

Integrating New York's migrant refugees into society amid national and local policy challenges: an asset accumulation & livelihood capitals perspective

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HELP USA

European Conference on Homelessness

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Southwest Border Crossings increased by 37% in 2022

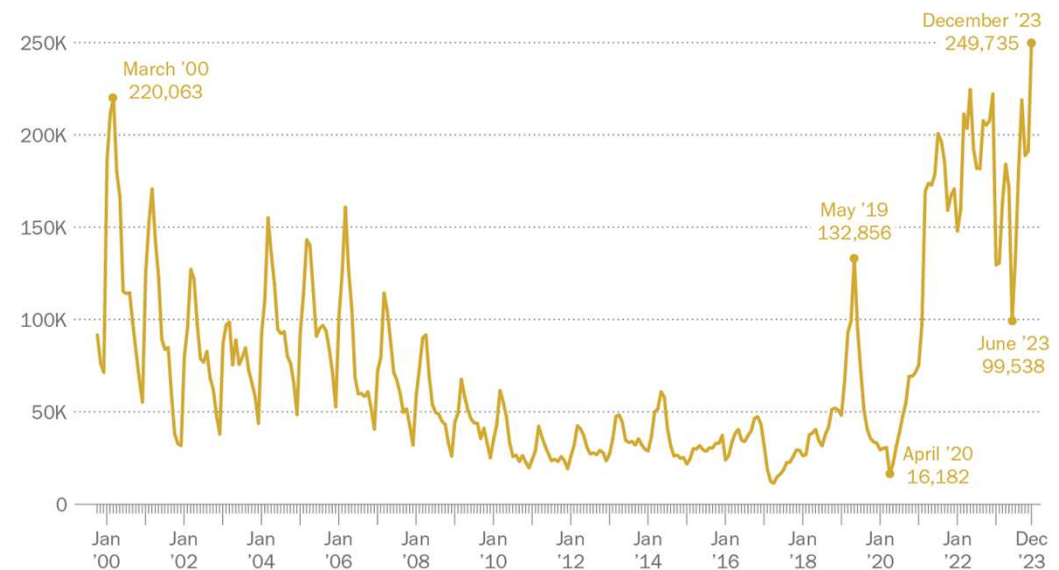
• Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

| Fiscal Year | Total | Monthly Avg | % Change (increase/decrease) |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 2021 | 1,734,686 | 144,557 | |
| 2022 | 2,378,944 | 198,245 | 37% |
| 2023 | 2,475,669 | 206,306 | 4% |
| 2024(TD) | 1,925,773 | 192,577 | 7% |

Federal policies contributed to the crisis

- 2018: “metering”
 - prevented migrants from applying for asylum at the US border
 - increased “defensive” asylum applications, backlogs and denial rates
- 2020-2023: title 42
 - Empowered officials to expel migrants from border to prevent Covid-19 contagion.
 - Expulsions declined throughout Biden administration, and stopped completely upon rescinding title 42 in May 2023

Monthly migrant encounters by U.S. Border Patrol at U.S.-Mexico border



Note: Beginning in March 2020, monthly totals combine apprehensions and expulsions into a new category known as encounters. Monthly totals before March 2020 include apprehensions only. Some migrants are encountered more than once. Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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In 2022, “busing” of migrants to NYC by governors of southern states contributed to 100% increase in the shelter census from Oct ‘22 to Jan’24

Eric Adams says he expects to spend at least \$1bn by end of fiscal year on crisis as Texas governor continues to send migrants

Coral Murphy
Marcos

Fri 7 Oct 2022 12.50 EDT

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Migrants in El Paso, Texas, board their bus to New York City. Photograph: Paul Ratje/Reuters

The mayor of New York, **Eric Adams**, on Friday declared a state of

NYC Shelter Population, Monthly

NYC Shelters counted approximately 146K people in latest reporting month, organized here by agency/system

