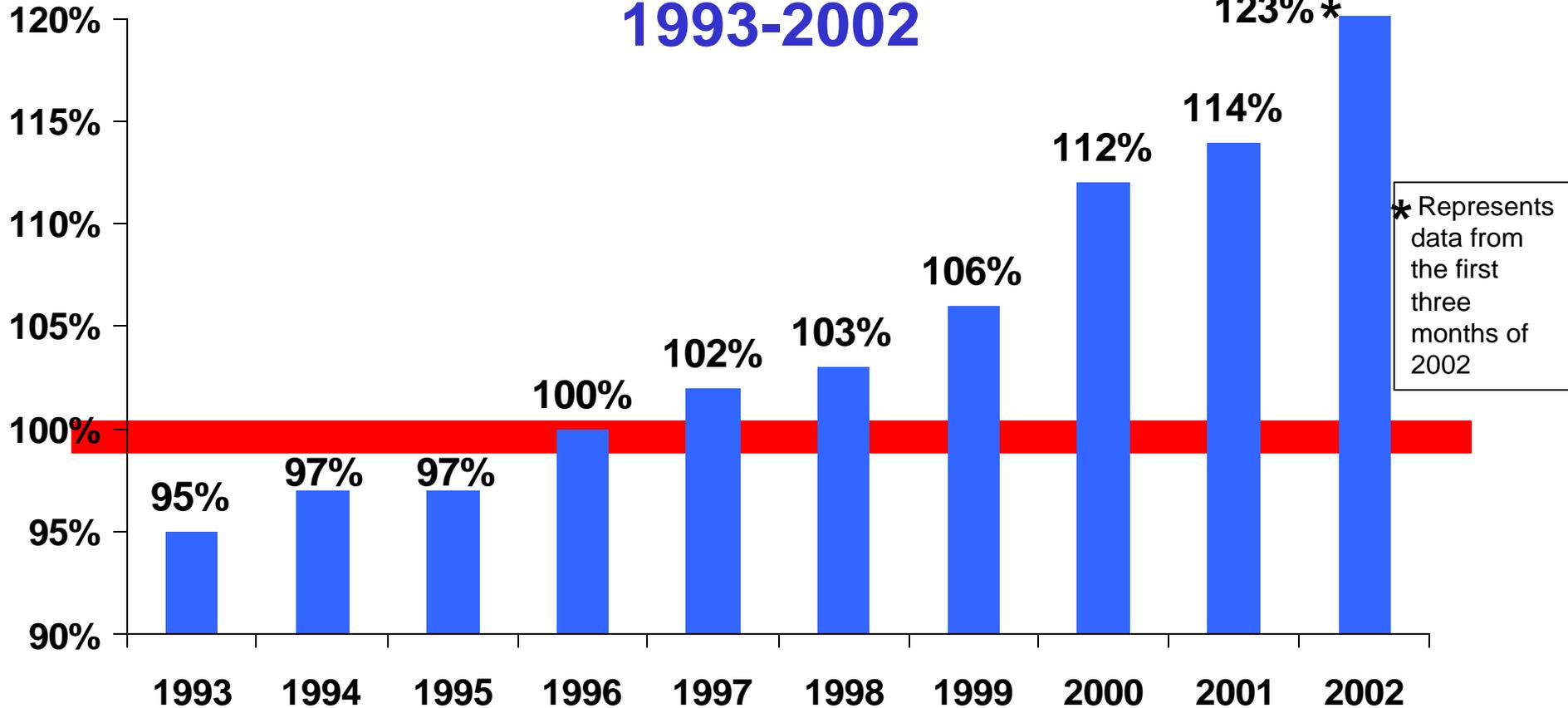
March 2001 – March 2002



Data is based on information reported from shelters statewide in Massachusetts.



Average Shelter Census for the Past Ten Years 1993-2002



MHSA Shelter Census reflecting yearly occupancy as % of capacity.

