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Rent in New York City Is Too High for Singles and Seniors, Report Says

The **Citizens Budget Commission** found that those who were most strained spent more than half of their income on rent.

By Joe Anuta

Nearly half of the city's households are paying too much in rent, and the pressure is particularly acute for low-income singles, seniors and single parents, according to a study released Thursday.

The Citizens Budget Commission studied newly available data from the U.S. Census Bureau that calculated how much New Yorkers pay out-of-pocket for rent—in other words the numbers were adjusted if a renter received a subsidy to help pick up his or her monthly tab aside from household income.

"This analysis reveals a new picture of the rent burden in New York City," said the commission's president Carol Kellermann in a statement.

Out of the the 42% of the city's renter households that were rent burdened, meaning they paid more than 30% of their gross income for their apartment, about half of those were deemed severely rent burdened. These households put more than half of their income toward rent.

Breaking it down even further, the study found that almost all of those severely rent-burdened households were considered low income, and were disproportionately comprised of singles and seniors, along with single-parent households located in the outer boroughs.

In recent months, the commission has been issuing a number of cost-of-living reports, one of which found that the city's low transportation costs dramatically offset higher rents and made New York more affordable than many other major cities.

However, with this latest report, Kellermann hopes to influence the policies of Mayor Bill de Blasio meant to address the city's housing crunch, which are currently under discussion.