DHS HRA DYCD HPD MOCJ HERRCS

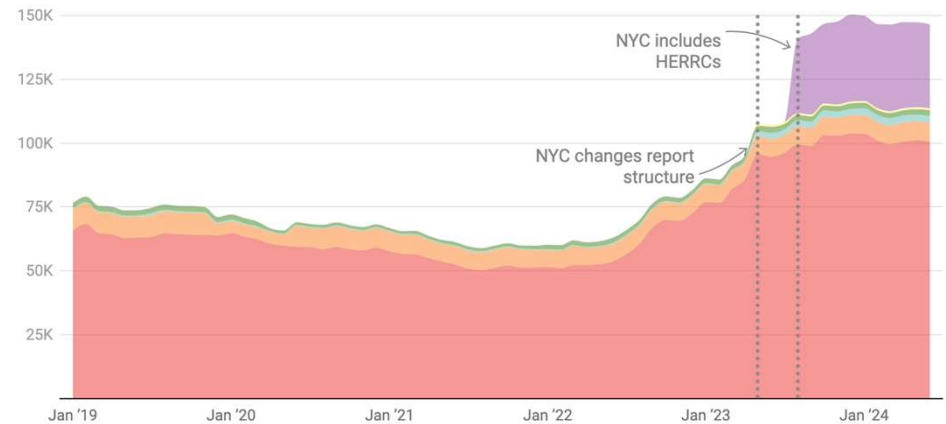


Chart reflects most recent LL79 report dated 06/2024.

Chart: Patrick Spauster & Adrian Nesta | City Limits • Source: NYC Local Law 37 & 79 • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

About 65,000 migrants currently live in NYC shelters. Over three-fourths (78%) are families with children

Conflicting policies shift responsibilities to ensure shelter tenure, services, work authorizations and housing pathways upon NYC CBOs

| Policies | Mayor (executive) | City Council (legislature) | Courts (judiciary) & State Administration (executive) | Federal government | Outcomes |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Expansion of shelter system & services (infrastructure & resources) | ~\$4 billion in emergency aid TD expanded shelters and basic and legal services | Set agenda to pass laws facilitating housing subsidies for migrants | | | -150 new sites managed by CBOs -Increased basic & essential service access, asylum applications, documentation services |
| Housing subsidies (pathway out of shelter) | Mayor refused to enforce City Council laws, citing rising costs | Passed laws expanding access to housing subsidies - terminated minimum # days required to live in shelters - Revised minimum income standard - Eliminated work requirements) Sued Mayor State Supreme Court for non-compliance | - State judge ruled in favor of mayor, deciding that City Council did not have authority to approve laws | | - CBOs must ensure work authorization, e.g. asylum or TPS, to create housing pathway |
| Legal 'right to shelter' (tenure in shelter system) | - Repeated requests to Manhattan Courts to suspend 'right to shelter', citing costs - Executive Order placed 60-day limit on shelter stays. | | - State officials granted city permission to enforce 60-day eviction rule | | - CBOs must ensure cash assistance to prevent evictions |
| Work authorization/temporary protected status | - Has complied with federal measures but vetoed local laws mandating city administration to identify and respond to livelihood needs | - Passed laws requiring city administration to survey migrants livelihood needs and provide resources to facilitate job opportunities | | migrants from 16 nations can work and are protected from deportation | Migrants rely on own networks and CBO-assisted work authorizations to find employment |

...amid challenges of changing demographic profiles of clients in the system

October '22

| Country of Origin | n | % |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Honduras | 28 | 44% |
| Venezuela | 11 | 18% |
| Colombia | 9 | 14% |
| Mexico | 5 | 8% |
| Dominican Republic | 3 | 5% |
| Ecuador | 2 | 3% |
| El Salvador | 1 | 2% |
| Haiti | 1 | 2% |
| Mali | 1 | 2% |
| Nicaragua | 1 | 2% |
| Nigeria | 1 | 2% |
| Total | 63 | 100% |