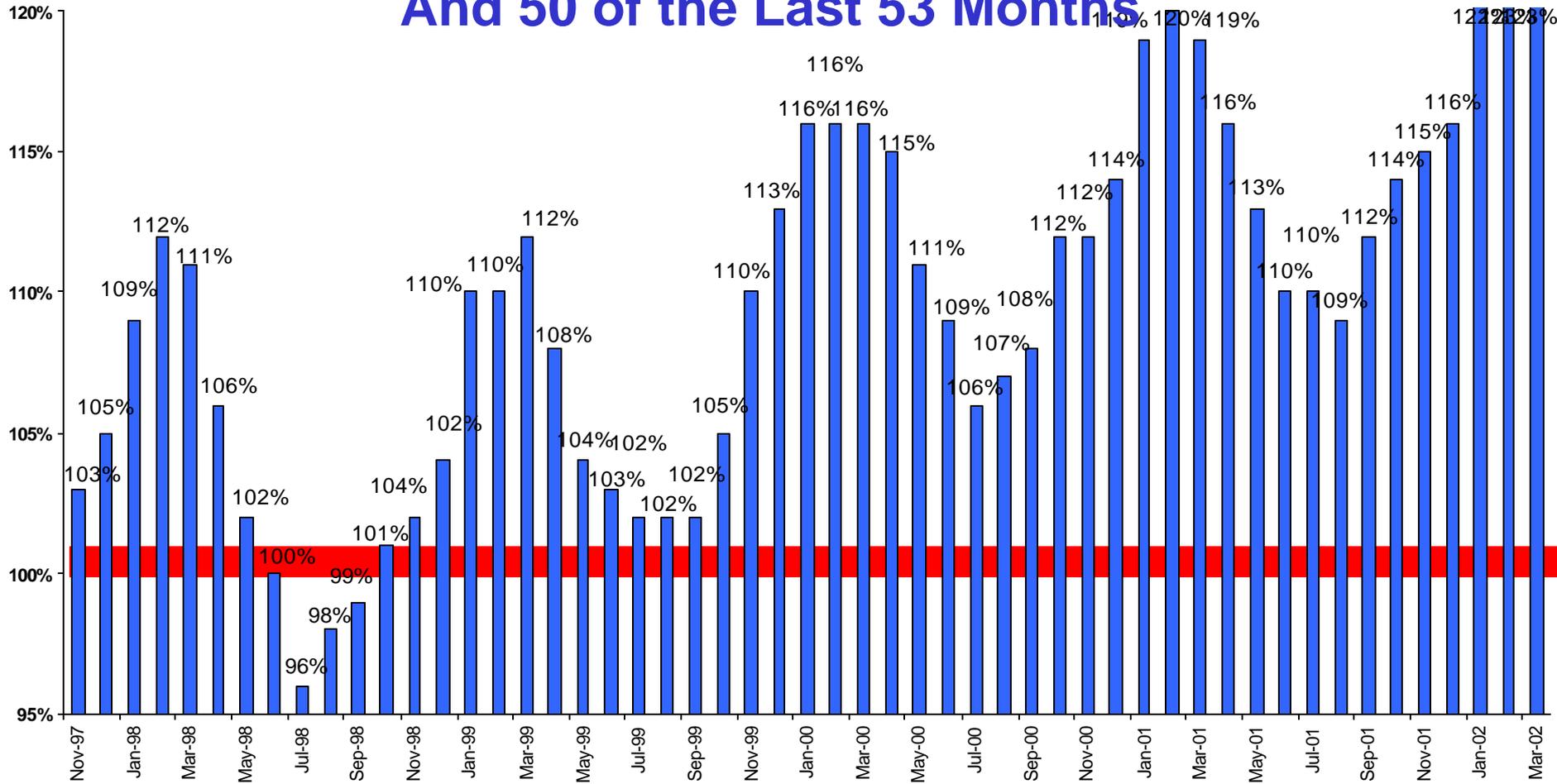
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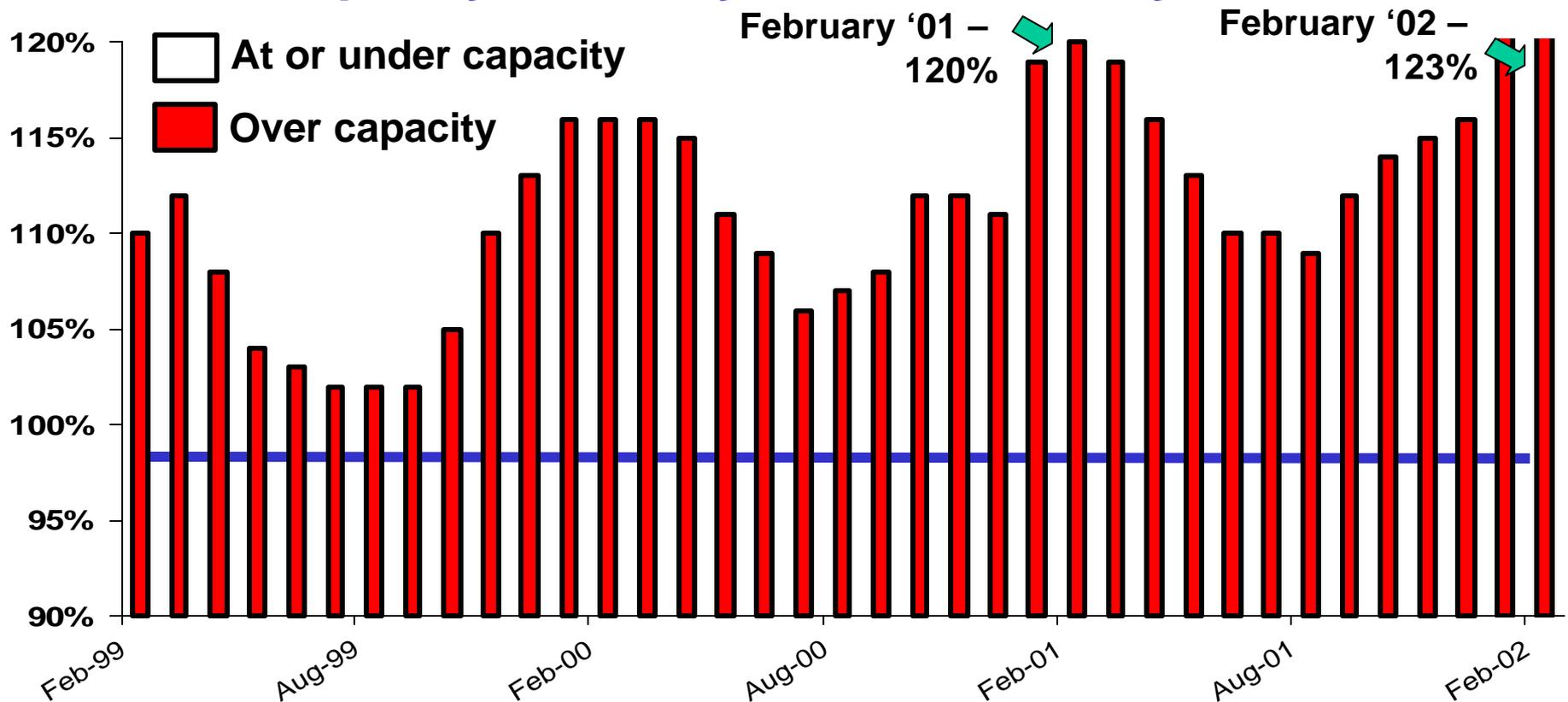
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) Emergency Shelters for Homeless Individuals Have Overflowed 42 Consecutive Months And 50 of the Last 53 Months



MHSA Shelter Census reflecting monthly occupancy as % of capacity.



Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) Emergency Shelters for Homeless Individuals Capacity February 1999 – February 2002



MHSA Shelter Census reflecting monthly occupancy as % of capacity.

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MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

Research on Emerging Homeless Subpopulations

Comparison of Emerging Populations in Massachusetts Emergency Shelters, 1997 - 2000

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Emerging Homeless Subpopulations

Who?

**Emergency and
transitional
programs across MA**

What?

A simple, faxable form

When?