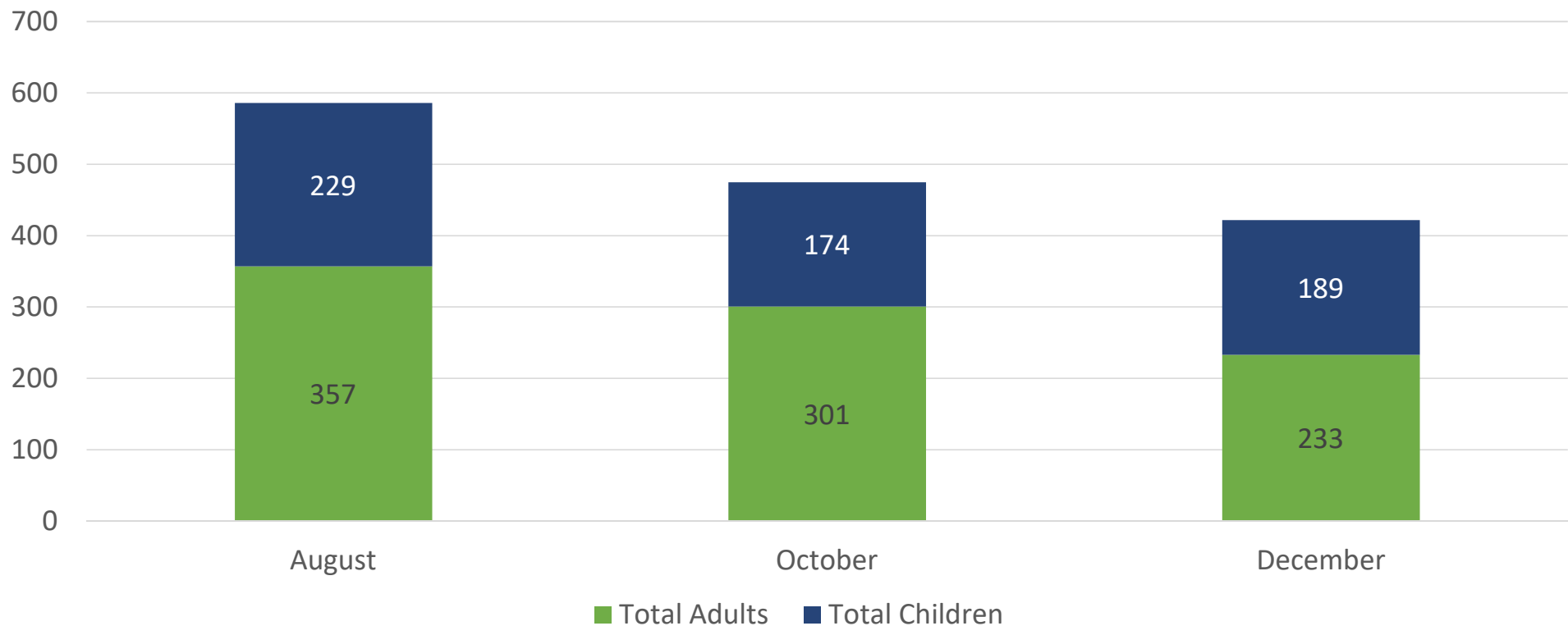
Source: HELP USA client survey (Oct '22)

August '24

| Country of Origin | n | % |
|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| Venezuela | 40 | 65% |
| Colombia | 9 | 15% |
| Equador | 4 | 6% |
| Honduras | 4 | 6% |
| Nicaragua | 2 | 3% |
| African region | 1 | 2% |
| Jamaica | 1 | 2% |
| Peru | 1 | 2% |
| | 62 | 100% |

Source: HELP USA client survey (Aug '24)

...and high mobility of clients, from traditional shelters into dedicated asylum facilities



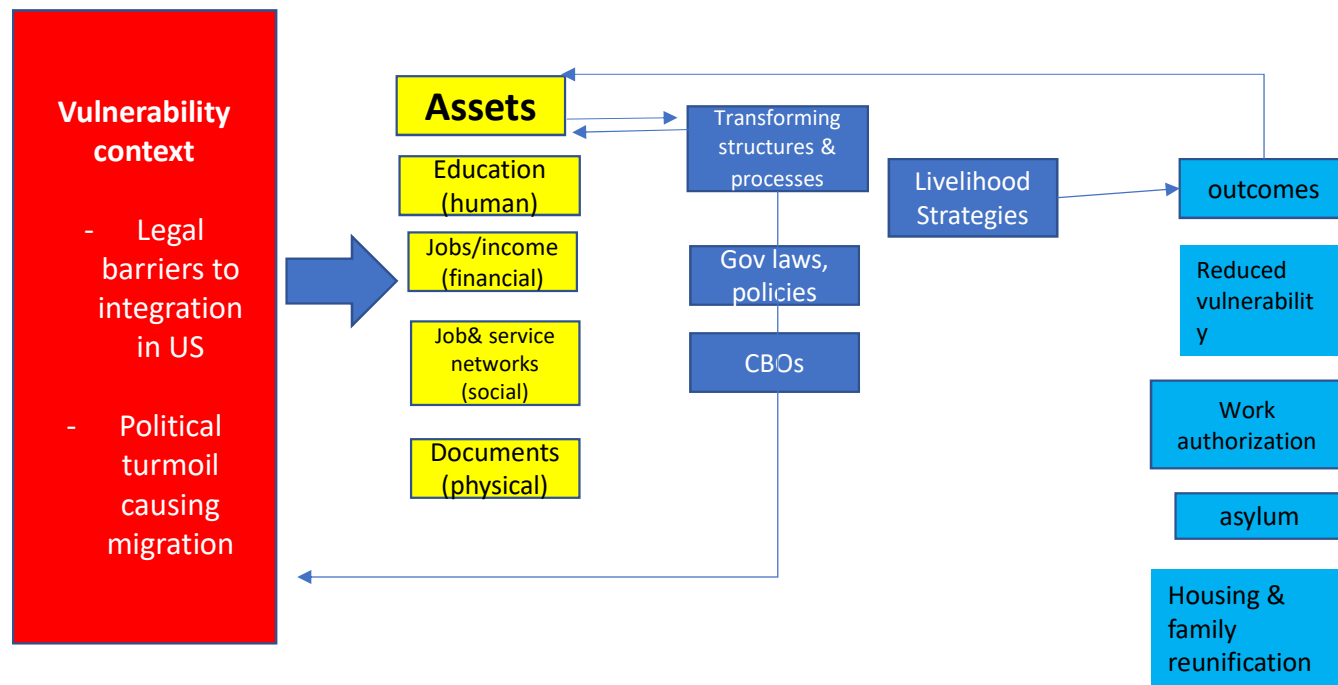
Source: HELP USA asylum seeker census (Aug – Dec 2023)