**In the first week
of the month**

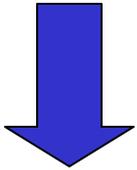
MHSA



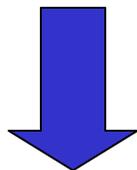
MHSA

Aggregates and analyzes data

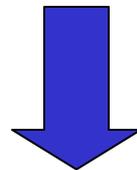
Compares information for previous years



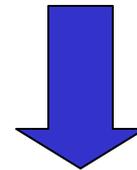
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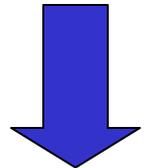
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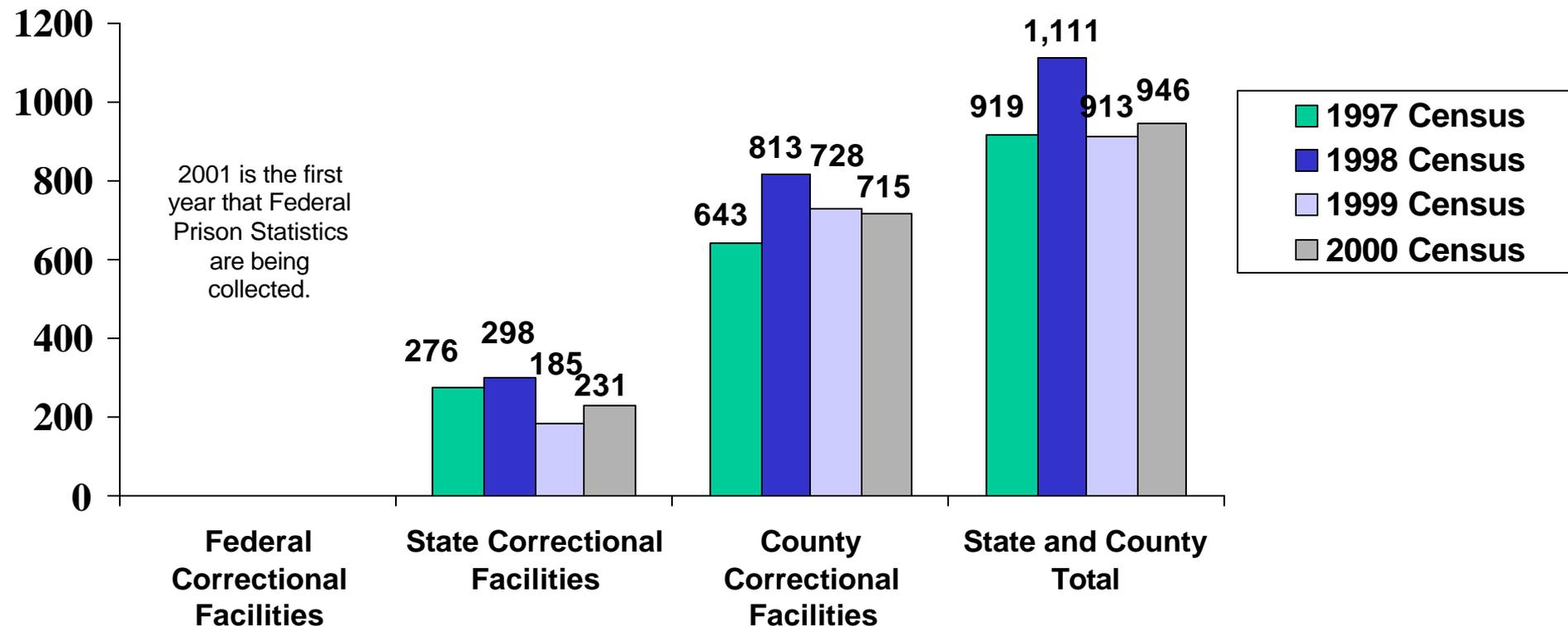
Media

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Ex-Prisoners and Massachusetts Shelters

Individuals Entering Emergency Shelters Directly Upon Discharge from a State or County Correctional Facility

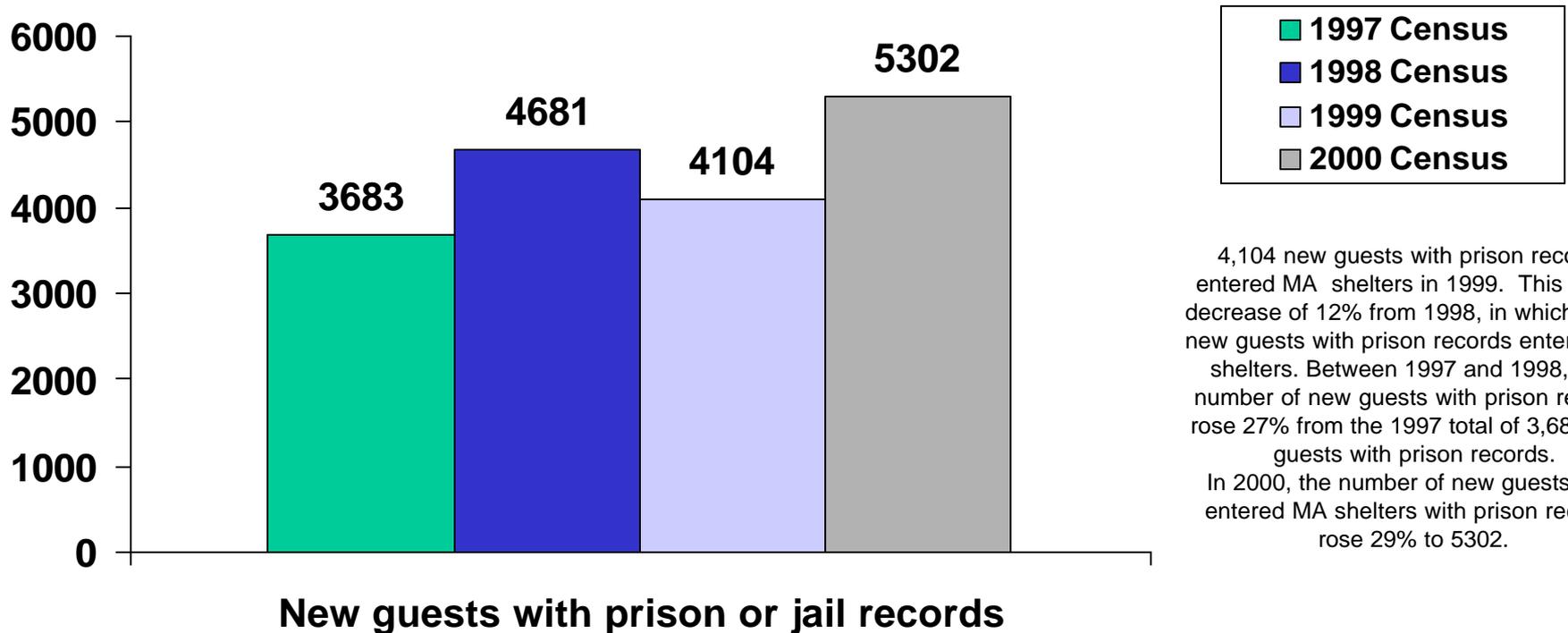


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Corrections and Massachusetts Shelters

Individuals Entering Emergency Shelters With Prison or Jail Records

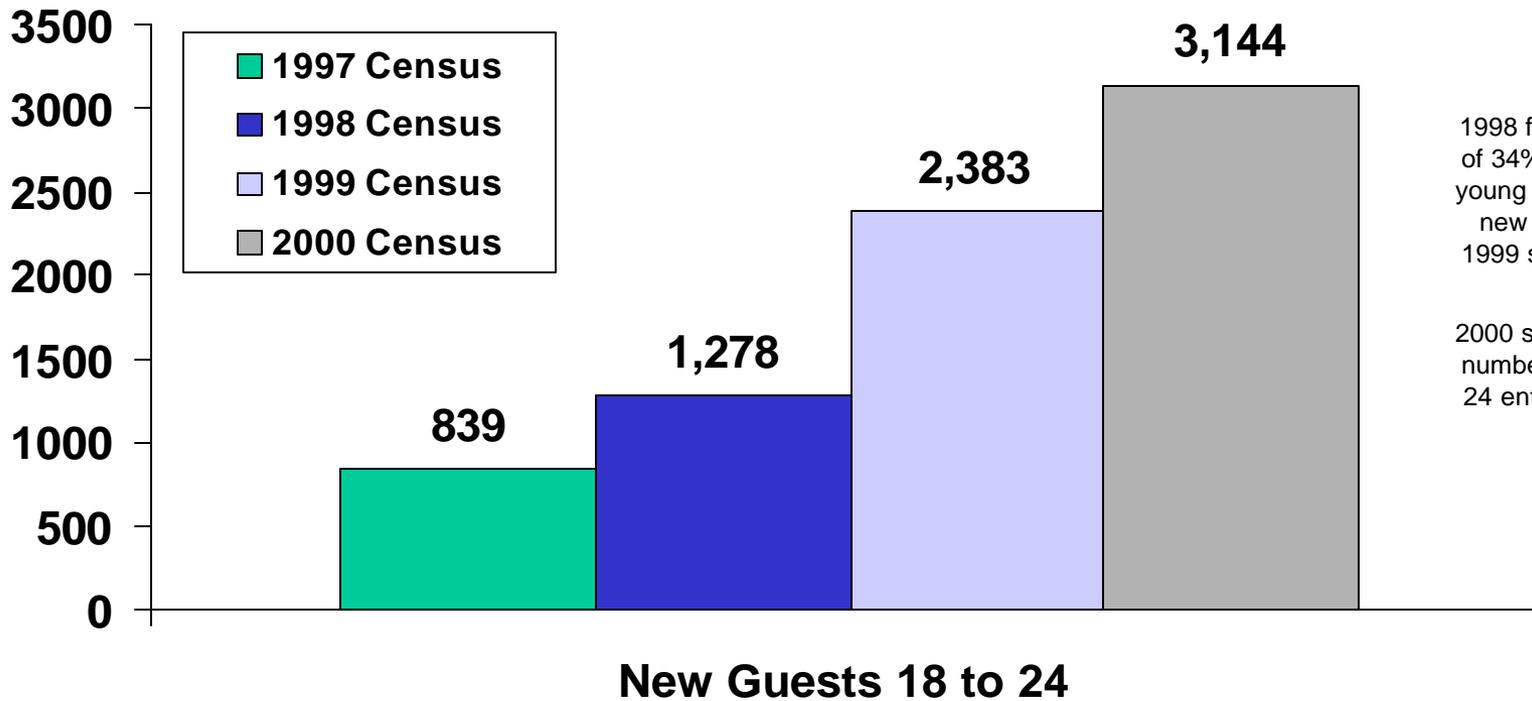


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Young Adults And Massachusetts Shelters

Individuals Age 18 to 24 Entering New to Emergency Shelters



1998 figures represent an increase of 34% from 1997 in the number of young adults ages 18 to 24 entering new to Massachusetts shelters. 1999 saw an increase of 87% from 1998.

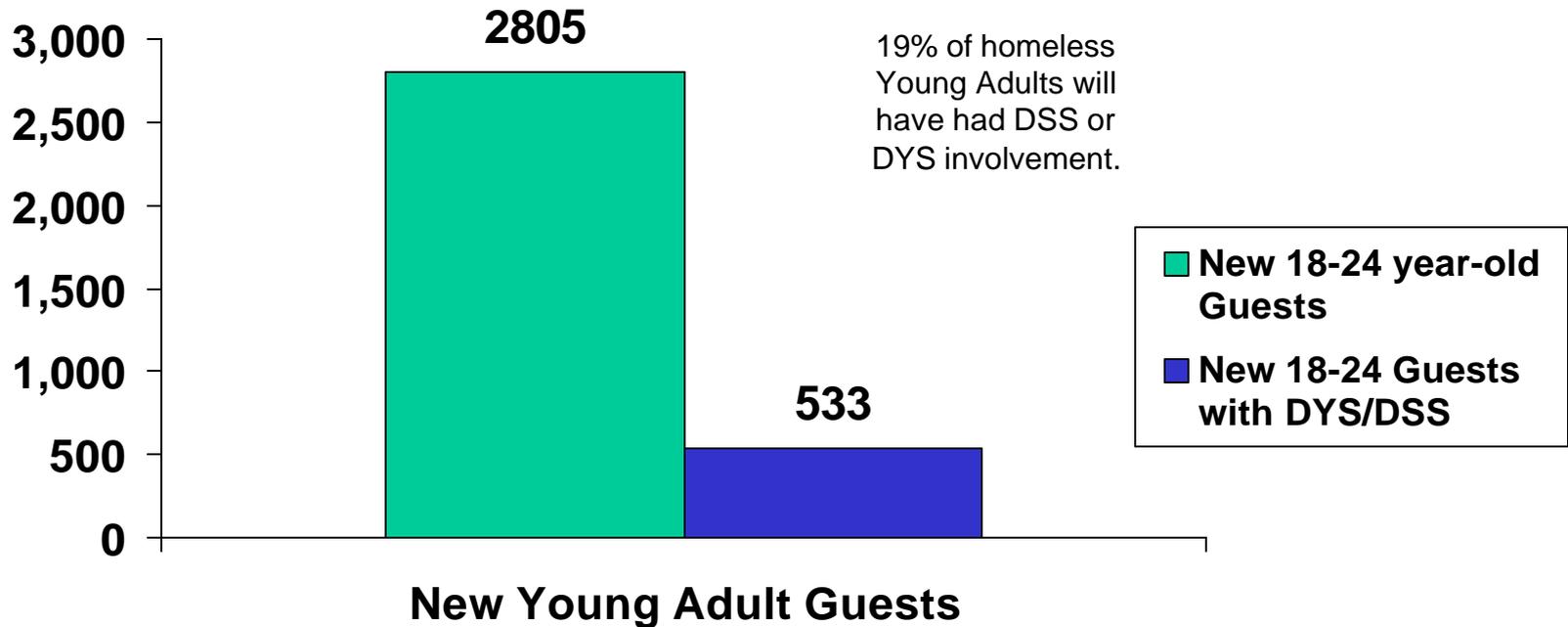
2000 saw an increase of 32% in the number of young adults ages 18 to 24 entering new to Massachusetts shelters.