Research Question

- In context of conflicting local policies, changing demographics and high mobility of clients...
 - How has HELP USA facilitated better educational, employment, service and housing conditions for this population?

Analytical frameworks: asset accumulation & livelihood capitals

Asylum seeker vulnerabilities, assets, structures/processes & outcomes



- **Asset** accumulation
 - how poor gain control of **resources** to cope with shocks – **vulnerabilities** – of changing environments that threaten further deprivation
- Livelihood **capitals**
 - **human, financial social, physical & natural resources** that the poor [must] acquire to achieve **better development outcomes**

Sources: DFID (1999), Moser (2007), Natarajan et al (2022)

Vulnerability Context: harrowing conditions and causes of migration among largely young female headed households with multiple children

- Source: HELP USA client surveys conducted in October '22 (n=63), March '23 (n=55), and August '24 (n=62)

| vulnerability | % |
|--|----------|
| left close relatives behind | 91 |
| threats/experience of violence caused migration | 83 |
| lived in poverty before migration | 73 |
| endured hunger on migrant journey | 70 |
| had been internally displaced in home country | 56 |
| experienced disruptions in food supply in home country | 45 |

Asset accumulation & livelihood strategies

HELP USA

| service + resource connections | % reported | capitals | Time period |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| physical healthcare | 93 | human + social | March '23 |
| process asylum applications | 93 | physical capitals | Aug '24 |
| all essential services | 92 | social, human, + physical | Aug '24 |
| children enrolled in school | 87 | human, social capital + physical | Oct '22 |
| informal on legal services | 80 | human + social | March '23 |
| mental healthcare | 73 | human + social | March '23 |
| work authorization services | 71 | physical | Aug '24 |
| opened bank accounts | 53 | financial | Aug '24 |
| cash assistance | 23 | physical + financial | Aug '24 |

Asylum seekers

| Existing & acquired capitals | % | type |
|------------------------------------|----|--------------------|
| had at least university education | 39 | human |
| debt-free | 81 | financial |
| sent remittances | 63 | financial |
| knew friends/family before arrival | 39 | social |
| connected to jobs through friends | 31 | social + financial |

Outcomes

- 77% of clients are legally eligible for housing subsidies (TPS +/- or asylum granted)
- Asylum application and employment rates increased amid problematic policy environment

| asylum applications | % |
|---------------------|----|
| Oct '22 | 32 |
| March '23 | 50 |
| August '24 | 93 |
| | |
| Employed | % |
| Oct'22 | 30 |
| March '23 | 42 |
| June '24 | 60 |
| August '24 | 63 |

- In the last year, 12 asylum seeker clients moved into permanent housing: 9 through family reunification
- Evidence of reduced vulnerability
 - 62% reported not having to resort to any distressed coping strategies

Next steps

We are designing program of dedicated housing specialists and clinicians

- to expedite housing placements of the vast asylum-seeking population that is legally authorized to live & work in the US yet extremely vulnerable to future deprivations

| current livelihood vulnerabilities | % |
|--|-----------|
| below the poverty line | 95 |
| unable to save money through the year | 77 |
| language skills barrier to decent employment opps | 69 |
| Earned below minimum wages | 56 |