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Homeless Young Adults and Youth Services

Individuals 18 to 24, Entering New to Emergency Shelters with State System Experience

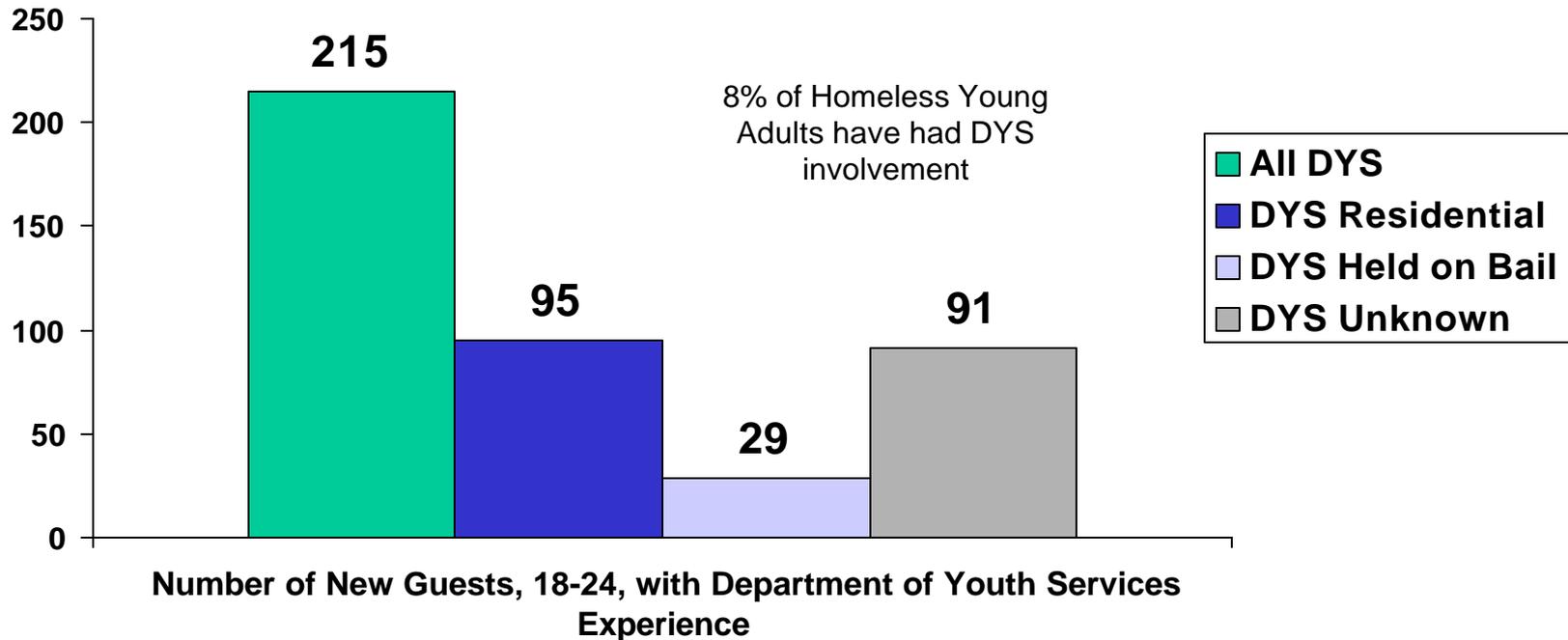


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Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA)
Research on Emerging Homeless Populations
DYS and Emergency Shelters

**Types of DHS Services Used by Individuals 18 to 24,
Entering New to Emergency Shelters**



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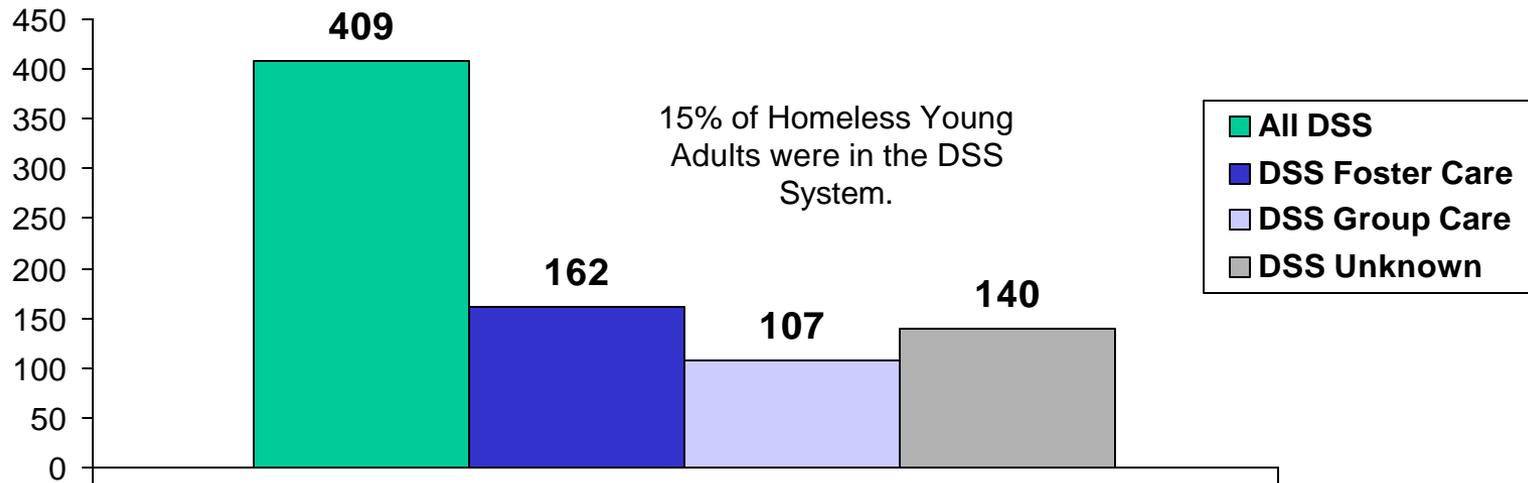


Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA)

Research on Emerging Homeless Populations

DSS and Emergency Shelters

Types of DSS Services Used by Individuals 18 to 24, Entering New to Emergency Shelters



Number of New Guests with Department of Social Services Experience

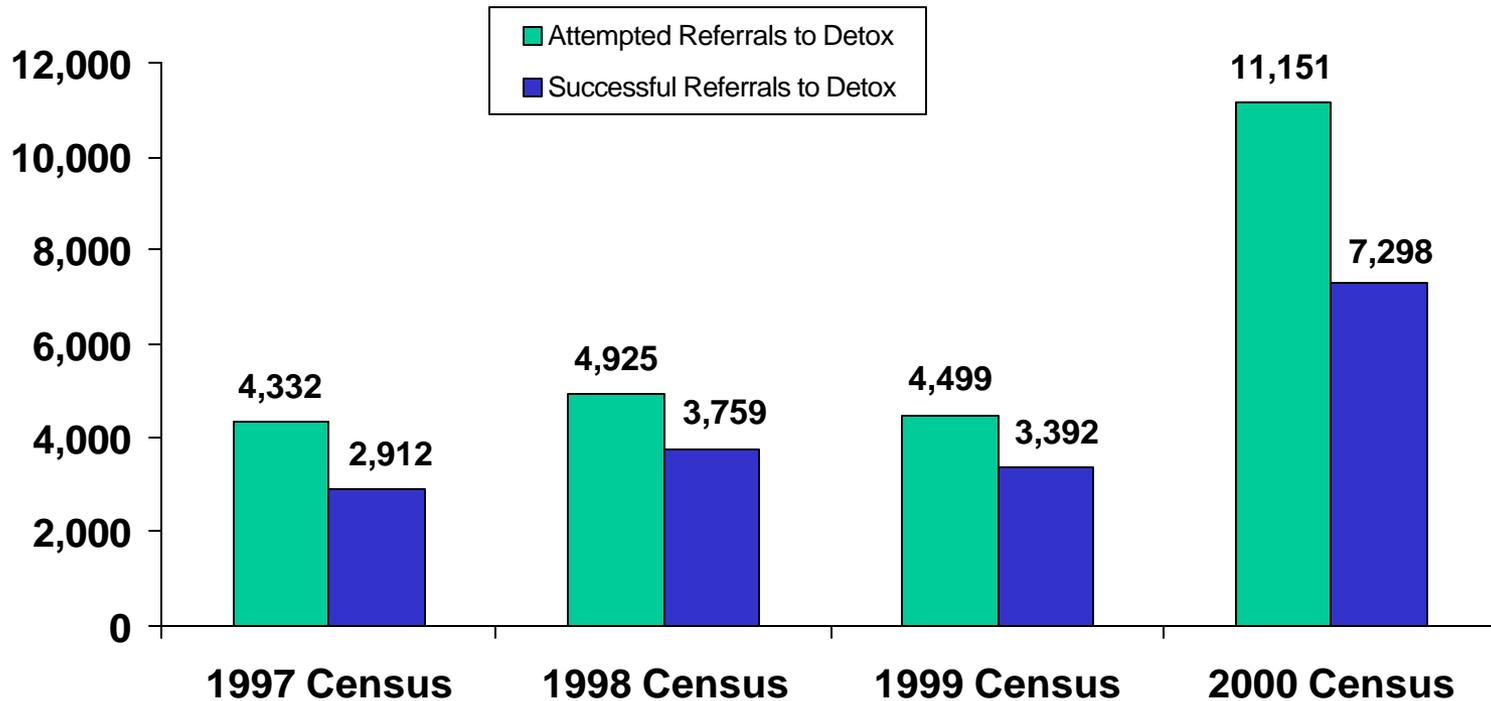
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Detox and Massachusetts Shelters

Attempted and Successful Referrals of Homeless Individuals to Detox Facilities by Emergency Shelter Staff



Approximately 1 in 3 referrals, or 33%, were unsuccessful in 1997. In 1998, approximately 1 of 4 referrals, or 25%, were unsuccessful. During 1999, between 1 in 4 referrals, or 25%, were unsuccessful.

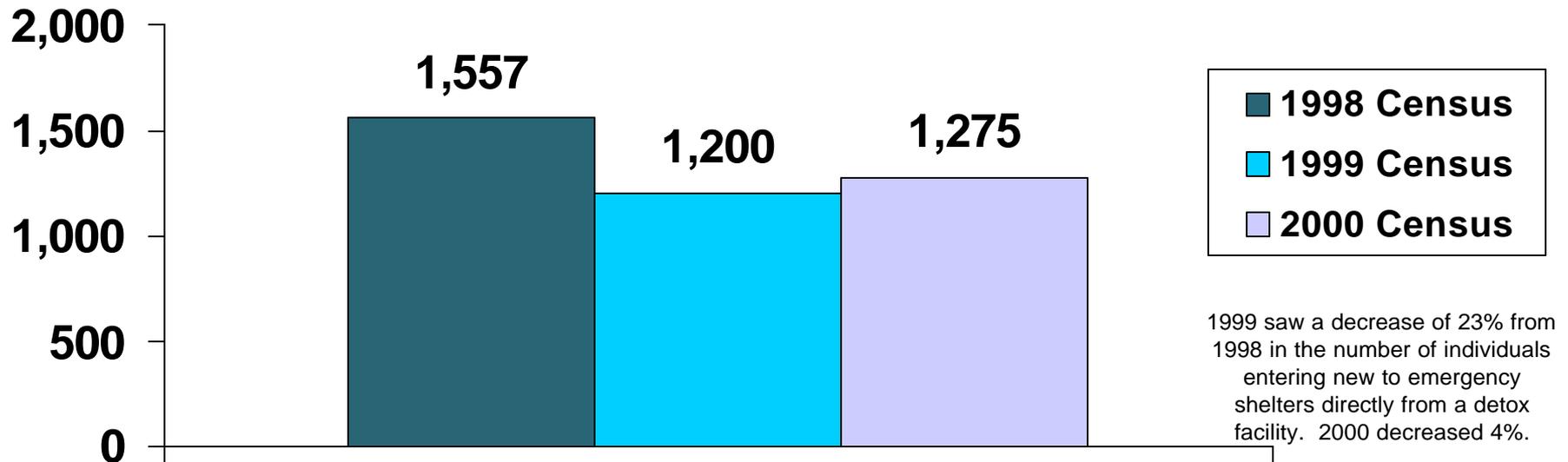
In 2000, more than 1 in 3 referrals, or 35% were unsuccessful.

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New Shelter Guests Directly from Detox

Individuals Entering Emergency Shelters Upon Discharge from a Detox Facility



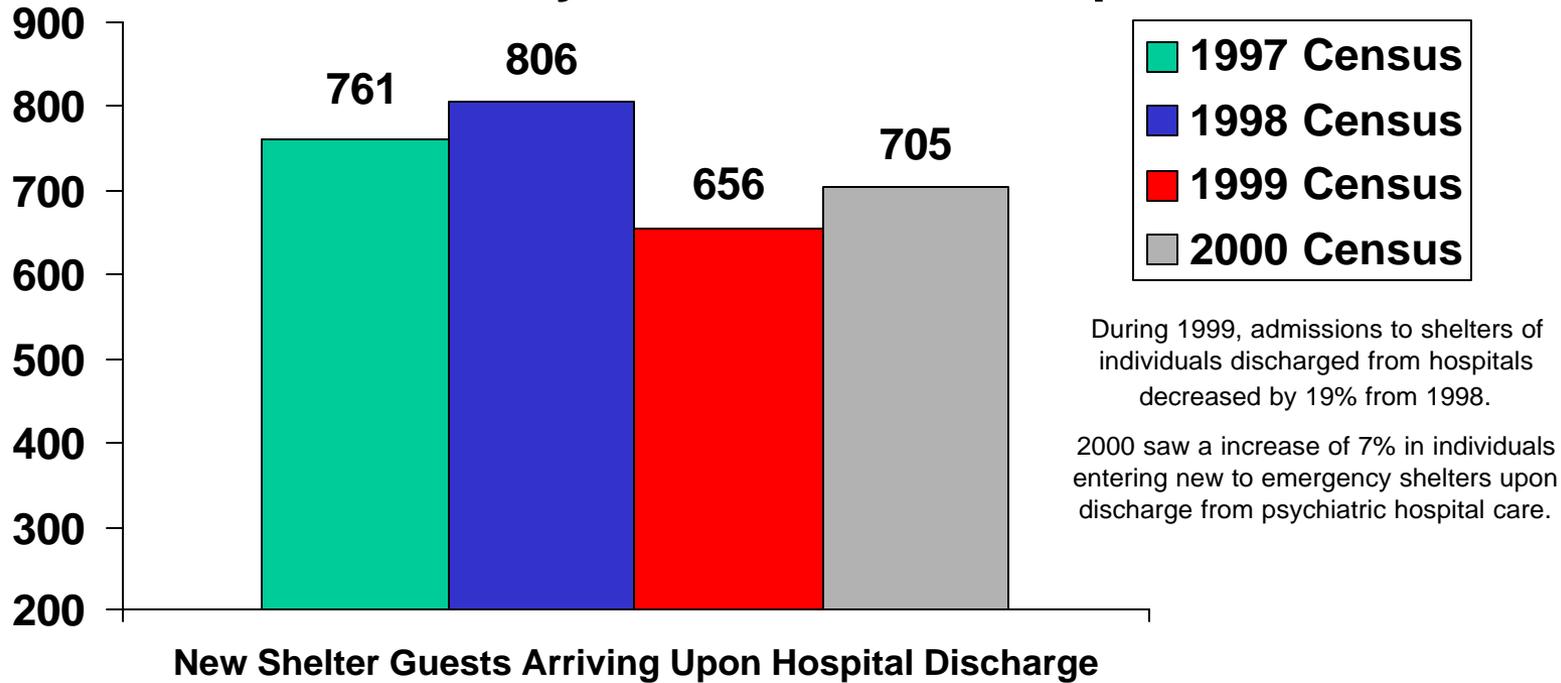
New Guests Directly From Detox

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Hospital Discharges and MA Shelters

Individuals Entering Emergency Shelters Upon Discharge from Psychiatric Care in Hospitals



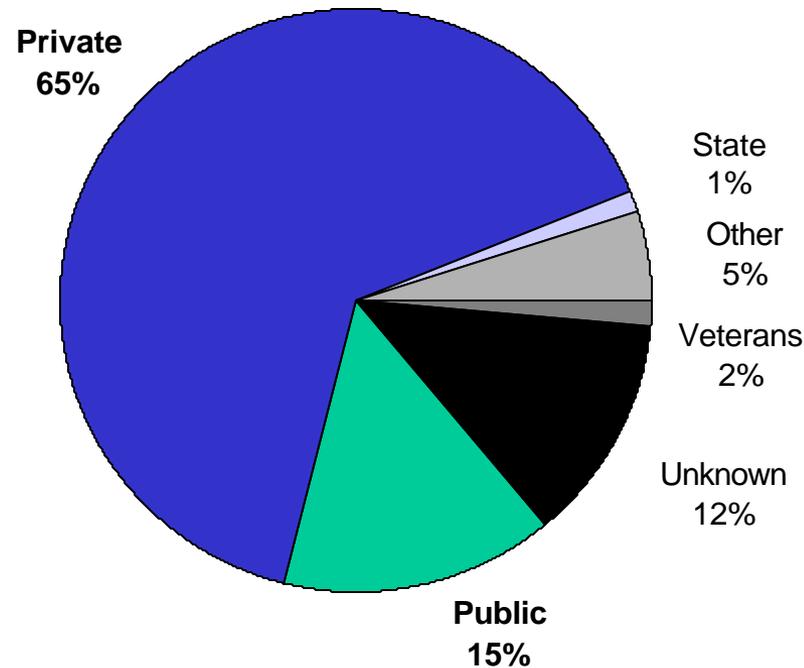
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Research on Emerging Homeless Populations**

Discharges by Hospital Category

January - December 2001

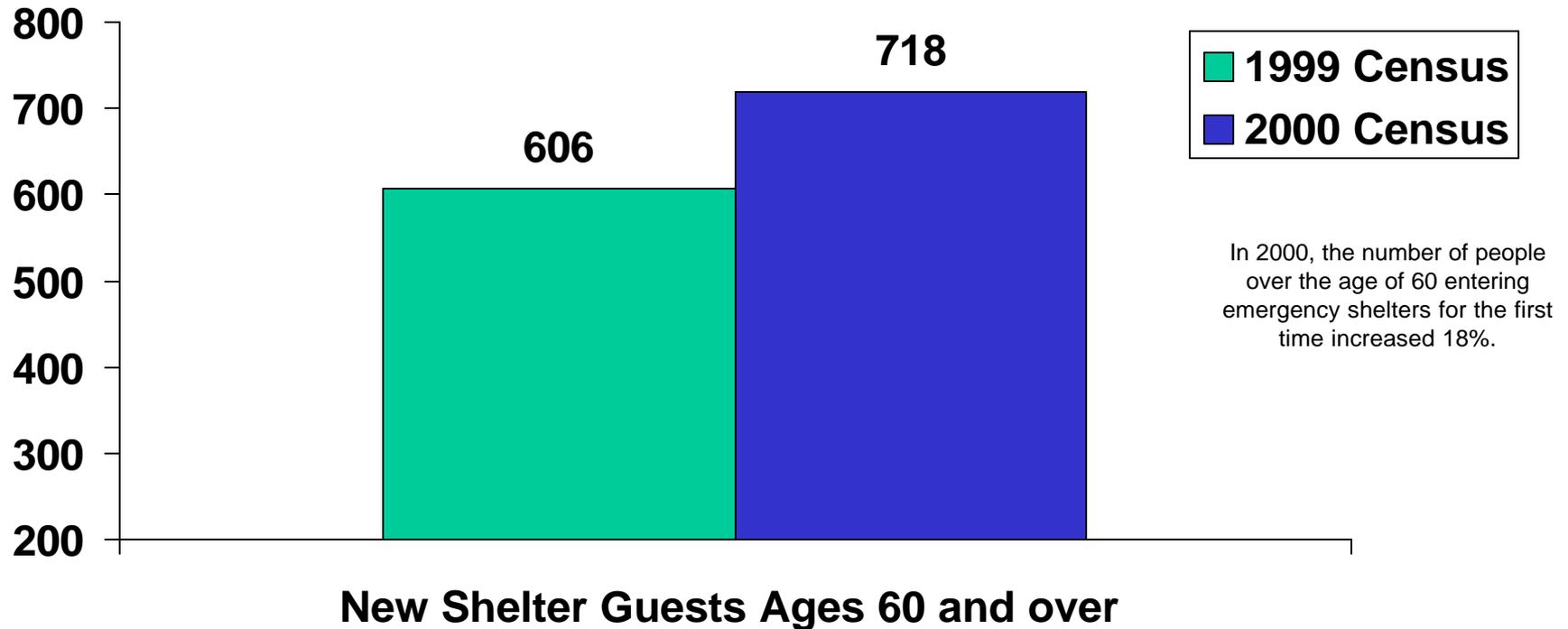


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Elders and Massachusetts Shelters

Elders Entering Emergency Shelters for the First Time



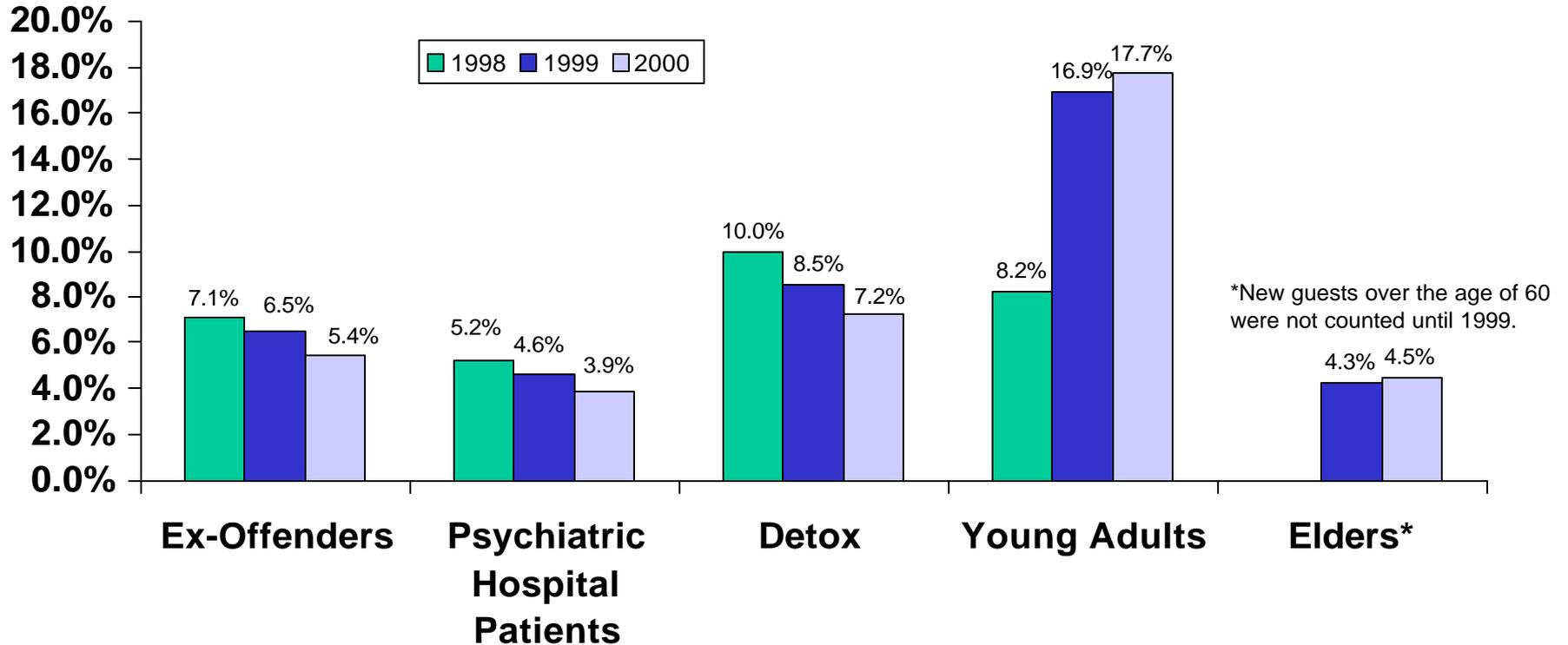
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Who is entering Massachusetts Shelters?

Subpopulation Totals As Percentages of All New Guests



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